

Global Project
Global Support Team
for the
**Missionary
Action Plan**
(MAP)

RIVER VALLEY CHURCH

Introduction

A **Global Support Team** is an incredibly important part of any missionary's journey on the field. A **Global Support Team** is a small group of individuals (4 to 8) who love and care for the missionary, both at home and while they are abroad. When missionaries prepare to go to the field, and then actually leave, they experience a wide range of emotions and spiritual opposition. This is not a journey missionaries want to walk by themselves. They need a **Global Support Team**.

A Global Support Team provides an incredible support network and is literally the missionaries' lifeline for prayer and support from the US.

The Global Support Team will most likely be a subset of the missionaries' faithful financial supporters. The Global Support Team will provide missionaries with:

- Prayer and Emotional Support
- Kindness and Hospitality
- Logistical Support

We suggest that each Global Support Team has a *point person*, who can then communicate with the whole team about what the missionaries' needs are at any given time while they are overseas. Then, when the missionaries are going to be back in the US, the point person can coordinate efforts as the missionaries return and coordinate efforts to help the missionaries reconnect while they are in the US.

Listed on the following pages are *some* specifics of what missionaries need in each area of support. (Some missionaries may need additional help—things not listed here.) Not every person will feel qualified or gifted to be a part of every aspect of the Global Support Team and that is OK. Serve where you are gifted. But wherever you serve, be faithful to that commitment.

Before Missionaries Go to the Field

Prayer and Emotional Support

- Pray for your missionaries' fundraising efforts—as they make requests for appointments to share their stories and during their actual appointments. Pray for them as they share at churches.
- Pray for favor with their sending agency and for their relationships with their team on the field.
- Pray for favor on the missionary's job—transitioning from full-time work to the field can be tricky in some companies.
- Be a source of encouragement for the missionaries through their fund-raising efforts—it can be challenging for missionaries to ask people to support and be turned down.
- Pray for the missionary's physical, mental and emotional health, and wholeness.

Kindness and Hospitality

- Invite people you know over for a meal so the missionary can share their story
- Celebrate milestones as the missionary reaches different support goals (eg. 33% or 50% or completing their budget).
- Plan a going-away party for the missionary.

Before Missionaries Go to the Field

Logistical Support

- Help the missionaries pack what they need to take overseas—that process can feel overwhelming for some people.
- Help the missionaries sell or give away what they don't need to keep.
- Help the missionaries find storage for the things they will want to keep—people have extra space in their basements or an extra room in their house for items the missionaries will need or want to keep. Be willing to help them search for or connect with people that could help them out.
- Help the missionaries move—the last few weeks or possibly a month or two before they leave, they may need to move into temporary housing. Help them find a place or a family with which they can stay for a little while.
- Help them get to the airport—when missionaries leave the US for two or more years, they sometimes have more luggage than they can handle on their own.

While Missionaries are on the Field

Prayer and Emotional Support

- Pray for the missionaries regularly (weekly if not daily)—spiritually, physically, relationally, emotionally, team dynamics, culture adjustments, food adjustments, etc. Just because your missionaries are out of sight, don't let them be out of your mind or heart in your prayer time. Keep a list of their prayer requests and pray diligently for them.
- Send the missionaries Scriptures or encouraging thoughts as the Holy Spirit prompts you. Each missionary will have a preferred way of secure digital communication. You may need to download an app to stay in touch with them.
- Meet with the missionaries at least monthly via a digital connection to share updates and testimonies, to check in on what challenges they are facing, and to pray with them about their current situation. (At certain points, the missionaries may need more frequent connections. Be sensitive to what why need—give them grace to be vulnerable with you when things are challenging on the field.) Having this type of consistent communication and connection is so important for the emotional well-being of the missionary.
- Pray for the other financial supporters of the missionaries. Pray that they would stay faithful in their commitment to the missionaries.
- Pray for the missionaries' families here in the US. They are sacrificing too. It is not always easy to have a family member live so far away.

While Missionaries are on the Field

Kindness and Hospitality

- Join the missionaries' social media groups (Facebook or Instagram).
- Send cards to the missionaries on their birthdays or anniversaries or holidays—remember mail travels SLOWLY overseas so please send them well enough in advance.
- Send the missionaries small gifts and/or their favorite foods, if possible (mail is not always reliable). Sometimes our Global Project Teams can bring the missionary special gifts from the US.
- Check in on the missionaries' family here in the US to provide support and encouragement to them while their family members are overseas.

Logistical Support

- Check on mail or other correspondence that the missionary receives in the US.
- Handle any matters here in the US that need a physical presence (eg. financial, legal, real estate, medical, etc.).
- Check on the items the missionaries have stored here in the US, if needed.

When Missionaries are Coming Back to the US

either unexpectedly or on a planned iteration

Prayer and Emotional Support

- Pray for the missionaries' adjustment while in the US—it will feel different to them when they come back to the US. (The pace of life is faster and most people are focused on other priorities than they have had while on the field. It can be disorienting.) The US may not feel like "home" in the same way as it did before they left. Pray that they navigate this transition wisely.
- Pray for the missionaries as they meet with supporters and share their story—much of their time will be spent connecting with supporters and churches who have supported them. Pray for favor in all of their meetings.
- Pray with them for those to whom they have been ministering on the field—they will build relationships that are very meaningful to them while they were overseas. They will want to continue to pray for those people as they are in the US. When you pray with them, you share that burden with them.

Kindness and Hospitality

- When they are coming home, stock some of the missionaries' favorite foods at their place of residence in the US—it means a lot to missionaries to find their favorite American food (that they have not had for a couple of years) in their house when they come home!
- Invite the missionaries back into Lifegroups or Lifeteams or social groups that they were a part of before they left. Help them re-engage in life here.
- Invite the missionaries over for dinner or coffee—stay in touch with them, as needed, but always allow for room for them to adjust to being back in the US.

When Missionaries are Coming Back to the US

either unexpectedly or on a planned iteration

Logistical Support

- Help the missionaries find or arrange housing or transportation before they come back to the US—a place to live and transportation while they are in the US are huge needs. God will provide what they need, but the missionaries may need your help checking on places or making some connections for them.
- Meet the missionaries at the airport to help them with their luggage when they arrive in the US.
- Help get the missionaries set up in their temporary housing if needed.

We hope these things help you as a part of a Global Support Team understand how important your support is. If you are willing to step up and serve a missionary this way, please sign the agreement on the next page. And please stay faithful to whatever part you commit to play. It will make a world of difference to the missionaries.

Global Support Team Commitment Form

I commit to being part of the
The Global Support Team for

(Name of the missionary)

for the following two years, from

(Starting Date)

to

(End Date)

As part of the Global Support Team, I commit to:

- Prayer and Emotional Support
- Kindness and Hospitality
- Logistical Support