

MISSION PARTNER CONNECTIONS

An Outline for Community Groups to Connect with their Designated Mission Partner

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15, 16

As members of Trinity Presbyterian Church, and more importantly, the body of Christ, we are called to build one another up in faith and encourage each other in the work that God has given each one of us. We want to utilize the community groups to be instruments of God's grace for the missionaries that Trinity supports. In order to do this effectively, each community group has been assigned a mission partner with whom to keep in contact. The main task for each community group is to be an encouragement to the mission partner, and, if applicable, his or her family. This means that whether they are in a foreign land or on a college campus in Virginia, the community group's role is to let them know that they are loved, thought of, and prayed for.

Below is an outline of possible ways in which the community groups could care for their mission partner. Of course, these lists are not exhaustive, and the community groups should use the talents and gifts that God has given them to show love and support to their designated mission partner.

FOR ANY MISSION PARTNER:

- Pray for them. Most mission partners have quarterly newsletters. Make sure someone is receiving those within your group and pray for the things that are mentioned when your community group meets.
- Stay in contact. Send them a quick e-mail to let him or her know that he or she had been prayed for. Even if they don't respond, continue to send them periodic e-mails to let them know they are thought of.
- Help raise financial support as a community group. This could include coming up with creative fundraisers.
- See if the mission partner seeks a team to come over to help for a short period. You could work with the Missions Ministry Team to help coordinate this.
- Work out a time when you can communicate over Skype with the them. This would be a great way to ask questions and to learn more about the ministry work the individual is doing.
- Keep track of birthdays and anniversaries. Send cards or small gifts to the family members on these important days. You could also send something during Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Thanksgiving.
- Send a random "Thinking of You" card signed by all the members of the group.
- Share with others in the church that are outside of your community group any news or updates from the missionary. This allows an opportunity for others to know how he or she is doing and be able to pray for him or her as well.
- If your mission partner is a RUF minister, arrange a time to visit their large group meeting at their campus.

IF YOUR DESIGNATED MISSIONARY IS/HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

- Periodically send some recent church bulletins, the newest church directory, summaries/hand-outs from church conferences, or even a book that a Sunday school class is currently using. These are great ways to keep the person informed of how things are going at the church.
- E-mail any recent news from the church. This can include engagements, births, celebrations, new ministries, new Sunday school classes, etc.