

Eastern Mennonite Missions



Care Teams

[for short-term missionaries]

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:2-3

The Care Team, the short-term version of the missionary support team, was born out of a desire to see short-term missionaries walk in partnership with their sending churches.

Missionaries need spiritual, emotional, and material support that comes from on-going relationships with family, friends, and congregations. The Care Team mobilizes congregations to participate in the many aspects of calling, sending, and sustaining mission work.

**Human Resources
Eastern Mennonite Missions**

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A brochure explaining the long-term version of the missionary support team is also available from EMM.

The images in these brochures come from team-building activities during short-term missions training.



What [is a care team?]

The Care Team is a vital link between the missionary and the supporting home community.

This team is usually a group of 3-4 people with an interest in missions, and in the missionary.

Each member of the Care Team agrees to:

- encourage and counsel the missionary seeking the Lord's leading.
- assist in communicating with supporters.
- assist in raising financial support.
- mobilize prayer support to undergird the missionary.



Who [is on a care team?]

The Care Team can be made up of people from the missionary's congregation, family, friends, and community.

Include at least one person from the congregation's leadership team (youth pastor, pastor, or other leader).

Key players on a Care Team:

Leader: makes sure the team is functioning effectively, leads meetings, and connects with EMM staff as needed.

Prayer facilitator: circulates the missionary's prayer requests and leads the prayer network.

Finance coordinator: makes sure finances are channeled to the proper place on time.

Church communicator: ensures that communication flows smoothly between the missionary, the home congregation, and other members of the supporting network.



Starting [the team]

As the potential missionary begins to pursue the Lord's direction about the call to missions, he or she should:

- Seek counsel about the mission assignment from congregational leaders, family members, and trusted friends.
- Find someone to serve as the team leader.
- Invite others to join the team.
- Begin meeting with the team for prayer, and brainstorming about fund-raising ideas.



Developing [a prayer network]

Regular, committed prayer is foundational to the missionary's call and ministry.

As soon as possible, the missionary and Care Team will want to develop a prayer network, and a system for smooth and prompt circulation of prayer items. The members are kept informed by the prayer facilitator via phone calls, e-mails, newsletters, and/or meetings.



When [the missionary is approved]

After the missionary has been approved for an EMM assignment, he or she meets with the Care Team to:

- Make plans to share information about the assignment with the congregation and other supporters.
- Consider whether a congregational commissioning service would be appropriate.
- Begin fund-raising.



During [the assignment]

The missionary and Care Team must stay closely connected.

The missionary:

- communicates frequently with the Care Team about his or her experiences, including prayer requests.

The Care Team:

- communicates regularly with the missionary to provide encouragement and connection with events at home.
- shares about the ministry with the congregation and other supporters.
- circulates prayer requests through the prayer network.
- monitors pledged contributions, and assist in further fund-raising if necessary.
- prays regularly for the missionary.



Returning [from the assignment]

The Care Team helps the missionary reconnect by:

- taking time to listen to stories and personal growth experiences.
- helping the missionary understand the home environment again by sharing experiences and changes in the community/congregation.
- helping the missionary successfully re-engage in church life.
- arranging opportunities for the missionary to share in small or large groups.
- helping to arrange housing and transportation (if needed).



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