

Name:



Caring for Global Missionaries

Updated May 2023

1. How have you seen others care for missionaries? How does your church/ campus group care for missionaries?

2. What makes it hard to care for missionaries?

3. Is caring for missionaries important? Why? What is something missionaries might find difficult or impossible to access where they serve that we have here?

<p>3 John 5:5-8</p>	<p>Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.</p>
<p>Matthew 10:40</p>	<p>“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”</p>
<p>Philippians 1:3-12</p>	<p>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.</p>
<p>Philippians 1:27-2:2</p>	<p>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.</p>
<p>Philippians 2:25-30</p>	<p>I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.</p>
<p>Philippians 4:10-19</p>	<p>I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.</p>

4. What can we learn from the Bible about partnership and caring for missionaries?

5. What ideas do you have/can we come up with for caring for missionaries?

6. Which will you do?

Start by asking your missionary partner how you can care for them.	Share something encouraging with your missionary. A verse, a sermon, a podcast, a book, etc.	Ask your missionaries' agency if your skills or labour could be of service.
Reply (consistently) to your missionaries' updates. Pray for them. Then tell them you're praying.	Give sacrificially, regularly, and cheerfully.	Send resources to help with their work. Ask them first!
Advocate for your missionary. Pray for them with friends. Adopt them as a small group. Promote them at church.	Whenever your missionary returns: welcome them. Be at the airport, send a gift, visit/ invite.	<i>Your idea:</i>
Ask your missionary if there is a structure set up to care for them (prayer group, home support group). Join and participate.	When your missionary returns for a short time: Could you meet a need – small (groceries/meals) or big (lend a car)? Ask first!	<i>Your idea:</i>
Remember special events. Celebrate their birthdays. Include them in church events.	When your missionary returns for a long time: How could you help them resettle?	<i>Your idea:</i>

Appendix 1: Further Resources

1) **CMS** (The Church Missionary Society)

a) Caring & Security:

cms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Security-A-Communications-Guide-for-CMS-Supporters-2016.pdf

b) Get Involved/ care: cms.org.au/get-involved/care

c) Caring from afar: cms.org.au/blog-nswact/how-to-care-for-your-missionaries-from-afar

2) **Missions Interlink**

Caring as a church:

missionsinterlink.org.au/resources/guide-for-local-churches-on-caring-for-missionaries-on-the-job

3) **Missions Interlink**

Caring as a church:

resonateglobalmission.org/stories-more/8-ways-your-congregation-can-care-missionaries

4) **IMB** (International Mission Board)

Caring- "The 3C's":

imb.org/2019/08/07/caring-missionaries-connection-three-cs

5) **Serge** (International Mission Board)

Ways to care:

serge.org/blog/10-unique-ways-to-care-for-your-missionary