



The Missions Toolbox

Missions Today

Deputation: Building a Team of Supporters

The New Testament provides several snapshots of a dynamic relationship that should exist between the local church and missionaries. Paul and his companions worked hard to spread the gospel to the Roman world. Multiple churches aided Paul. The church at Antioch (Acts 11-13) provided Paul with the opportunity to develop his ministry skills. Others aided Paul with finances or help with travel. Some of these churches were started by Paul and in time supported his ministry in other places.

Modern missionaries often need multiple churches and individuals to form a team of supporters for their ministry. The process of creating the team is called deputation. The purposes of deputation are as follows:

- To minister by preaching and witnessing.
- To present the missionary's calling for the field.
- To gain prayer supporters.
- To establish long term relationships with churches.
- To challenge others to serve Christ.
- To educate others about the needs of the work.
- To challenge others about opportunities with the mission board in various places and in various types of ministry.
- To develop ministry skills in new situations.
- To learn to trust God for financial and prayer support.
- To identify people that can provide practical assistance to the missionary for the work.
- To make practical preparations for ministry on the mission field.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" II Thessalonians 3:1