



# THE SENDING TRIANGLE

CHURCH. AGENCY. MISSIONARY.



team



# THE SENDING TRIANGLE

*At TEAM, our mission is to partner with the global Church in sending disciples who make disciples and establish missional churches to the glory of God.*

When God calls a missionary, we believe He calls their church too. This forms a unique partnership between the missionary, the church and TEAM that we like to call **THE SENDING TRIANGLE**.

The triangle illustrates the idea that three parties are involved in preparing, sending and caring for a missionary: the missionary, the sending church and the agency. Our goal is to see these parties work together to share the gospel and plant churches around the world.

## ▲ MISSIONARY

The missionary is the sent one, called and equipped by God for ministry. Their primary responsibility is fruitfulness in ministry. They also recognize and seek the accountability of the church and agency and communicate with the church about the work God is doing on the field.

## ▲ CHURCH

The church is the sender, active in assessing potential missionaries and preparing them for their calling. A healthy sending church is proactive in spiritual care and support for the missionary and maintains ongoing communication as well.

## ▲ AGENCY

The agency is the facilitator and equips churches for active missionary-sending, mobilizes and prepares workers, manages logistics and provides a global network with field team development and management.



# UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

*Because each church, missionary and agency is unique, the sending triangle will look different in each situation. But a few simple principles make the sending triangle work:*

## ▲ SHARED OWNERSHIP OF & RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISSION

The missionary cannot work in the field without preparation, ongoing care and financial support from their church, as well as the logistical support of the agency. These interconnected roles mean that the mission doesn't belong exclusively to any one party. Instead, we believe all three parties are together accountable to God for His mission and are most effective when they coordinate their efforts.

## ▲ CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Open communication within the triangle is crucial for healthy and effective missionary service. It keeps all parties closely connected, helps churches stay involved in the work of their missionaries and helps missionaries stay involved in the lives of their churches. Free-flowing communication also keeps the missionary and agency from heading off on their own without the input of the sending church.

## ▲ MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

It is natural to think of a missionary being accountable to the agency or the church, but we believe accountability should go further. Since all parties in the triangle have a role to play, we also believe they are each accountable to one another. The agency is responsible to provide the resources, infrastructure and support it promised during the recruitment process. The church is responsible for communicating expectations, hopes and plans for the future

with the missionary and the agency, as well as actively caring for the missionary. Because of these mutual responsibilities, the agency, church and missionary should be free to speak directly to one another and to hold one another accountable for their parts of the missionary process.

# HOW DOES TEAM HELP?

*You may wonder, if the church is the sender, why would we need an agency?*

The reality is that most churches don't have the time or manpower to facilitate the everyday logistics of sending a missionary.

It is also true that if every church sent its missionaries directly, there would be expensive repetition and waste throughout the body of Christ.

This is where TEAM can help, by offering excellent logistical resources in the form of missionary assessment and preparation, donation processing

and receipting, financial oversight, insurance and benefits, member care, and much, much more.

TEAM also has a long history of working alongside the global church, which has given us the expertise to help your church navigate the complexities of global ministry.

We would love to serve you and your church as you consider how God is leading you to spread the gospel around the world. Please call us at (800) 343-3144 or email us at [churches@team.org](mailto:churches@team.org) to see how we can work together for the glory of God.



*Want to learn more? Check out our free  
resources at **team.org/churches.***



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