



Missionaries: Sharer of God's blessings with us!

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Devotion

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In some Christian circles, I am afraid, there is a huge misunderstanding on the relationship between the missionaries and the “supporting” churches. Who is supporting whom? The understanding of the apostle Paul on the relationship between them is one of partnership. Some pastors might say that “our church is ‘helping’ missionary so and so.” No, they are not “helping.” The church is enjoying the privilege of being a small part of what God is doing in that mission site through those missionaries. If that church does not get involved in the mission project, God will find others to do His work.

We need to erase the wrong picture that missionaries are begging us for money. Rather, churches should beg for opportunities of being “partakers of grace with Paul (the missionary)” (Phil 1:7). Paul could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. The Philippian believers were one such source of encouragement and strength from Christ: “Nevertheless, you have done well to share [with me] in my affliction” (Phil. 4:14). Supporting missionaries is not a charity project. By sending monetary gifts with prayers, we are blessed to be a part of God’s grace through their ministries and experiences. We, too, participate in building God’s Kingdom.

