

A CALL TO MISSIONS ADVOCACY



“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)

Missions Advocate

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Missions Advocates is to encourage their congregations or the fellowship they are part of to develop and deepen their passion for global missions. The Missions Advocate is to be a catalyst in the area of international missions and act as a communication link between members of the local congregation / Fellowship and The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc.

II. APPOINTMENT

The Missions Advocate is appointed by the local church congregation / fellowship and is accountable to the church's leadership for carrying out their church's plans for global ministry. This existing or emerging leader should have a heart for missions, be a team player, and have time available to invest in the congregation's global ministry. The church's leadership is expected to notify the congregation and The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc. of the Mission Advocate's appointment.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Missions Advocates are asked to maintain good connections with key decision-makers in the congregation in order to fulfill the responsibilities below and may choose to be involved in those additional possibilities listed as "How Tos."

a) Missionary Visits

Schedule home service visits of missionaries supported by the church / fellowship. The missionary's visit can include activities such as:

1. Preaching or speaking in worship services
2. Visits with the pastor, council, and/or missions committee

b) Prayer Support

Encourage and build up prayer support for missions. This can be done by:

1. Distributing missionary prayer letters and other mission prayer items to the congregation or publishing portions in the church / Fellowship newsletter .
2. Encouraging the pastor to pray for partner missionaries and providing updated information

c) Care Support

Encourage the care and support of missionaries while on the field and on home service. This can be done in a number of ways including meeting the missionaries when they come to your area and making them feel at home when they visit your church.

d) Financial Support

Encourage support for missions by establishing or promoting any of the following:

1. Relationships with particular missionaries or projects.
2. A special offering on Pentecost Sunday or Missions Sunday
3. Faith Promise giving

e) Resources

Order resources materials from The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc. and make them available to the church leaders and members

f) Promotions

Regularly promote missions in the church through the use of the following:

1. Posting an 8x10 photo of the missionaries where available
2. Distributing missionary prayer cards and brochures
3. Advocating for periodical Missions Sunday celebrations while making use of The Network's supplied materials

g) Recruitment

Identify and encourage younger members of the congregation to become advocates for international missions. Identify potential donors from your community / neighbourhood or state and refer them to Advancement personnel.

IV. LENGTH OF SERVICE

Mission Advocates serve as long as is mutually agreeable to the church and The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc. For effective communications, it is preferable to have Missions Advocates commit themselves to a period of at least two years. When an Advocate concludes service, notice should be provided to the Regional Missions Mobilizer or the Network.

V. HOW TO's For a Missions Advocate

a) Missionary Visits

Schedule home service visits of missionaries supported by the church. These can include both formal and informal visits such as:

*Making presentations to Sunday School classes or other groups
Fellowship time, coffee, congregational picnics Home visits with individual members or Life groups, Facilitate visits to local schools both Christian and public*

b) Prayer Support

Encourage and build up prayer support for missions. This can be done by:

Promoting the establishment of individual and collective prayer-support programs for missions and missionaries

c) Care Support

Encourage the care and support of missionaries while on the field and on home service. This can be done in a number of ways including the following:

Regularly writing and encouraging church members to write letters or emails to their missionaries, Sending cards –, birthday, anniversary,

Easter Encouraging members to send CARE packages when appropriate

d) Financial Support

Encourage support for missions by establishing or promoting any of the following:

- *Church offerings*
- *Faith Promise giving (see brochure from The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc.)*
- *Creative support raising approaches*
- *Faith Promise - Power Point Presentation*

e) Resources

Order resources from The GPF Apostolic Missions Network Inc. and make them available to the church leaders and members. *These can include flags, bulletin covers, posters, videos, brochures, and others. Some of these resources are particularly appropriate for pastors, deacons, worship leaders and church educators, etc. Be aware of the Network website and the resources available there. Investigate missions education opportunities for the advocate and congregation*

f) Promotions

Regularly promote missions in the church through the use of the following:

- *Creating and maintaining a mission bulletin board*
- *Planning mission emphasis events*
- *Adding materials on global missions to your church's website in keeping with security concerns*

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