

## **Partnerships**

Partnership is essential to Mission. God does not send people out as “lone rangers” but as a community. God sends the local church out to go plant churches or to strengthen the existing church. Therefore, we need kingdom minded partners with whom we can lock arms and co-labor with as we participate in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Historically, The Summit Church prioritizes partnerships with existing missionaries and church planters sent out from the Summit. These missionaries are located all over the world working in a variety of different contexts, cultures, and roles. We believe that Short and Mid-Term leads to Long-Term in two ways: (1) we desire that Short/Mid-Termers will encourage Field Partners in their work as well as partner with them to advance the gospel in their context and (2) we believe that God uses Short/Mid-Term opportunities to confirm a long-term calling in people’s lives therefore we want to provide an experience where a Short/Mid-Termer can visualize what their life would look like long-term in that location.

Other partnerships are established by looking for theological and missiological alignment. In order to be effective on the field, we want to join with field partners who share similar convictions and common goals. In terms of theological alignment, we look to partner with those who affirm the core essentials of the faith. In terms of missiological alignment, we look to partner with those whose missiology is driven by sound theology. We want to be cautious in partnering with those who are driven by pragmatism, numbers, and results. We desire to build partnership with those who allow their missiology and practice to be shaped by the Word and the gospel. In other words, we want to see the Word as primary in the life and ministry of those we join in partnership.

Therefore, our ultimate goal in establishing and building kingdom partnerships is the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom by offering more participants a chance to “Go, Learn, Return & Respond.”. It’s His mission and it’s for His glory. We desire to connect with like-minded brothers and sisters, churches, and organizations around the world to see the name of Christ exalted. We are members of a global body and desire to join arms with those scattered around the globe to see the kingdom

advance and the glory of God spread to the ends of the earth. Below you will find a list of questions and concepts we think through as we seek to establish partnerships.

### **Preliminary Assessment Questions**

- 1. Vision and DNA** (*Looking for evidence of being gospel centered-seeking first God's glory and the advancement of His kingdom expressed through the entire STM process, sound biblical doctrine, persistent prayer and godliness in all thoughts, words, deeds and methods- being wise, biblical, culturally appropriate which bears spiritual fruit*)
  - What is your vision statement
  - What is your Strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission/making disciples
  - What connections and/or relationships do you have with local churches
  - What role does your organization play in planting churches
  - Greatest strengths
  - Greatest weaknesses
  - Current needs
  - If you had unlimited resources (BHAG) what would you do with them
  
- 2. Leadership** (*Looking for qualified leadership. How does the organization screen, train, and develop capable leadership for all participants (character/spiritually mature servant leadership), skills (prepared, competent, organized and accountable and values (empowering and equipping leadership).*)
  - Health of organization, including staff and volunteers
  - What connections and relationships do you have with influential local leadership (community, government, churches, NGO's, etc)
  
- 3. Numbers** (*Looking for comprehensive administration. Exhibits integrity through reliable and thorough administrations for all participants expressed by truthfulness in promotion, finances and reporting. Appropriate risk management and quality missions experience and support logistics).*)
  - Assisting in mobilization (i.e. getting Summit members involved)
  - How many trips could we potentially take with your organization
  - How many people per trip
  - Pre set dates
  - Flexibility with dates
  - Custom trip dates
  
- 4. Dollars and Cents**
  - What is the average cost per person
  - Can you provide a breakdown of expenses
  - What capacity are you able to administer trip (receiving and receipting funds)

**5. Experience & Engagement** (Looking for empowered partnerships and evidence of established healthy, interdependent and ongoing long term relationships between sending and receiving partners where plans benefit all participants and there is mutual trust and accountability. On field methods and activities aiding to long term strategies of planting churches and addressing felt needs.

- Who should we specifically target from our church to go on trips
- What Opportunities are available
- Who is our target people to minister to
- What will a team experience
- How will they help/ How could they hinder
- Components of ministry (relief, rehabilitation, development, etc)
- "Return on investment" for individual participants and church as a whole

**6. Training** (Looking for appropriate training to prepare and equip all participants that is biblical, culturally appropriate and timely, before/during/after by qualified trainers).

- Thorough follow through. Assures evaluation, debriefing and appropriate follow through by comprehensive feedback, evaluation, debriefing and next steps.
- Pre, during and post trip opportunities to engage with local leadership and connect/train for with "what's next"...
- How do we avoid..."[voluntourism](#)" and anti- "[When Helping Hurts](#)"