



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANTIOCH PARTNERS

SUMMARY

The Antioch Partners (TAP) is a missionary sending organization which partners with local Presbyterian and other churches in the U.S. to send out followers of Jesus to participate in God's mission in the world. TAP accomplishes this by serving local churches in the assessment, training, sending and support of those called to long-term (two years or more), cross-cultural, incarnational engagement. Those serving through TAP are engaged in many aspects of Kingdom work, including evangelism, social justice, discipleship, supporting church-planting movements, leadership development and business as mission. Two priorities for TAP are working among unreached and least-reached people groups, and helping strengthen the missional capacity of global partners. Missionaries serving through TAP develop their own support teams with assistance from TAP Staff. TAP was "birthed" as a shared ministry of Frontier Fellowship (FF) and The Outreach Foundation (TOF), and TAP continues to work closely with both of these founding organizations.

About TAP:

- The vision of TAP is Presbyterians and others effectively equipped, sent out and supported as they participate in God's mission in the world, and every supporting congregation extensively, strategically, and radically involved in this process.
- TAP is committed to the missional church paradigm. Our God is a missionary God, and we (the church) are his missionary people. We believe every follower of Jesus is a missionary, but for those called by God to long-term, cross-cultural engagement, special training, support structures and expertise are needed, and this is what TAP provides.
- Acts 1:8 is still as relevant for the church today as it was for the early church. If we are to fulfill our call to be Christ's witnesses in the world, we must understand the missionary task includes both going and sending. In other words, those called to "go" can only go with the help and support of those called to serve as "senders." TAP is committed to facilitating effective partnerships between those called to "go" and those called to "send."
- TAP ensures that member care (missionary care) and ministry accountability are in place for all missionaries serving through TAP. Furthermore, TAP places a high priority on the professional and personal development of mission personnel.
- Though TAP is a separate 501(c)(3), TAP continues to work closely with both FF and TOF.
- TAP is committed to serving evangelical Presbyterian congregations regardless of where they are being called by God to affiliate (i.e. ECO, EPC, those staying in the PCUSA, etc.). TAP is a strategic mission partner of ECO and an approved mission agency of the EPC.

- Though TAP's focus is on serving Presbyterian congregations in the US, as we engage in the world, we engage first and foremost as followers of Jesus, as Kingdom people. Not all TAP Partners are from Presbyterian churches and we are eager to serve all those who share our evangelical convictions and commitments.
- TAP is committed to working in partnership with the global body of Christ. We believe God can do more through us working together than he can when we work independently. Our vision in this regard is healthy interdependence across the spectrum of our partnership relationships. Missionaries serving through TAP work with a broad-spectrum of global partners (e.g. Pentecostal, Baptist, Orthodox, etc.).
- We believe God has given the task of world evangelization to the entire church, and we celebrate the dynamic growth of the church around the world. TAP affirms the vision of "from everywhere to everyone," and is committed to partnering with brothers and sisters in the majority-world.
- TAP's Office is located in Houston, TX on the campus of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church.

TAP seeks long-term, cross-cultural missionaries who:

- Have a dynamic personal faith in Christ, are in touch with their own brokenness, and are passionate about God's mission in the world
- Have a sense of call to cross-cultural ministry that has been confirmed and affirmed by their faith community
- Are committed to helping others know and follow Jesus
- Are committed to incarnational, holistic ministry, and are prepared to live simply for the sake of the Gospel
- Are willing to develop their own support teams (prayer, financial, etc.)
- Take accountability seriously and are committed to creating effective relationships with local churches and individuals who are part of their support teams

TAP offers missionary candidates and missionaries:

- Coaching for those sensing God's call to cross-cultural ministry, helping them get from where they are now to where God is calling them to be. If it turns out TAP might not be the best fit for a particular individual or team, we are always glad to recommend other sending agency options.
- The ability to be flexible and creative in responding to God's call to cross-cultural ministry. One dynamic which facilitates this is the ability of TAP Staff to utilize networks of relationships with FF and TOF, other sending agencies, mission pastors/directors in local churches, and global partners.
- A commitment to regular communication and personal attention
- Administrative support, including receipt and acknowledgement of contributions, management of donor records, account updates, etc.

- Assistance in the support-raising process
- A retirement plan tailored for missionaries
- International health and evacuation insurance through a recognized provider for missionaries
- A strong commitment to member care and ministry accountability
- An emphasis on professional and personal development for all missionaries
- Guidance and support during re-entry, including assistance during the end-of-service transition process

TAP offers local Presbyterian, as well as other, churches in the US:

- Another tangible way of participating in God's mission by entering into meaningful partnerships with long-term, cross-cultural missionaries. These partnerships include support in any, or all, of the following areas: prayer, financial, emotional and logistics.
- Consulting support in the missionary-sending process: TAP Staff are glad to help churches consider appropriate sending-agency options for their members being sent out (TAP is only one option!).
- For missionaries sent out through TAP, local churches can be confident that the following areas of support are being provided through TAP: evaluation of missionary candidates, pre-field training, ministry placement in consultation with global partners, member care, ministry accountability, finance and accounting, benefits (retirement and health care), professional and personal development, re-entry support, and assistance through the end-of-service transition process.
- A collaborative model of member care (missionary care): TAP is committed to sending churches (churches which are supporting Partners) being meaningfully and significantly involved in the member care process.

TAP Staff are eager to talk with individuals who are sensing God's leading towards long-term, cross-cultural service. Furthermore, TAP is eager to consult with churches in any area related to the missionary-sending process. For more information about TAP, please visit www.theantiochpartners.org, or contact the TAP office directly.