

THE TRUTH BEHIND MISSIONS

Dear <<Salutation(1)>>,

In a world of constant connectivity and growing technology, communication is easier than ever before. While there are many things missionaries wish they could communicate with you about their ministries, some feel unable to share due to the sensitive nature of their needs.

As an organization, we seek to encourage and communicate with missionaries, and we know you do too. That's why when we came across a Gospel Coalition article written by Jennifer Su McIntyre, a former missionary, we felt compelled to do the sharing for them and tell you the realities and truths that surround the life of missionary service. Her thoughts help to share the value of encouraging dedicated individuals in the field while they serve on the front lines.

"PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES REGULARLY. THEN TELL THE MISSIONARY YOU'RE PRAYING FOR SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS."

In the busyness of life, it can be difficult to pray diligently and regularly for missions work. The task can be aided by organizing a prayer group for your missionary; if you do this, be sure to let your missionaries know so they can be encouraged and maybe even Skype in during one of the prayer meetings."

A simple reply to an email just takes a few minutes. Nothing is more discouraging than feeling isolated, and nothing is more encouraging than having friends telling you they are covering you in prayer.

"COMMIT TO REGULAR FINANCIAL SUPPORT."

One-time donations are welcome, but regular support shows missionaries that you are committed to their ministry in the long haul. It also provides missionaries with a more consistent source of

income, so they do not have to be overly concerned about whether they will be able to maintain their support level year to year...Missionaries have a lot to worry about already—cultural and linguistic adaptation, running ministries with limited resources, resistance, persecution, harsh living environments, and more...In Philippians 4:15-19, Paul commends a church that supported him financially when he was overseas."

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the Gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

"Financially supporting missionaries not only blesses them—it also blesses you." You can support GOM missionaries online at this address:

www.missiongo.org/donate/missionaries.

"HELP COMBAT HOMESICKNESS."

A simple care package can communicate a great deal. Ask your missionaries if there is anything they particularly miss from home—books, worship or sermon CDs, foods, spices, toys, games, or TV shows. If receiving mail is not possible for them but using the internet is, offer online goods like downloadable music credit, magazine subscriptions, or e-books."

"HELP MISSIONARIES DURING THEIR 'FURLOUGHS.'

The term furlough can be deceiving because it suggests the missionary is taking time off or enjoying a long holiday. For this reason, some

Missions, as we know it, will be nearly impossible in the future without the commitment and constant support of well-informed people and churches in North America.

GOM Celebrates 75 Years!

mission agencies such as ours dub this time as a 'home assignment.' Don't assume that 'furloughs' are entirely restful for the missionary. In fact, many missionaries return home with a dose of reluctance, not because they don't love their home churches, but because of the cultural transitions and logistical hassles that 'furloughs' entail...

You can assist your missionaries during their 'furloughs' in many tangible ways. You can help them acclimate by greeting them at the airport or by asking them intelligent questions about their life and ministry. You can volunteer to help them with housing or setting up a mobile phone. You can let them borrow vehicles or furniture. Since visiting home churches often requires a fair amount of travel, you can offer to help with childcare or donate your frequent flier miles. If you are a counselor or physician, consider offering your services free of charge. Finally, you can help spread the word of their return to others and keep up with what they might need throughout their 'furlough.' Befriend them; encourage your children to get to know theirs."

"IF YOU DO WANT TO VISIT THE MISSIONARY OVERSEAS, BE MINDFUL OF THEIR POINT OF VIEW."

Sometimes, short-term missions trips are not as helpful to missionaries as vision trips, where people go overseas to acquaint themselves with an area they are committed to pray for and otherwise support long-term. People who visit the field with this mindset can then spread their passion for missions with churches at home and serve as long-term advocates for missionaries. If you would like to go overseas to visit a missionary or lead a short-term team, be sure to dialogue with the missionary beforehand and try not to bring to the table any preconceived notions about what you think would be helpful. Ask for the missionary's honest opinion about what would be best for them. Go with a clear mindset of serving and learning."

GOM also encourages people to prayerfully consider encounter trips to take part in long-term vision. "People willing to commit one to two years to the missions field usually have enough time to learn the local language and contribute to the ministry in a significant way." Our organization stands ready to help those interested in pursuing an encounter trip and can match them with a field missionary.

On behalf of our missionaries, let me challenge you to read and digest the thoughts above. Pray for your missionaries and see if there is any opportunity to make an impact on their lives. Notes, cards, prayers or perhaps an increase in your monthly support are all things that will have a profound effect on your missionaries as they serve to advance God's Kingdom. *They have great needs each month, yet we have a great God.*

As Global Outreach Mission seeks ways to serve our missionaries, we have asked them to gather with us in celebration of **GOM's 75th Anniversary Conference** in August 2019—commemorating all our years of serving together to further God's Kingdom. We will provide times of fellowship, spiritual refreshment, and reason to be rejuvenated in their ministries as they have been faithfully doing the work of the Lord around the globe. We value their well-being and provide member care, and we know this involves partners like you rallying around them and supporting their needs as they surrender to go selflessly—trusting for daily provision. Would you take part in supporting this 75th Anniversary Conference as we serve and encourage these Kingdom laborers?

Sincerely in His Matchless Name,

Dr. Brian Albrecht
President, Global Outreach Mission, Inc.



Learn more at: www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/ways-you-can-support-missionaries

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YES, BRIAN! MAKE MY SPECIAL GIFT TO SUPPORT GOM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE!

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other: \$_____



How would you like to send your gift?

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EFT (Please send voided check)

I authorize GOM to deduct \$_____ from my account on the 1st 15th (check one) of each month to begin on ____/____/____ (date)

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Give Online: www.missiongo.org/2019conference

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