

CHURCHES' ROLE IN SENDING MISSIONARIES

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CASE STUDY:

THE GREATER MAVUNO SUPPORT DILEMMA

Greater Mavuno District is experiencing an encouraging rise in mission interest. Young leaders are sensing God's call, training opportunities are expanding, and doors to the nations are opening. Yet as momentum builds, confusion emerges around who actually sends missionaries. Three situations bring the issue into sharp focus.

THE SITUATIONS

1. **PETER** - Called, Trained, and Ready (or So He Thinks)

Peter is a gifted young leader who senses a strong personal call to missions. After attending a regional training program, he announces to his church: "God has called me, and I am going."

He plans to raise support independently and partner with an external ministry. His church celebrates his zeal—but wonders whether they have truly affirmed his calling or prepared him to go.

2. **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH** - Passionate but Unprepared

Grace Baptist Church has never sent a missionary before. When two members express interest in missions, the elders rejoice—but feel unsure:

- How do we test and confirm a calling?
- When are we responsible to say yes or not yet?
- What happens after the missionary leaves?

The church fears failing the missionary—or overstepping their role.

3. **THE MAVUNO MISSION NETWORK** - Helpful or Harmful?

A regional mission network offers to handle training, placement, and support. Churches are invited to "send through the network."

Some pastors welcome the help. Others worry: "If the network sends, what role does the church actually play?"

THE TENSION

As pastors meet to discuss these situations, questions surface:

- Is a missionary sent by personal calling, the church, or a network?
- What authority does the local church carry in commissioning?
- What responsibilities remain after the missionary is sent?

What happens when churches outsource sending too quickly?

One elder summarizes the concern: "We talk about sending missionaries—but we have not agreed on what sending actually means."

