

Sending Churches: Finances

Q: Is it a given that money is a part of a sending church's involvement with a cross-cultural missionary? If so, how much support per month does a sending church typically give?

A: This is a question that we get asked often, as if there's some sort of a set percentage that churches should give. We would hope that churches would give sacrificially to see someone be sent to an unreached people. But what that looks like from church to church? We definitely see a wide variety and range of [responses to] that.

It's not a given that there's going to be money. I can think of several churches that are excellent sending churches and they give absolutely nothing from the church budget to support that person or to support that couple or that family. But what they do is they get them up in front of the congregation on multiple occasions and through different means such as small groups and they say their church as a whole, "We are sending these people, and we expect that you will help support them." And so they directly try to connect their church [to the missionary].

Other churches have different models of percentages. I know a church that does 50%. And then it's up to the appointee to find the other 50%. I know a church that actually does 100%. But their expectations surrounding that are very different [from what churches would typically expect]. For home assignment, as an example, they really want to focus on going very deep and really encouraging those people. That's their commitment.

This is anecdotal, we don't know these things for a fact, but I would say what the average church [sending workers in partnership with Pioneers] gives would be somewhere between maybe 10% and maybe 25% [of the missionary's budget].