

Global Partners

What is a global partner?

A global partner is someone who has been sent and supported by a local church for the sake of preaching the gospel and making disciples among the nations.

How does someone become a global partner?

All global partners who have been sent out from Bethlehem are required to complete the Nurture Program and be approved by their campus-specific Global Outreach Team. Bethlehem requires that all global partners be sent through a MissioNexus-approved missions agency, with exceptions approved on a case-by-case basis.

When does someone become a global partner?

After one completes the Nurture Program and is approved by his or her campus-specific GO Team at the Level 3 interview, that person is *appointed* as a global partner. This means that Bethlehem is committed to sending this person to the nations and that he or she is able to begin candidating with a missions agency and raising support. After appointed global partners have raised their necessary amount of support, they are *commissioned* as global partners by the congregation. Once global partners have been commissioned from Bethlehem they are able to begin receiving Bethlehem financial support.

What are the commitments of Bethlehem to global partners?

- ▶ **Prayer Support:** Bethlehem will continually work at encouraging our people to pray for our global partners.
- ▶ **Financial Support:** Bethlehem will commit to financially support a global partner for the length of his or her term. In the event of a drastic change in a global partner's ministry or a decrease in the church budget, the GO Dept will communicate any changes to a global partner's level of support in a prompt and timely manner.
- ▶ **Consistent Communication:** The GO Dept will attempt to keep our global partners up to date on what is happening at Bethlehem.
- ▶ **Practical Assistance:** Bethlehem will assist global partners with practical needs both during their home assignment (housing, transportation, etc.) and while on the field (pastoral visits, short-term ministry trips, etc.). One of the primary ways that Bethlehem assists global partners is through their Barnabas Team.
- ▶ **Open Houses:** Bethlehem will allow and encourage global partners to host open houses for members of the church so that they update the congregation about their ministry and recruit prayer support.

What are the commitments of global partners to Bethlehem?

- ▶ **Communication:** Global partners are expected to communicate with Bethlehem through newsletter at least quarterly (whether electronically or through hardcopy).
- ▶ **Ministry Changes:** Global partners are expected to inform the GO Dept of any potential changes in ministry or location prior to the change officially taking place.
- ▶ **Home Assignments:** Global partners should let the GO Dept know when they will be on home assignment including when they will be in the Twin Cities. They are expected to serve as active church members while in the Twin Cities.
- ▶ **GO Team Meetings:** Global partners are expected to meet with their campus-specific GO Team at least once during their home assignment.

How is partnership evaluated?

Changes in support are determined by the need of the global partner and Bethlehem's ability to meet the need, considering the total global outreach budget. These changes are determined when the annual budget is prepared. Re-evaluation of continued support will also be done by a GO Team review at the time of any of the following incidents in a global partner's life:

- ▶ Change in the nature or location of ministry
- ▶ Change in global partner budget
- ▶ Change of missions agency/organization
- ▶ Retirement
- ▶ An extended furlough
- ▶ Problems that interfere with the global partner's ability to perform normal responsibilities (ex. injury, marriage and family issues, cultural issues, etc.)
- ▶ Change in church membership—such as transfer of membership or church discipline

What happens if a global partner gets married while on the field?

Although completion of the Nurture Program is not required for the non-member spouse, the following components would be required:

- ▶ Read *Desiring God* and *Let the Nations Be Glad!*.
- ▶ Complete the Preparedness Questionnaire/Enrich if something similar has not already been done.
- ▶ Read through and affirm the Elder Affirmation of Faith.
- ▶ The Bethlehem member spouse must have completed the Nurture Program. The non-member spouse must have completed requirements of his/her home church and be endorsed by that church.

- ▶ The global partner couple must have a Bethlehem-based Barnabas Team.

How does Bethlehem support global partners seeking additional education?

Bethlehem will consider supporting global partners who pursue additional education that will serve their ministry at one of two different levels.

Completion of degree as part of job description:

Bethlehem will consider supporting a global partner at his/her current level of monthly support during completion of additional education as long as the global partner remains a part of an agency and has a job description with his/her agency that includes an educational component.

Leave of absence from the field:

If an educational program requires a leave of absence from the field, then Bethlehem's monthly support will cease and could be replaced by an educational support (up to \$5,000 per year), with the expectation that the global partner would return to the field upon completion of the program. This would be viewed as a change in ministry focus, and will require a meeting with the GO Team for re-evaluation of continued support on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about our policy regarding global partners contact global@hopeinGod.org.