

Personal Missions Philosophy

Deputation:

The missions philosophy of our sending church is to partner with fewer missionaries at a more substantial level each. This allows the church to know their missionaries better and have greater communication and oversight, while allowing the missionaries to maximize their furlough time with each supporting church. As part of our commitment to our sending church we are seeking churches of like philosophy. That means spending more time communicating with pastors before ever taking a meeting. Our goal is to find churches who are seeking missionaries committed to being a direct extension of their local church ministry. This results in a more substantial and mutual ministry partnership. We certainly don't dictate what support level churches should commit to in order to partner with us. We are explaining to churches beforehand that in order to maintain a small core group of supporting churches we would ask them to pray about partnering with us between 5% and 10% of our total needed support. We believe this will make deputation more efficient as our meetings are more specific, and we can then spend lengthier quality time really getting to know each church. Toward this end we moved out of our house in Greenville and the Lord provided a travel trailer so that we can live on the road for the duration of deputation. Rather than spending time traveling back and forth from SC we can now be more accessible and flexible. We hope this will be a benefit to potential supporting churches as we make ourselves available for longer periods of ministry without imposing on their hospitality.

Foreign Missions:

Our deputation philosophy goes hand in hand with our overall foreign missions philosophy. Any mission work should be done through the oversight of the local church, even that of Bible translation, which is not often viewed as local church ministry. Custody of the Word of God was not entrusted to a Bible society, it was entrusted to the Church. We are going as missionaries sent by local churches to local churches to help advance God's kingdom by assisting nationals to bring the Word of Life to their own people in their own language. The process of deputation at the independent, local church level is beneficial for keeping local churches involved in the entire process of Bible translation. We are not scholars going into a foreign culture as the experts. We are fellow laborers, members of the same body, using our opportunities and abilities to help other members in the way God intended His church to function. In contrast to popular ecumenical thought, we believe the most effective means of accomplishing foreign missions is through specific denominational cooperation, partnering with churches of like faith and practice. Toward this end we endeavor to raise our support from independent Baptist churches who share a similar philosophy.

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