



The Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers

A Missions Partnership Process

“Foundations for working across cultures in local and global ministries”

Cross-cultural mission and local outreach opportunities come to our attention from a variety of sources. There are principles to pay attention to as a Camp and/or Conference Center considers the viability of a partnership in mission and ministry.

Building the Relationship:

- a. **Identify WHO** is part of the conversation – national leaders, missionaries, ECC, parachurch organizations, individuals, etc.
- b. Develop **open lines of communication** through face-to-face contact - site visits, attention to “first-language”.
- c. Learn to **know and understand each other’s vision** for the partnership and the process that brings the vision into reality.
- d. Humbly recognize, respect, and accept **cultural differences** – “hot-vs. cold-climates”, etc. (There is much to this one that is not obvious.)
- e. Determine and develop **appropriate networks** and bridge-building – are there people or institutions that ought to be invited into the conversations?
- f. Work to develop **mutual respect and trust**; listen, listen, listen.
- g. Determine **theological compatibility** – What is not negotiable?
- h. Look for **local credibility effectiveness** - what accountability exists for the national ministry – is there an Advisory Board or Leadership Team. Review Annual Reports, budgeting processes, fruitfulness.
- i. Seek out a **similar vision** together or choose to go separate ways.

Criteria for an *Ideal Partnership*

- Mutually expressed desire for an ongoing partnership
- Openness to regular, mutual evaluation and review of the partnership
- Complementary sharing of resources and perspectives
- Commitment to “Do no harm” - interdependence, not paternalism
- Clear and realistic expectations of both self and the partnership
- Openness to develop culturally appropriate accountability structure
- Kingdom focus; actively seeking God’s direction, not human agendas
- Transformational ministry goals
- Potential for sustainable ministry

Reaching the Decision Point –

1. Discuss the feasibility of a partnership, both in house and with leadership of the potential partner
2. Identify facilitators on both sides of the partnership
3. Commit to mutual goals, connected to the shared vision, informed by the field site’s mission, vision, goals and culture
4. Agree to a partnership, which leads to the development of a formalized agreement with a recognized and renegotiable time-span, or agree not to partner.

Considering The Benefits -

- Sharing and promoting the Covenant’s Missions goals and local ministry opportunities.
- Introducing Global Missions to campers, staff and constituents as a practical manifestation of “The Great Commission”.
- Expanding the camping mission beyond the borders of the local site.
- Exposing staff, campers and constituents to the possibility of a call to serve on a foreign mission field.

Resources

- (books recommended by World Missions)
- (sample written agreement)
- (World Missions contact information)
- (ACCCC member camps in Partnership contact information)