



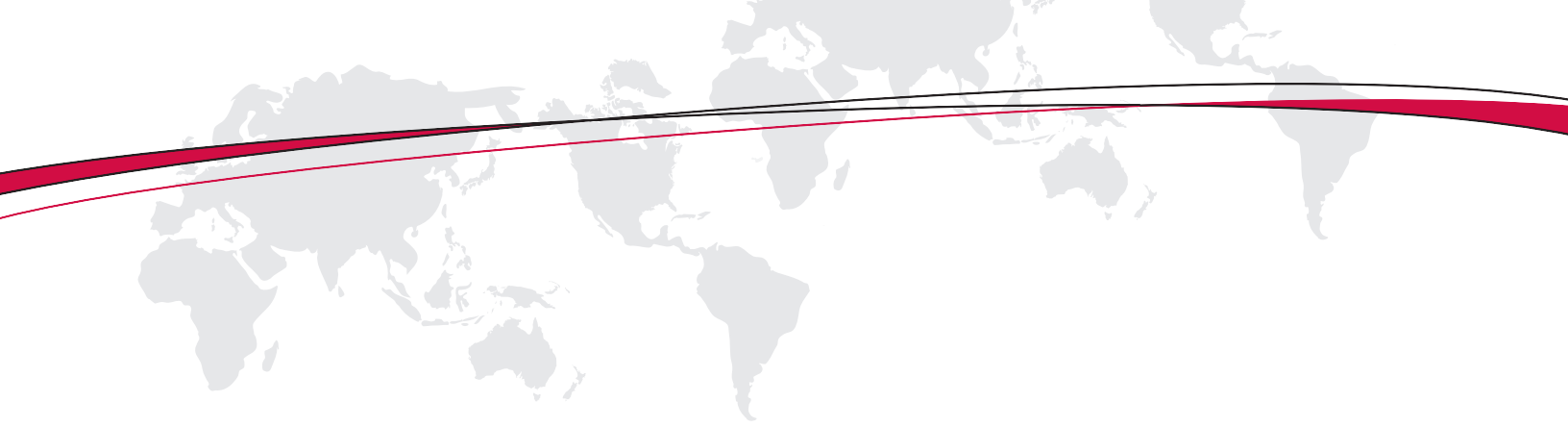
MISSIONS MOBILIZATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

# ALONGSIDE JOURNEY

Providing partner care and support to international  
workers through a local church or district



## The Purpose

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The purpose of this guide is to give C&MA Churches and Districts ideas on how they can come alongside their International Workers through various phases in their ministry journey. Included in this guide are ideas for Moral, Logistical, Prayer, Communication and Financial Support. Look over the many ways you can come alongside an international worker associated with your church or your district. Don't be overwhelmed by the needs or options, start where you can, be strategic and intentional, but join the journey. You alongside them will make all the difference.

## ■ MORAL SUPPORT ■



### PREPARING FOR SERVICE

- Have point people pray for and write letters to candidates
- Provide a personal assessment if needed
- Offer to provide/pay for professional counseling
- Provide coaching in areas of needed improvement, leadership development
- Teach spiritual formation habits
- Assist in preparing a library or reading list, maybe on Kindle
- Coordinate encounters with others who are going
- Encourage them to serve on a ministry team and be connected to a small group

### PREPARING TO DEPLOY

- Facilitate support or endorsement by missions committee/leadership team
- Set up Skype calls to morning worship services/ small groups
- Establish Facebook friends
- Set up Third Culture Kids (TCKs) adoption
- Send to district missions mobilizer team meeting

### FIRST TERM ON FIELD

- Send someone from their sending church to their field site when appropriate
- Assist with a family visit, if necessary
- Monitor their spiritual and emotional well-being
- Send someone to help with parenting, marriage, counter-cultural issues

- Prepare the church for their return on home assignment
- Coordinate monthly Skype calls
- Respond to their e-mails/Facebook messages with brief replies

### HOME ASSIGNMENT

- Offer additional counseling and re-entry pastoral debrief
- Ask International Ministries if there are issues with which to follow up
- Help them manage their schedule
- Help the church family realize they aren't another "free" worker
- Intentionally integrate them into the church family
- Provide child care for wife at home while spouse is traveling or on weekend when home together
- Understand family transitions and dynamics unique to life on the mission field
- Appoint someone to walk with them through re-entry
- Invite them over for a meal with families, elders, church staff, etc.

### ONGOING MINISTRY

- Show a knowledge of their field and ministry
- Prayer teams to visit and minister on the field
- Recommend current resources for leadership development
- Buy worship music, Kindle, books, subscriptions for them
- Whole church supporting them through holidays, birthdays etc

### DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS

- Provide a balanced "advocate" who understands both sides/stories/team failure
- Offer to help with aging parents
- Discuss things like leaving the field, political unrest, moral failure, aging parents, death in the family

## ■ **LOGISTICAL SUPPORT** ■



### **PREPARING FOR SERVICE**

- Send them to Council
- Fund/support short-term missions trip
- Provide different levels of cross-cultural experience before they go
- Work with/connect to Candidate Development Office or Missionary-in-Residence at their college
- Host a “multi-candidate” gathering to encourage their candidate and create larger missions enthusiasm
- Welcome them to church for home service

### **PREPARING TO DEPLOY**

- Provide storage
- Assist with pet adoption
- Assist with scheduling, gas etc. for visiting district or supporting local churches
- Assist with child care/meals while shopping/packing
- Help them visit family before they leave
- Help them network with people for special needs
- Provide basic language learning resources
- Coordinate a garage sale/help with sale of unneeded items

### **FIRST TERM ON THE FIELD**

- Find out what might be needed and appropriate in a care package
- Send them things they didn’t know they would need or miss

- Find out what tech support is needed/do they need help preparing videos
- Send a handyman or child-care person for short term

### **HOME ASSIGNMENT**

- Consider a time of rest/provision for sabbatical, genuine refreshment
- Assist with local contacts—doctors, dentists, schools etc.
- Donate a time share or vacation home
- Supply with GPS or smartphone
- Help with multimedia presentation prep
- Send them to a conference
- Coach on how to present needs to avoid “entitlement” mentality

### **ONGOING MINISTRY**

- Offer to bring them home for their month of vacation
- Endorsement and support of approved specials, raising funds
- Provide specialized supplies
- Provide training/continuing education resources
- Assist with resources published in languages they need

### **DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS**

- Provide consultation and help to get college-age TCKs settled/adapted to college
- Holiday hosts for TCKs
- Explore possibilities and prepare them for bi-vocational/secular employment
- Medical emergency/evacuation support
- Help with aging parents’ care placement
- District prepare them and vet them for ministries

## ■ PRAYER SUPPORT ■



### PREPARING FOR SERVICE

- Have a team of people be consistent in knowing how to pray and meet regularly to do so
- Communicate with pertinent people and groups in the church on how to pray
- Expose them to prayer disciplines (silence, prayer walks, spiritual warfare)
- ASK consistently how to pray for workers
- Encourage/provide someone to be a professional spiritual director
- Help them set aside sabbatical rest before they go

### PREPARING TO DEPLOY

- Increase regularity of communication and prayer request
- Continue prayer team
- Provide consistent updates to the congregation
- Lead in public prayer and commissioning
- Build e-mail database for prayer updates

### FIRST TERM ON FIELD

- Live Skype dates during the worship gatherings (or pre-recorded) for worship and prayer
- Keep people updated on answers to prayer
- Inform congregation regularly of answered prayer
- Send IWs copies of all documents prepared for prayer requests

### HOME ASSIGNMENT

- When your IW is in the area, invite him/her to

your missions committee meeting or prayer gathering for a time of prayer

- Host a welcome home party where they have a platform to share prayer requests
- Help them share and pray through unmet expectations
- Involve every age group within the church—teach them how to pray
- Add IW as an administrator on the church Web site to update prayer requests
- Share your own needs with them so they can pray for you, too
- Host an organized prayer event (40 days of prayer, 24/7 prayer, etc.)

### ONGOING MINISTRY

- Have the IW provide you with a prayer guide during the year (e.g., Ramadan)
- Send prayer teams to the host country/site, conduct prayer walks
- Have prayer partners specifically for members of the family
- Produce video clips of IWs to distribute to churches
- Make your own prayer cards for your IWs and distribute them; for the TCKs as well
- Provide security guidelines on how to publish sensitive prayer needs, especially for those in creative-access countries (CAC)

### DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS

- Host a night of prayer and fasting for them; let them know so they can be encouraged
- Give the IW permission to call someone any time of the day or night
- Be alert to the need for spiritual deliverance and someone ready to minister in this area when necessary
- Provide pastoral care and prayer

## ■ **COMMUNICATION SUPPORT** ■



### **PREPARING FOR SERVICE**

- Provide assistance in how to write a prayer letter that inspires
- Provide coaching in the use of technology/media
- Provide next-steps coaching
- Provide assistance and support to parents when their kids are called to ministry
- Provide public speaking training; ministry experience

### **PREPARING TO DEPLOY**

- Help an IW know how to say thank you to their supporters
- Provide a timeline of milestones
- Assist in securing a support team/point person to communicate to the church
- Provide opportunities for them to tell their story

### **FIRST TERM ON FIELD**

- Communicate to the church the value of language learning
- Buy camera and train them how to use it
- Make security guidelines clear, especially for CAC
- Subsidize their technology expenses on the field
- Monthly calendar—prayer, birthdays, anniversaries

### **HOME ASSIGNMENT**

- Help the IW prepare video communications
- Provide coaching on how to communicate well with the ethnic churches

- Debrief about how well the church and the workers are doing
- Help them create prayer cards

### **ONGOING MINISTRY**

- Encourage two-way communication between IWs and church
- Keep telling your story—follow example of [www.cmastories.com](http://www.cmastories.com)
- Encourage TCKs to tell their story/write updates
- Determine a fast way to update people in your churches
- Consider still using snail mail for updates three to four times a year

### **DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS**

- Assist IWs in communicating the right level of transparency to the right people
- Coaching and support in what and how to share information
- Seek district leadership support when they are concluding
- Provide assistance with resume writing and networking back in the job market

## ■ **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** ■



- Help TCKs financially to participate in youth activities, camp, LIFE
- Help finance continuing education
- Provide a CPA for tax advice; coaching on how to budget for home assignment
- Provide gift cards: gas, groceries, clothes; back-to-school money for kids; money for Christmas shopping, etc,

### **PREPARING FOR SERVICE**

- Provide financial and budget planning
- Help them understand fund-raising
- Assist with scholarships, alternative educational funding sources
- Provide information regarding debt repayment (Financial Peace University—Dave Ramsey)

### **PREPARING TO DEPLOY**

- Assist with outfit /vehicle funds through the National Office or Great Commission Women
- Ask for a list of items your group can buy for them
- Assist the church in understanding their financial needs
- Provide funds for electronic needs/tech resources/GPS

### **FIRST TERM ON THE FIELD**

- Assist in the understanding/awareness of financial policy—what is provided
- Assist with financial planning: retirement counseling, college savings account for TCKs—it starts now
- Coaching on how to nurture donors: give to approved specials, send thank you cards

### **HOME ASSIGNMENT**

- Consider assisting with housing or utilities
- Finance a weekend or family special event
- Provide/purchase cars, furniture, etc.

### **ONGOING MINISTRY**

- Encourage greater engagement with or a larger percentage given to the Great Commission Fund (GCF)
- Re-emphasize true Faith Promise giving
- Help create personalized thank you videos
- Set a faith goal for the number of people giving to Alliance ministries this year and see if you can reach that goal
- Set aside money for TCKs education on the field/ homeschool resources
- Help IWs visit kids at boarding schools
- Help churches to know long- and short-term needs of IWs

### **DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS**

- Set aside money for emergency needs IWs may have
- Set aside emergency funds for adult TCK support/transition support
- Set aside emergency funds if an IW must return to assist an elderly parent
- Be alert to benevolent needs in retirement