

“Together in Missions” of the Assemblies of God of Latin America  
presents:

# **GUIDELINES FOR MISSIONARY RELATIONSHIPS:**

## **The Interrelationship between Sending Church, Missionaries and Receiving Church**

Original prepared in August, 1994, in Puerto Rico, by the Celad Missions committee  
(Detailed Explanation at the end of the document)

Translated into English at the request of several AGWM missionaries and eventually for use with the WAGF  
Missions Commission site.

### **Justification:**

It is interesting to note that two-thirds of the Pentecostal population come from the continents of: Africa, Asia and Latin America; and the eighty-eight percent of Assemblies of God believers reside in these areas of the world.

In light of the missionary awakening in the church of Latin America and the Caribbean and its participation in the sending of missionaries to established works, new relationships have emerged between the sending church, the receiving church and the missionaries that are sent. In view of this reality, we present this document for study and analysis.

The purpose of this document is to improve the interrelationship between the sending church, the receiving church and the missionaries, and thereby, fulfill the great commission by taking advantage of the available resources.

### **General Principles:**

Our challenge is to examine the new realities of a world Pentecostalism to find ways to integrate all the needed resources brought by each entity to advance toward mutual cooperation between the missionary fellowships and the national work. The concept involves a reciprocal partnership which produces “partners” in the missionary fellowships and the national work.

We recommend a teamwork which demonstrates an interrelationship of missionary resources and strategies. We must base this interrelationship on a theology, missiology, and practice which is advantageous to all.

## **1. THE SENDING CHURCH’S RELATIONSHIPS**

Biblical Foundations: Acts 13:1-3, Romans 10:14-15, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

### **1.1. THE SENDING CHURCH’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE RECEIVING CHURCH.**

- 1.1.1. Create and maintain communication channels.
- 1.1.2. Present available resources and possible projects, keeping in mind that all investments on the mission field should be made in the name of the receiving work.
- 1.1.3. Request information concerning needs.
- 1.1.4. Clarify procedures (introductory letters, approval processes, tithing and others).

### **1.2. THE SENDING CHURCH’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE MISSIONARY.**

- 1.2.1. Establish the procedures responsible for missionary selection including a minimum of basic requirements in the areas of abilities, formation and ministerial experience.
- 1.2.2. Train and equip missionaries for their field of service.
- 1.2.3. Send only those missionaries that have been approved as being capable of going to the mission field.
- 1.2.4. Do a cost of living study of the country where missions work is being done and make the necessary adjustments each year to be responsible for the missionary’s economic stability.
- 1.2.5. Keep the missionary informed as to the current reality of the national sending church (minutes, magazines,

changes and others).

- 1.2.6. Encourage the missionary families, noting special dates, birthdays, the children and others.
- 1.2.7. Develop integral pastoral care of the families on the mission field.
- 1.2.8. Establish the appropriate context and time for the missionary's return for promotion.
- 1.2.9. Create a fund for the missionary in order to provide support for some months after returning from the field.

### **1.3. THE SENDING CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LOCAL CHURCH.**

- 1.3.1. Teach the church its missionary responsibility.
- 1.3.2. Develop an intercessory prayer movement and a missionary discipleship.
- 1.3.3. Teach the church to develop an effective continual missions promotion.
- 1.3.4. Provide materials to local churches and keep them informed of missionary work.

### **1.4. THE SENDING CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MISSIONS AGENCIES.**

- 1.4.1. Have a free interchange of missionary reports, achievements and projects.
- 1.4.2. Cooperate in areas of missionary logistics.

## **2. THE RECEIVING CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIPS**

### **2.1. THE RECEIVING CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE SENDING CHURCH**

- 2.1.1. Provide information related to missions needs.
- 2.1.2. Request in writing, missionary assistance and when informed of a possible candidate, extend an official letter of invitation.
- 2.1.3. Come to a mutual agreement between the missionary, the sending church and the receiving church regarding the needs and areas of missionary service.
- 2.1.4. Send an annual report of developments in missionary work.
- 2.1.5. Communicate unique cultural values and church polities.
- 2.1.6. Inform the sending church, through the leadership of the missions department (or agency), of any accusation directed at the missionary which may require ministerial discipline, keeping in mind that the sending church can terminate the missionary's service at any time, but it is the sending church who applies disciplinary measures according to the information presented and trial outcome.

### **2.2. THE RECEIVING CHURCH'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE MISSIONARY**

- 2.2.1. Recognize both North American and Latin American missionaries under the same conditions, regardless of the missionary's origin there should be no economic expectations, rather missionaries should be received as God's ministers not as "sources of material goods."
- 2.2.2. Communicate to the missionary and his family unique cultural values and church polities.
- 2.2.3. Receive the missionary and formally present him/her to the appropriate authorities.
- 2.2.4. Allow the missionary freedom to work in the agreed upon areas of service.
- 2.2.5. Provide the missionary with the needed documentation for immigration and residency.
- 2.2.6. Inform the missionary of any accusation which may require ministerial discipline.

## **3. THE MISSIONARY'S RELATIONSHIPS**

### **3.1. THE MISSIONARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE SENDING CHURCH.**

(Agency and Local Churches)

- 3.1.1. Maintain contact with the national missions committee and the pastors and members of supporting local churches .
- 3.1.2. Periodically provide information related to the work: problems, triumphs and projects.
- 3.1.3. Pray for supporting churches, pastors and leaders.
- 3.1.4. Send visual materials of the missionary's activities.
- 3.1.5. Be gracious hosts to missions related visitors.

- 3.1.6. Dedicate time to supporting churches during promotional period.
- 3.1.7. Keep in mind that without the support of the church, missionary work is paralyzed.
- 3.1.8. Request permission from the Missions Department to leave the country where assigned as a missionary whether it is for study, to attend seminars or to return to one's own country.

### **3.2. THE MISSIONARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE RECEIVING CHURCH.**

- 3.2.1. Present yourself to church authorities and maintain a good relationship with them, informing them of trips outside the country.
- 3.2.2. Be aware of the unique cultural values and church polities of the receiving church.
- 3.2.3. Establish goals and work projects, always in harmony with the national receiving church being aware of and respecting its norms and by-laws.
- 3.2.4. Maintain neutrality in regards to the politics of the country in which one ministers.
- 3.2.5. Go with an attitude of service.
- 3.2.6. Be a blessing to the national church.
- 3.2.7. Make an effort to win respect through the exercise of your ministry.
- 3.2.8. Maintain harmonious relationships with executives, leaders and ministers of the national work.
- 3.2.9. Foment missionary vision in the receiving church.

### **3.3. THE MISSIONARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MISSIONARIES.**

- 3.3.1. Recognized that even though there is not a legislative relationship with missionary agencies from other countries, there is a need to cooperate with missionaries from other agencies.
- 3.3.2. Organize, where possible and with authorization of the national church, a meeting with all officially recognized missionaries that work in the receiving country in order to encourage, respect, learn from one another, be mutually edified and work in harmony.

### **Conclusion:**

In all these relationships one must respect the lines of authority and service, respecting each person and their abilities, gifts and call in order to have a united church, all under the authority and unity of the body of Christ and the divine love that unites the church.

### **Historical Development of the Present Document.**

The beginnings of this document were developed for CELAD under the title of "A Proposal for a Guide to Missionary Work in the Area" in June of 1993 in San Jose, Costa Rica by: Rev. Rodolfo Sáenz Salas (National Superintendent of Costa Rica and President of CELAD), Rev. Enrique Vargas (National Assistant Superintendent and Missions President of Costa Rica) and Rev. Douglas Petersen (Area Director for Central America, DFM, U.S.A.). The document was presented at the CELAD superintendents meeting March 7-10, 1994. The superintendents made observations and referred the document to the Missions Committee for CELAD.

The Missions Committee for CELAD met in Caguas, Puerto Rico on September 13-14, 1994. In that meeting the superintendent's observations were incorporated and substantial modifications were made to the document under the title of "A Proposal for a Guide to Missionary Work in Latin America." The following participated in the document's revision: Rev. Félix Hernández (President of the CELAD Missions Committee), Rev. Enrique Vargas (Missions President of Costa Rica and CELAD Missions Committee member), Rev. Josué David Flores (Missions President of Guatemala), Rev. DeLonn Rance (Missions President of El Salvador and CELAD Missions Committee member), Rev. Brad Walz (Vice-President of Missions of Argentina and Missions Representative of CADSA), Rev. Saturnino González (Superintendent Puerto Rico District, U.S.A. and CELAD Missions Committee member) and Rev. Carmen H. Pérez (Missions President of Puerto Rico).

As the modified document had not been presented to the superintendents nor missions leaders of CELAD, the "Together in Missions" committee took the document off the table in their meeting on July 1-2, 2002 in Miami, FL re-titling the document, "Guidelines for Missionary Relationships: The Interrelationship between the Sending Church, Missionaries and the Receiving Church" and added points 2.1.6. and 2.2.6. This latest revision will be

presented to the Third Encounter of Missions Leaders of Latin America to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, June 11-14, 2003. The "Together in Missions" Committee consists of: Rev. Brad Walz (Argentina) - president, Rev. Enrique Vargas (Costa Rica) -member, Rev. Efraín Arosemena (Panama) - member, Rev. Samuel Rodríguez (Venezuela) - member, Rev. DeLonn Rance (El Salvador) - secretary. Rev. Rodolfo Sáenz, (Costa Rica) - counselor, was unable to attend. English version translated by DeLonn Rance.