



## MissAssist Ministry Activities

1. Preach in missions conferences and on missions emphasis Sundays in order to see a growing or renewed commitment to fulfilling the great commission. We believe that missions should be THE program of a church, not A program of the church.
2. Teach mission influencers and missionaries about PTSD, particularly as it relates to missionaries.
3. Encourage God's people to a deeper involvement in praying for missionaries.
4. Represent the Gospel Furthering Fellowship in churches and at Christian colleges with the goal of recruiting missionaries.
5. Travel abroad to relieve missionaries in need of emergency furlough or respite. The idea is of "rapid deployment" when and where needed.
6. Travel at home and abroad to encourage missionaries.
7. Travel abroad to assist missionaries in training national church planters and pastors. We help nationals develop a working knowledge of the Bible, a biblical understanding of ministry, a biblical understanding of the local church, and a biblical understanding of missions. Many nationals have been trained in a model that presents ministry as a job that someone from the west pays them to do.
8. Be available in person, by phone, and via the internet to counsel missionaries. Missionaries often need a confidential sounding board where they don't have to worry about their confidentiality being violated, about being blown off, about experiencing an overreaction to how they are thinking and/or feeling, or about being used as a sermon illustration.
9. Provide respite opportunities for missionaries where they can retreat, regroup, and refocus. This could be a location and/or retreats and networking.
10. Seek to help bridge the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between many pastors and the real life experience of missionaries.
11. Encourage missions influencers to rethink some very important missions issues such as: What is missions? What is a missionary? Do nationals always make the best missionaries? What causes missionary attrition? What constitutes adequate training for cross cultural-church planting? What is an independent church?
12. Be available to fill in for missionaries on short furloughs.

We minister to missionaries on **behalf** of and **not in the place** of their pastor and sending church.