

## Resource 2: Our Pledge to You (pg. 1)

### Introduction

Partners International is committed to creating and growing communities of Christian witness in partnership with God's people in the least Christian regions of the world. Central to this commitment is the pledge to collaborate with non-Western indigenous missions.

This booklet represents the fundamental commitments between Partners International and its mission partners. While the statements do not constitute a comprehensive agreement, they represent the core values and actions critical to building and sustaining a viable partnership.

### Common Ground

The first task of any partnership is to establish common ground. If you can rejoice in the following statements and affirm them with us, we have common ground on which to build a partnership in the gospel.

As those who share in God's grace with each other (Philippians 1:7), who have been qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of light (Colossians 1:12), who share in the heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1), who share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:10), and who will share in the glory to be revealed (1 Peter 5:1), the following principles will govern our working relationship:

1. We are called to invest our lives and resources in Christ's ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).
2. God has given His church a variety of gifts to complement each other in the ministry of equipping it to fulfill its mandate for the glory of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).
3. In seeking to fulfill this mandate, we recognize that our enablement does not depend on human criteria such as wealth, education, experience, and so on, but on the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6).
4. It is both an honor and an obligation for Christians to assist one another in the work of Christ (2 Corinthians 8:1-15).
5. Any God-honoring service should be carried out in a spirit of mutual respect, trust and submission in the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24; Galatians 5:13).
6. Mutual accountability is an integral aspect of Christian stewardship (1 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 14:12).
7. Our motivation should be that of a servant in keeping with the example of Christ (Philippians 2:1-11).

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### Mutual Expectations

There are some things all partners in the gospel should expect from one another. In general, partners must be able to count on one another to:

1. Establish written plans that clearly define the goals and action steps of the joint project. Such plans are developed in a collaborative, open manner and subject to revision at any time.
2. Give consistent and thoughtful attention to the goals of the joint project and to consider themselves mutually accountable for the relative success or failure of the goals and the relationship.
3. Provide appropriate and sufficient resources and attention to the joint project in order to maximize its chances of success, growth, and faithfulness to God.
4. Persist in sharing information freely and in an undistorted manner.
5. Review and reflect on the operations of the joint project to ensure that it is moving toward appropriate goals and fulfilling mutual aspirations.
6. Identify and confront all disagreements and conflicts immediately and to devote substantial time, resources, and personal effort to the resolution or management of all conflicts, on behalf of the project's fulfillment.
7. Maintain the theological position put forth in their Statement of Faith and to inform one another of any significant changes in position.
8. Expect the unexpected. In a rapidly changing world, it is impossible to anticipate and plan for every opportunity or problem that might present itself. Therefore, partners ought to be able to count on each other to remain flexible and willing to share risk.

### Our Commitment

There are some things unique to each partnership. With God's help you can count on us to:

1. Appoint a representative to oversee all aspects of Partners International's involvement in the joint project. In most cases this is an Area Director who manages other partnering relationships in the region.
2. Promote the joint project by: (a) reporting on the project in newsletters and other forms of media; (b) presenting the joint project to individuals, small groups, and church missions committees.

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3. Fund an appropriate portion of the joint project by: (a) working closely with you to define specific projects that can be presented to funding sources; (b) appealing to individuals, churches, and foundations for charitable contributions; (c) giving block grants which provide a target for fund raising and a timetable for budgeting purposes.
4. Maintain separate accounts so that it is clear how much has been given by donors for the joint project.
5. Transfer funds through a method mutually agreed upon with the approval of your governing board, and in ways that are consistent with the intention of the donors.
6. Disburse funds only on the basis of mutually approved projects. Such funds are intended to help achieve the project goals and temporary in duration.
7. Fund joint projects in such a way that the funds stimulate or stabilize the self-reliance of our mission partners.
8. Meet all obligations with the understanding that financial support is conditioned by the charitable giving of God's people. A Partners International grant is a good-will promise made by faith.
9. Safeguard the lives of ministry workers and the ministry as a whole in situations where Christians are put at risk by religious or political prejudice. This includes establishing security guidelines and following them.
10. Work cooperatively while remaining organizationally independent. We will not interfere in the administration of your organization, but encourage you to follow God's guidance, as you understand it.
11. Periodically assess the partnership by these criteria. We recognize that things change, including partnerships themselves.

In addition, new prospective partners can count on us to:

1. Engage only in joint projects the focus and direction of which coincide with our mandate to create and grow communities of Christian witness in the least Christian regions of the world.
2. Assess a ministry's partnership readiness before developing action plans and committing people and resources to a collaborative effort.
3. Seek the counsel of other Christian leaders in the area before agreeing to a joint project.
4. Determine not only where a ministry is today but envision where it could be as part of a joint project with Partners International.
5. Refuse alliances with ministries that have significantly different theological positions or philosophy of ministry.

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## Resource 2: Our Pledge to You (pg. 4)

### Our Statement of Faith

We Believe...

- We believe in the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct . . .
- One God existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit . . .
- Our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifested in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His personal returning power and glory . . .
- The salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit . . .
- The Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ . . .
- The Unity of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ . . .
- The Resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- This statement of faith is identical to that of the World Evangelical Alliance.

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## Resource 2: Our Pledge to You (pg. 5)

### Our Prayer

#### *The Servant Song*

Brother let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are brothers on the road.  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

*\*The Servant Song by Richard Gillard ã 1977 Scripture in Song. Admin. by Maranatha! Music. ARR ICS UBP License #293-421.*