Session 4: Understanding How We Partner with Missionaries

Part 1: The independent church model and missionary partnership:

- **Our church is autonomous:**
  - We choose how we will allocate our missions' budget.
  - We choose who we will partner with.
  - We expect our partners to regularly communicate with our church.
- **The role of a board or clearinghouse agency:**
  - Boards can provide a layer of protection to the missionary and to the church.
  - They have a doctrinal statement, reputation, network of churches, and provide tools for the missionary.
  - Clearinghouse agencies handle finances for local churches.
  - They should not interfere in local church duties.
- **Our missions support:**
  - About 20% of our church budget goes directly to missions:
  - Our total missions' giving is around $110,000.
  - We support 20 missionaries and two organizations
  - We support our missionaries at $400-$600 per month
  - We support organizations at $200 per month.
- **Four ways we give to missions:**
  - **Missions as a designation:** Main way
  - **Darnell Church Planting Fund:** Topped up to $50,000 out of annual surplus
  - **General Fund for missionaries sent out of our church:** Moores
  - **Special Offerings:**
    - We usually give a Christmas bonus out of surplus funds in December.
    - We periodically take up special offerings for specific needs.

Part 2: Typical process to get to the field:

- **Preparation:**
  - Desire, education, and "in church training"
  - Selecting a board and going through their candidate process
- **Ordination:** The church's formal recognition and stamp of support as a missionary candidate pursues missions.
- **Deputation:**
  - The process of raising support through like-minded churches.
  - Most missionaries will need to partner with 20-40 churches at a minimum.
- **Final stage:**
  - Setting up an outfit and passage fund ($30,000 or more)

    - Wrapping up final meetings
    - Shots, immigration paperwork, renting a place, securing airline tickets.
- **Commissioning Service:** An opportunity for the church to formally send of their missionary.

Part 3: The typical process of vetting potential missionary partnerships:

- Usually, missionaries contact us.
- We send them a questionnaire to get more information about their family, doctrine, and mission philosophy. (Supplied as an additional handout)
- We generally have new candidates present their work in our October mission month.
- We generally have them present the whole day (SS and PM),
- We discuss potential partnerships internally as a staff and with our deacons, before recommending partnership in a Quarterly Business Meeting.

Part 4: Ways to stay involved:

- Missions' Moments on Sunday PM
- Regular email updates
- What's App and Signal Groups
- Mid-Week Prayer time
- Short-term trips

Our Missionary Questionnaire:

Thank you so much for reaching out to us about your ministry. We are a missions-minded church and thankful to be partnered with many wonderful likeminded missionaries. Our church takes each mission's partnership seriously, stays in regular communication with these missionaries, and supports each family at a significant monthly support level. Because of the high volume of missionary requests and our approach to missions, we limit our prospective missionary visits to the month of October and to prospective missionaries that we believe are practically and theologically likeminded. Please review our church's constitution, answer the below questions, and we will get back with you if we believe you are a good candidate to consider as a ministry partner:

- Have you read the church's constitution, and could you in good conscience support our faith and practice statement? *anchorbaptistonline.org/faith-and-practice*

- Do you and your wife consider yourselves healthy growing Christians?

- Have you or your wife ever been divorced?

- Do you have a healthy family culture? If not, please explain why not?

- Are your wife and children fully supportive of your ministry focus and to what extent do you envision their involvement in the work?

- Please list your completed theological training and the institutions where you have studied:

- Please tell us when you were ordained, and in what church you were ordained:

- Please explain what you believe are the absolute essential elements to the gospel that must be affirmed and trusted for salvation:

- Do you have a planned way to handle baptism candidates, and if so, what is your plan:

- Please explain the heart of your focus as a missionary:

- Do you believe in the indigenous principle, and if so, please explain what it is:

- Do you believe a missionary church planter should pastor one ministry that will function as a long-term mother church, or work from the church's birth to turn it over entirely to well qualified national pastors?

- Please explain your approach to funding the work:

- Will you encourage the church to support itself from the start?

- Will you encourage churches from the States to fund major projects and if so, to what extent should the nationals be involved?

- What marks of maturity in the church will you be watching that indicate the church plant is ready to be a self-supported, self-governing local church?

- How do you plan to support pastors trained in your ministry?

- Do you see yourself as a long-term or short-term missionary?

- How will you know when your work in a particular church is completed?