

# MINISTRY PARTNER CONNECTION SUGGESTIONS

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**There is a wide variety of ways you can connect with your ministry partner. Because each one has different situations and needs, these suggestions are intended to help you nurture good relationships.**

1. Be genuine, consistent, and sincere in your communication.
2. Sign up for their quarterly newsletter – and read it.
3. Find out about their ministry and the country where they are serving.
  - a. Read their organization’s website.
  - b. Locate their country’s information on-line so you can be culturally aware.
  - c. If they serve in a precarious area, make SURE you do NOT comprise them (Check with the Outreach Pastor or Global Coordinator about this.)
4. Secure prayer requests and PRAY for them daily (if possible).
  - a. Follow-up monthly to see how God answers.
  - b. Praise results need to be acknowledged, too.
  - c. Be intentional in your prayers.
5. Write letters, yes, actual letters; they LOVE receiving mail.
  - a. Find out the feasibility for your ministry partner to receive letters and cards.
  - b. Get the correct address and spelling of family names.
6. Send Care package if possible: Amazon gift cards are a good option
  - a. Ask if they need to pay “duty fees” on incoming packages; if so, how much?
  - b. Find a way to pay for the duty fees so the burden isn’t on our ministry partners.
  - c. Ask what they would like to have, rather than sending what you think they need.
  - d. Make SURE you have the correct address.
7. TCKs (Third Culture Kids) have very unique needs and situations.
  - a. Ask what the special interests are for each child/teen.
  - b. Education needs? Books? Videos? Online help?
  - c. Have your children write to the TCKs; it is a amazing connection.
8. Birthdays and Anniversaries:
  - a. Send cards for special occasions and write individual notes in the card.
  - b. Receiving lots of cards can be fun; just make sure it will get to them without cost.
9. Resources – find out what they need or want
  - a. Sometimes their sending agency can provide this, sometimes not.
  - b. Any educational needs for their kids.
  - c. Any on-line classes the parents might like to take but need assistance in locating or paying for them. (You are NOT responsible for anything financial)
10. Home Assignment:
  - a. Ask if they need: housing, car, medical care, retreat location, etc.
  - b. See if they can share at your small group or Sunday School class.
  - c. Work with the Global Coordinator to figure out details together.
  - d. Ask, “what are your needs and aspirations during your home visit?”
  - e. hey might like to have a “mini-meeting” to share their ministry, ask if you can assist in setting this up, providing food, etc. Work with the Global Coordinator.

11. Good questions to ask:
  - a. Relationships with team members, their children and spouses.
  - b. Children's education
  - c. Ministry focus, needs, frustrations, prayer and goals
  - d. Health issues
  - e. Dreams for their ministry and the future
12. Listen, listen, listen to what they're saying. Ask questions for clarification and listen again. This is vital as sometimes our ministry partners have no one else they can talk with who will actually listen to their hearts.
13. Communicate with your area GPS Team Leader on a monthly basis.