

# **Collaborative Sending Strategy**

**Workshop Report - part 1**

**Frederic**

# The reasons of our presence here

- to obey the Lord, considering His commission in Matthew 28:19-20
- to articulate biblically grounded sending models
- to articulate realistic vision for African led mission sustainability
- present the next steps for collaborative sending in our own contexts

## We are not here to:

- built our own kingdom
- nor to think our Jerusalem alone
- nor for personal interest

=> the Church is the only institution that we serve.

## **Why the "how to send missionaries" is just as important as "send missionaries" : in Africa and out of Africa ?**

=> Here we all agree that sending missionaries is not a choice but a obligation

=> yet, it is as much important to deeply focus on the manner we send missionaries to the fields beyond this evidence

### **Because:**

- we don't want to see complaining when situation is getting tough
- even if many are really zealed in the first time, early after that, they come back broken and disappointed because of :
  - lack of training
  - lack of sustainable support, regarding physical and spiritual beings

**The risks that can arise with lack of structure will for sure lead to misunderstanding between the sender and the missionary**

If we send missionaries without clear guidance, clear definition of the goals:

- **it may affect the mission itself, and**
- **it will result in failure**
- **a waste of time and efforts that will create frustrations and anger, that can lead to total disruption in the mission**

**We also talked about:**

- conflict of interest
- missionaries ending up with do something he is not supposed to
- theological deviation if the missionary is not regularly fed with healthy spiritual and doctrinal ongoing training

# Here are some principles from selected verses from the Bible:

## 1- from Philippians 4:14-18, we saw that:

- getting involved in a mission is not "participating" in a budget, but getting into a real communion in that mission
- a continuous relationship evolving a transparent exchange of both material and spiritual gifts (v15b: "not one church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.")
- faithfulness rooted in a common vision
- giving with love as you received with love
- serving in mission support like a spiritual act of adoration, a sacrifice pleasing to God (v18)

# Here are some principles from selected verses from the Bible:

## 2- from another verses:

- Hospitality is kind of support (3 John )
- Prayer support in such an important thing: it is principally the role of the church (Acts 13)
- supports for missionaries include:
  - the daily life spendings
  - welfare
  - care for human beings: physical, mental
  - spiritual care

# 3- Mapping the sending model

## Business as Mission (BAM)

BAM is about creating a sustainable program to generate income to support the mission.

We want also send **Tent makers**.

### Examples:

- Farming is a relevant example of such experience
- build schools for education
- networking with church members capable of doing business together
- investment in transportation, land acquisition,
- building construction (conference center, accommodation facilities)
- hospital and health care structures
- banking and micro-finance

# 3- Mapping the sending model

## Business as Mission (BAM)

### Risks

But we all know that doing business present a wide risk of reliability and accountability both for the church, including all the people involved in it, and the missionaries so we must be really careful while addressing this kind of solution, and

**=> we need set boundaries since the very beginning, with clear rules and guidance for all practitioners.**

# 3- Mapping the sending model

## Church based Support (CBS)

If the church is committed to mobilise the finance, consider the mission in the budget and long to do it, continuing support will happen

Of course, it has its own limitations and risks, as

- lack of transparency and accountability may result in trust issues
- the change of the leadership resulting policies reviews may affect former decisions
- how about the consequences of a financial pressure that can quietly redirect mission focus
  - it creates frustrations within the members, the contributors
  - it can lead to family break up, church break up as the mission objectives is no longer aligned with the initial deal
  - decision makers may choose to distort the mission to fit financial constraints rather than focussing on the mission's core mandate
  - abandoning the mission on the field
- inconsistent support

# **4- Barriers and sustainability**

## **1- Economic realities shaping African missionary sending ?**

- building projects
- union offerings and cuts
- inflations
- lack of employment or Employment
- lack of sufficient funding
- lack of clear structure for the sender and the sendee

# 4- Barriers and sustainability

## 2- unrealistic expectations harming missionaries

- availability after training
- Availability of funding
- Availability of Field support like accommodation , transportation, feeding, etc.
- commitment to support missionaries

Conclusion of part 2

=> The work of the church is mission and we must budget the mission.

=> It is not a choice, it is a mandate

# 5. Accountability and Ownership

Who should hold primary responsibility for missionaries - the sending church or collective ?

**=> The missionary comes from one church, but as it can not send the missionary by itself, So, this church and its partners should create a missionary department to collectively manage responsibility**

What structures protect missionaries from isolation, drift, or burnout ?

**=> a team should officially come to visit and supervise the missionaries, periodically but there must be a scheduled time for missionaries to get back at his home, join his family to have time to rest**

**=> the association of churches should have a Mission Committee or a Mission Board to especially do the missionary care**

# 6. Discernement

1- what must be clarified before sending the first missionary family ?

- **agreement between husband and wife and the children**
- **understanding their call/ clarification about doctrine**
- **define clearly what the mission is about**
- **expectations from both side**
- **financial support amount and funding sources**
- **family involvement in mission: training**
- **family care**
- **education of the children**
- **medical care/health insurance**
- **orientation training**
- **job description**
- **clarification on accommodation**

# 6. Discernement

2- what would be wise to pilot before scaling up ?

- **welfare of the missionary**
- **who is going to receive the missionary**
- **observation period in internship to observe the missionary and family before bringing them into the fields**

# **7. Designing a Collaborative Framework**

## **A- What is non-negotiable for faithful sending?**

- **doctrine**
- **church roles and commitments**
- **oversight and accountability structures**
- **financial support pathways**
- **Training**
- **prayer team behind the missionary**
- **prior knowledge of the mission field**

## **B- The only area where flexibility is necessary in sending is:**

**=> financial support pathways: like salary**

# **Church support of missionary involves:**

**A comprehensive multi-faced approach includes:**

- **financial**
- **providing prayer support for the missionary**
- **logistical aid to sustain the ministry**
- **education**
- **humanitarian efforts**

# **Church support of missionary involves:**

## **Financial and material aid includes:**

- **provide financial backing**
- **special collections**
- **commitment to cover missionary salaries**
- **provide capacity building**