

SEND **RESOURCES**

SENDING **TOGETHER**



SUPPORTING



PARTNERING



SENDING

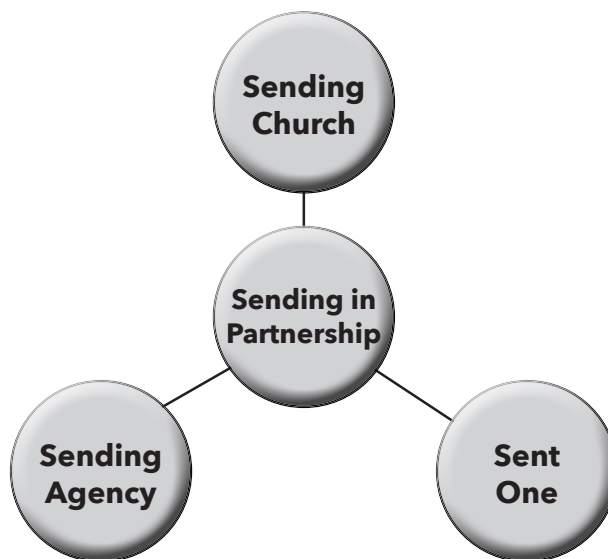
SENDING TOGETHER

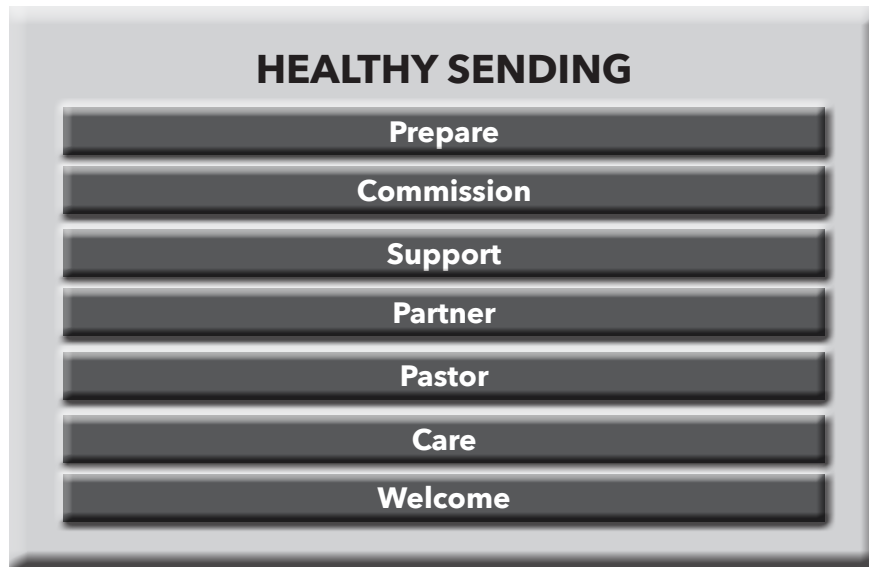
“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you’” (John 20:21, ESV).

“Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off” (Acts 13:3, ESV).

A Story of Sending: Clearly displayed in the story of redemption is that God is a sending God. Throughout the Old Testament, God faithfully sent messengers to make both His name and His salvation known to man. At the climax of His story, God sent His only Son as the epitome of passion to provide both reconciliation and redemption. After His resurrection, Jesus sent out His disciples to continue that ancient story of redemption. He sent them to proclaim salvation in no other name. Today, God has chosen His church to be the instruments of His ongoing mission. Paul tells us that God has chosen His church to make known the mystery of the gospel to all the nations. He has called His church to live “sent” and to send.

Understanding Roles: Working together for the care, effectiveness and longevity of those being sent cross-culturally:





SENDING CHURCH: WHO AND HOW?

- **Prepare:** Disciple intentionally
 - Nurture biblical marriage and family relationships
 - Instill foundational theology, missiology and ecclesiology
 - Provide practical experience opportunities
 - Start and lead small groups
 - Cross-cultural witness both locally and globally
 - Evangelism training
 - Structure accountability
 - Who will be assigned to ask them challenging questions along their journey?
 - Walk with them toward financial freedom and health
 - Hold them accountable to physical health
 - Nurture or reconcile relational health
 - Discuss and disciple through other lifestyle concerns
 - Coach through education needs and requirements
- **Commission**
 - Play an active role in affirming the call and direction
 - Affirmation of the pastor(s)
 - Affirmation of small group leaders and members
 - Affirmation of family members
 - Affirm those being sent out not as leaving but as an extension of the church body into a new culture
 - Develop an intentional communication plan. How will the church body begin to celebrate, pray for and join in on the sending? Be cognitive of security concerns and the stage of the assessment process.
 - Pray for the application journey
 - Pray for God's leading regarding timing and location
 - Pray that potential barriers, such as housing, finances, relationships or health will be addressed appropriately
 - Pray for comfort, strength and clarity from God for family members

- Recruit both a prayer and advocate base
- Celebrate as a church that God has chosen to use your church in His global work
- Affirm and send out publically
 - Consider a commissioning service
- **Support** (uplift): Focus on each step of the journey
 - How will you support them while they prepare and walk through the assessment process?
 - What role will your church play in the ongoing financial support of their work?
 - How will you support them through training and orientation?
 - How will you support them as they enter their new setting, learn language and culture, set up house, develop a plan, etc.?
 - How will you support them over the long-term?
- **Partner:** Joining together in strategy
 - What does it look like for you to partner with those you send out?
 - Discuss the potential for partnership along each step of the journey
 - Because those sent out are extensions of the church, how might you join them?
 - Provide regular updates to the church family to celebrate and pray
 - Help multiply partner base by inviting other churches to participate
- **Pastor:** How will you continue to pastor and disciple those sent out from a distance?
 - Schedule regular meetings with them by phone or web
 - Proactively keep them in the discipleship loop with blog posts, online messages, etc.
 - Focus on their personal walk
 - Hold them accountable to their call, especially during discouraging or overwhelming times
- **Care:** How will you provide ongoing encouragement and care?
 - Consider assigning both an advocate and an advocacy team
- **Welcome:** When they return to the U.S. for stateside assignment or a transition:
 - Can you help provide them a place to stay, a car to drive, etc.?
 - Will you ensure they feel welcomed back?
 - How will they have opportunities to share what God is doing?
 - Will you listen to them to see how God might teach you through their experiences?