

# RAISING SUPPORT IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT

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## CASE STUDY:

### THE GREATER MAVUNO SUPPORT DILEMMA

Greater Mavuno District has begun to send its first generation of cross-cultural African missionaries. The churches rejoice—but quickly discover that raising support is one of their greatest challenges.

Three missionary candidates from Greater Mavuno have completed training and are ready to be sent to neighboring regions and beyond. All are affirmed in character, calling, and gifting. Yet their support pathways differ, raising serious questions for the churches involved.

### THE MISSIONARIES

1. **JOSEPH & MIRIAM** - Full-Time Church-Supported Workers
  - Sent by a single sending church
  - Committed to full-time gospel work
  - Their church can only pledge partial monthly support
  - Long-term sustainability is uncertain
2. **DANIEL** - Tent-making Missionary
  - Trained electrician with transferable skills
  - Plans to work part-time while planting churches
  - Excited about access and sustainability
  - Concerned about time, fatigue, and divided focus
3. **RUTH** - Cooperatively Supported Missionary
  - Sent by a group of smaller churches
  - Each church contributes modestly
  - No single church provides full oversight
  - Accountability and care structures are unclear



### THE TENSION

As pastors meet to finalize sending plans, questions arise:

- Is full-time support realistic—or even necessary—in every context?
- When does tent-making strengthen mission, and when does it weaken it?
- How much responsibility should sending churches carry versus networks?
- How do missionaries avoid constant financial anxiety?
- What happens when support falls short mid-term?

One missionary asks quietly:

“Am I being sent in faith—or being sent unprepared?” The pastors realize that good intentions alone are not enough.