



The Missions Toolbox

Helping Missionaries

Missionary Accountability

The New Testament portrays a dynamic or an active relationship between missionaries and supporting churches. Believers in Antioch (Acts 13), under the direction of the Holy Spirit, sent Paul and his companions on the first missionary journey. Paul then returned to Antioch and reported on all that God did through their ministry (Acts 14:26-28). Acts 15 records the Jerusalem council which convened to examine the work among Gentiles. Both Paul and Peter participated in the session and then submitted to the will of the church. Proverbs tell us that "iron sharpens iron." Churches and missionaries should sharpen one another today just as they did in Acts!

Part of the sharpening process is being accountable to someone else for actions and decisions. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble (I Peter 5:5)." Believers invest much prayer effort, time, and money in the ministries of missionaries. Churches should know what the missionaries are doing. Missionaries should willingly account for their actions.

Some important areas of missionary accountability are as follows:

1. Ministry

- a. Is the missionary doing the work God to which God called them?
- b. How is God using the missionary in the work?
- c. Is the missionary regularly communicating with supporters?
- d. How can the home church and believers assist with the work?
- e. What threats exist to the work?
- f. How can supporters pray more effectively?

2. Money

- a. How is the missionary using the support funds sent to them?
(Mission boards can provide help in understanding the expenses.)
- b. Does the missionary need additional funds for special projects, living expenses, travel, the education of their children, etc.?

"God giveth grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5