

# COLLABORATIVE SENDING STRATEGIES:

CHURCH-BASED MISSIONARY SUPPORT MODELS, BUSINESS AS MISSION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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## CASE STUDY:

### THE GREATER MAVUNO SENDING PARTNERSHIP

Greater Mavuno District has seen a growing burden for the nations. Over the past several years, local churches have matured in leadership, increased in mission awareness, and begun to ask a new question: How can we, as African churches, send missionaries together—faithfully and sustainably—to the nations?

Three Baptist churches in the district have each affirmed missionary candidates. Individually, none feels fully equipped to send alone. Together, they believe collaboration could make missionary sending possible.

### THE CHURCHES

1. **GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH** (Church A)
  - Strong in teaching and discipleship
  - Has one missionary candidate ready to be sent
  - Can provide prayer, oversight, and limited financial support
  - Believes sending should remain clearly church-centered
2. **KINGDOM HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH** (Church B)
  - Entrepreneurial and resourceful
  - Encourages Business as Mission as a pathway for sustainability
  - Has access to business training and micro-enterprise opportunities
  - Concerned that traditional support models are unrealistic
3. **NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH** (Church C)
  - Smaller congregation with strong evangelistic zeal
  - Financial resources are limited
  - Eager to participate in sending but unsure how
  - Open to pooled resources and shared responsibility

### THE PROPOSAL

At a regional pastors' gathering, the churches agree on a bold vision: "Let us form a collaborative sending partnership—sharing responsibility, resources, and oversight—to send missionaries from Greater Mavuno to the nations."

The proposal includes:

- Joint affirmation and commissioning
- Shared financial support
- Cooperative training and care
- Openness to Business as Mission where appropriate

The excitement is real. For the first time, sending missionaries seems possible...

## TENSIONS EMERGE

As planning continues, practical questions surface:

- Who is the primary sending church when multiple churches are involved?
- How are financial responsibilities divided fairly and transparently?
- What level of support should be expected before sending?
- How does Business as Mission serve the mission without redefining it?
- Who provides pastoral care, accountability, and discipline if needed?

One pastor voices a concern many feel: “If everyone is responsible, then perhaps no one truly is.”

Another asks: “Are we building a sending partnership—or avoiding responsibility we should carry as churches?”

## THE DECISION POINT

As the launch date approaches, the churches pause. They agree on why missionaries should be sent. They agree on who God is calling. But they are uncertain about how sending should actually work together.

At the final meeting before commissioning, one elder asks the question that now defines the moment: “What does faithful, church-centered, collaborative sending really require of us?” The future of missionary sending in Greater Mavuno depends on the answer.

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This case study is designed to lead directly into:

- Defining sending vs. supporting
- Clarifying roles and authority
- Evaluating church-based, cooperative, and Business as Mission (BAM) models
- Identifying non-negotiables for healthy collaboration

