

# Relating to Your Supporters

“...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

(Ecclesiastes 4:12)

INTRODUCTION: Believe it or not, there are many people who are as committed to the Great Commission to send you to your field of service as you are committed to the Great Commission to go. The only problem - finding them, convincing them of your desire to serve the Lord, and keeping them on your support team. The purpose of this teaching session is to inform or remind you, which ever is the case, of God’s plan for Christians to work harmoniously together so all Christians can be committed to the Great Commission.

There is a threefold lifeline to you on the mission field which you do not want broken. Your home church, supporting churches, and World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions have committed themselves to the Great Commission and have bound themselves together to keep you on the mission field.

## I. I. Defining the Roles in Missions.

### A. The role of the sending church.

#### 1. The sending church commends you to the work.

- Acts 13:2-3 - “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”
- The sending church is your home church. These people will know you well enough to commend you to missions.
  - a) Your testimony of salvation will be evident to your church.
  - b) Your testimony of service will be evident to your church.
  - c) Your testimony of surrender will be evident to your church.

#### 2. The sending church commissions you to the work.

- Acts 13:3 - “And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them...”
  - a) Your God-given desire for missions will become a desire of your home church.
  - b) Your God-given desire for missions will become a ministry of your home church.

#### 3. The sending church commits you to the work.

- Acts 13:3 - “...they sent them away.”
  - a) The home church commits you to the mission field.
  - b) The home church commits itself to you on the mission field.

### B. The role of the supporting church.

- Philippians 4:15-17 - “Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto me necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”

1. The supporting churches will be doctrinally and practically like your home church.
2. The supporting churches will be financially and prayerfully helping your home church send you to the field.

C. The role of the service agency.

1. The service agency will assist your home church with legal matters regarding your field.
2. The service agency will assist your home church and supporting churches regarding your finances.
3. The service agency will assist your home church regarding your future.

D. The role of the missionary.

1. You are part of God's plan in making it possible for your home church to be committed to the Great Commission.
2. You are part of God's plan in making it possible for your supporting churches to be committed to the Great Commission.
3. You are part of God's plan to these churches so be accountable to them.
  - a) Be accountable to your home church.
  - b) 1. Be accountable to your supporting churches.

II. II. The Biblical Guidelines for Christian Harmony.

A. Harmony between Christians.

1. Living harmoniously with your pastor.
  - Hebrews 13:7 - "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."
  - Hebrews 13:17 - "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for this is unprofitable for you."
2. Living harmoniously with your supporting pastors.
  - Philippians 1:15-18 - "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."
3. Living harmoniously with your fellow believers.
  - I Peter 3:8-9 - "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."
4. Living harmoniously with your fellow missionaries.
  - Colossians 3:12-13 - "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

B. Harmony between Churches.

1. Carry your earnest desire to be on the mission field from church to church.
2. Carry no church problems, horror tales, or exaggerated tales from church to church.

- III. III. The Need for Harmony between the Missionary and His Support Team.
- A. Maintaining harmony between the missionary and his sending church.
1. Though on the mission field, you are still a member of your sending church.
  2. Though on the mission field, you are still a member accountable to your sending church.
    - a) Keep them informed of your goals and progress.
    - b) Keep them informed of your needs.
      - A well-informed people can be more effective in prayer for you!
  3. Though on the mission field, you are still a ministry of your sending church.
    - You are accountable first and foremost to your pastor and home church, so keep them informed of their church ministry through you!
- B. Maintaining harmony between the missionary and his supporting churches.
1. Though not your home church, you need supporting churches.
    - a) Contact pastors with a positive attitude and schedule a meeting.
    - b) Confirm meetings with pastors at least a week in advance.
    - c) Arrive early enough to meet with the pastor before the service.
      - Present yourselves to the pastor to be used in any way that he sees fit.
      - Present yourselves well because you are a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, your home church, supporting churches, and WWNTBM everywhere you go!
      - PREACH the Word well because it is the power of God that will motivate the saved in the church to support you.
  2. Though not your home church, be grateful to your supporting churches and show it.
    - They really owe you nothing!
  3. Though not your home church, be updating your supporting churches on a regular basis.
    - You are accountable to your sending churches, therefore you ought to write them a letter or report as often as possible.
- C. Maintaining harmony between the missionary and his service agency.
1. Though not your home church, you have chosen to have WWNTBM as your service agency.
    - “When a missionary affirms agreement with mission policies and agrees to support them, he also assumes accountability for cooperation with mission procedures. A certain independent streak sometimes creeps into a missionary’s makeup, but he must not allow this to mark his relation . . .” to his sending church, supporting churches, or his missions agency.
  2. Though not your home church, you have chosen to be accountable to the principles, policies, and practices of WWNTBM as your service agency.
    - a) Be courteous as you communicate with the home office.
    - b) Be on time with all reports that must be turned into the home office.
    - c) Be positive in your conversations with others about WWNTBM.
    - d) Be ethical in all of your dealings.

Summary: It is vitally important as you travel literally around the world to have a good working relationship with all of your support team back home. The threefold cord of Ecclesiastes 4:12 will not be quickly broken if you have good relationships with your home church, sending churches, and Worldwide New Testament Baptist Missions. Accountability to your sending church, supporting churches and service agency will assure a continued ministry for you in the place of God's choice for you. A lack of accountability in any of these areas could mean a loss of confidence in you as a missionary. The loss of confidence can result in a loss of support and a loss of time on the field. Be a good steward of the confidence of your home church, supporting churches, and your service agency.