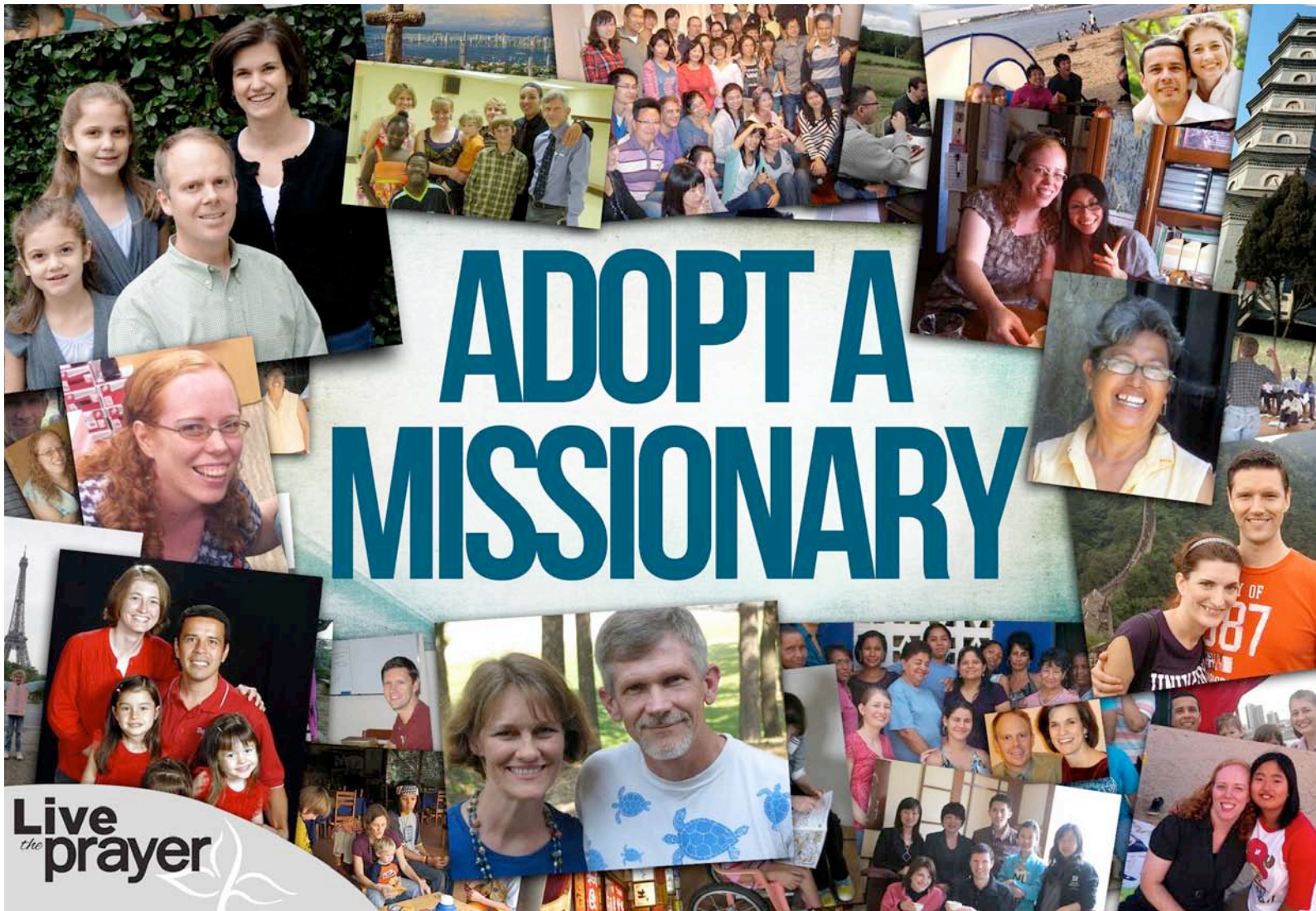


The Branch: Adopt-a-Missionary Program

Program for Small Groups



Missions Committee Proposal

September 13, 2011

Adopt-a-Missionary Program

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to coordinate small groups to 'adopt' the missionaries supported by The Branch, in order to provide them encouragement, prayer, and a direct link to our local church family.

WHY?

In an effort to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world, The Branch supports many missionaries and mission efforts. With such a great distance between us, it is easy for us to forget the sacrifices being made daily by our brothers and sisters in Christ. The result is not good for the missionaries or for our local congregation. It is important that our missionaries know they are not alone. They should feel supported, loved, and a part of our fellowship. As a church family, it is important that we share in their successes and in their hardships, so that our faith can be encouraged by the amazing things that God is doing through our gifts and our very own members.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ADOPT A MISSIONARY?

The information below is meant to be a guideline for supporting our missionaries. You should bring your own ideas and personality to the relationship. Groups choosing to adopt a missionary will be asked to do the following:

1. Pray regularly for the missionaries, their families, and the mission effort
2. Develop a relationship with the missionaries; know them and their situation
3. Contact missionaries at least twice per month (email, letters, Skype, etc.)¹
4. Contact missionaries at important times throughout the year (send gifts when able/appropriate)²
 - a. Birthdays
 - b. Anniversaries
 - c. Children's birthdays
 - d. Holidays
5. Be an ambassador for the mission work on your campus
6. Update the 'We Care for You' information monthly or as needed and submit to the Missions Committee any changes (*see attached page*)

¹ We must be sensitive to the political climate where some missionaries are located. Any mention of their mission, specific country or town, names of nationals in email or Facebook may put them in jeopardy of expulsion or worse. In some instances, use of broad geographic terms (such as Africa or S.E. Asia), nicknames, or initials are preferable. Check with individual missionaries for their needs in this regard.

² We must be aware that missionaries may incur expenses in receiving gifts in undeveloped countries. Some gifts may be politically unacceptable in some countries. Find out from missionaries before sending anything of value.

OTHER IDEAS

1. Have the kids in your small group write birthday cards to the children of the missionaries
2. Have a representative from your group visit your missionaries
3. Submit prayer request on Sundays on behalf of your missionaries
4. Create a Facebook page for your group to coordinate with your missionaries³ and each other

HOW LONG ARE WE COMMITTING?

We ask that your small group commit to a mission work for a timeframe of 12 months.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A SMALL GROUP? CAN I ADOPT A MISSIONARY ON MY OWN OR WITH MY FAMILY?

We want as many people as possible to support and interact with our missionaries, so of course members that are not part of small group can participate. We are requesting the participation of small groups, though, so that we can engage the missionaries with a larger number of people and families. Also, we know that individuals will have busy times during the year, so a group commitment should allow for the distribution of responsibility as well as provide accountability for regular prayer and support.

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MISSIONS?

It is perfectly alright if you have never been involved with mission work before. We may not all know about mission work, but we all understand people. We have all been away from home. All of us have felt alone and that life was handing us more than we could bear. During those times, many of us were fortunate to have family, friends, and a church home to help us make it through. The goal of this program is simply to provide that same support network to those in our fellowship who happen to live in a different part of the world.

IS OUR SMALL GROUP ON OUR OWN FOR 12 MONTHS?

No. There will be a designated Missions Committee member that you can go to for questions and support. All of us are in this together. We want this to be a blessing for your small group, not a burden. These guidelines are in place to help steer your group in the right direction, but once you get in touch with your missionary team you will see how your interaction blesses and encourages their lives and your relationship will take its own course.

³ We must be sensitive to the missionaries' situations. Some governments are hostile to Christian missions. Any mention of their name, country, mission, etc. could result in expulsion or persecution. Facebook and email cannot be considered to be private and can be accessible to others. Consult your missionaries and your Missions Committee representative if you have questions about this.

WHAT IS THE 'WE CARE FOR YOU' INFORMATION?

In order to provide support to those in the field, there is some basic information that we want to make sure our missionaries are asked regularly. The 'We Care for You' questions are meant to offer you a starting point for what to discuss, as well as ensure that the church always has the most recent news and most up to date contact information for our missionaries. *(You will find this form attached)*

CAN I TALK TO SOMEONE BEFORE COMMITTING TO THIS?

Please do! Any member of our Missions Committee would love to talk to you about the ways you can bless our missionaries. We would also be willing to attend your small group meeting and talk about the various mission efforts. *We have attached a list of mission efforts and Missions Committee members for your reference.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

To get started, contact Jon Mark Harmon *(information is provided below)*. He will provide you with some background information on your missionaries and put you in contact with your Missions Committee contact. Together, Jon Mark and your Mission Committee representative will educate your group with the most recent information on your missionary, the mission work, and any additional information they have.

You can also contact Jon Mark if you would like someone to speak to your small group meeting.

For more information on the Adopt-a-Missionary Program contact:

Jon Mark Harmon

817.201.7252

jonmark.harmon@phytel.com

For more information on specific mission works or missionaries, contact any member of the Missions Committee. Contact information is on the following page.

MISSIONARIES NEEDING SUPPORT

Location	Missionaries	Missions Committee Contact
Africa - His Chase	Mark and Chelsea Jacobs	Jon Mark & Keali Harmon
Asia - Gospel for Asia	Ralph and Sandy Laskie	Linda Havins
Bhimavaram, India	Don Browning	Brett Parsley
Cartagena, Colombia	Luis and Schalee Sanchez	Dennis & Dewanna Faulkner
Catacamas, Honduras	Blanca Mondragon	Robert Cano
Ghana, Africa - Touch a Life	Pam & Randy Cope	Jon Mark & Keali Harmon
Kansas City, MO	Doug & Kimberly Condor	Dennis & Dewanna Faulkner
Kisumu, Kenya	Tony Mauldin	Hiram & Jeanne Sloan
Mbale, Uganda Africa	Ian and Danetta Shelburne	Jon Mark & Keali Harmon
Southeast Asia	Michael and Liz	Brett Parsley
Taga, Japan	Judith Alexander	Linda Havins
Tours, France	Clint & M'Liss Stringer	Hiram & Jeanne Sloan

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact any member of the Missions Committee:

Jon Mark Harmon	(817) 201-7252	jonmark.harmon@phytel.com
Keali Harmon	(918) 706-5566	okstatepres02@yahoo.com
Dennis Faulkner	(214) 695-6855	dfaulkner@lainfaulkner.com
Dewanna Faulkner	(817) 366-7685	dewfaulkner@yahoo.com
Linda Havins	(972) 307-3477	linda.havins@gmail.com
Brett Parsley	(214) 4180445	brettparsley@daveperrymiller.com
Robert Cano	(214) 347-1348	robert.cano@sbcglobal.net
Hiram Sloan	(972) 495-0577	hsloan1@verizon.net
Jeanne Sloan	(972) 495-0577	jsloan01@verizon.net

We Care for You

What's Happening with Your Missionaries?

Please remember that these questions may not need to be asked every month. Through your relationship with your missionary family you may already know the answers, and that is great. That means you truly have a relationship established. The reason for this is information is so that we, as a church family, can all stay up to date with our missionaries, because we want to provide them with as much support as possible. The spirit of this questionnaire is not meant to be an audit or a checklist where missionaries feel they are reporting to us. We ask these questions because we care. We want you to determine what other information the church should be aware of.

- ❖ What is your contact information?
 - Email – any special instructions when emailing?
 - Phone Number
 - Mailing Address – any special instruction when mailing packages?
 - Facebook⁴
- ❖ What is your preferred method of contact?
- ❖ What can we be praying for?
- ❖ Are there any needs/struggles we should know about?
- ❖ Are there any recent successes we should know about?
- ❖ Is it easy for you to receive packages in your location, or is there a better way to send support?
- ❖ Are there any health issues we should know about?

Submit information to: jonmark.harmon@phytel.com

⁴ We must be sensitive and wise to the missionaries' situations. Some governments are hostile to Christian missions. Any mention of their name, country, mission, etc. could result in expulsion or persecution. Facebook and email cannot be considered to be private and can be accessible to others.