

## Things Every Eldership and Missions Committee Wishes Their Missionaries Knew

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1. Communicate your difficulties; let us help with them. [For this to happen, supporting church has to create a climate of openness by promising not to be shocked and not to react impulsively when missionary does open up and share real problems, personal or work related.]
2. The primary responsibility for moving the work forward is yours. [We are part-time, non-professional, volunteers. Our attention and interest levels will wax and wane in response to other congregational needs and developments.] But for church leaders to do the best job they can in supporting their mission efforts they need to:
  - a. commit time
  - b. educate themselves
  - c. commit to prayer
3. Our congregation experiences constant change in membership and priorities of interests. You must help us maintain interest in your mission effort. We can promote your work if you supply us with the raw material.
4. Allow us to have a voice in important decisions before they are made. [This is, after all, our work too; we should have a voice in decisions which impact us.]
5. Our decisions concerning your work must be made in the larger context of the needs of the entire congregation. [Missionaries are often frustrated at the time it takes to get decisions made and the lack of favorable response to requests for additional funding.]
6. You have freedom to disagree with us, but do so in a Christian manner and remain loyal to our decisions and policies in the meantime. [Why should missionaries think that they alone should decide when to leave the field or move to a different field?]
7. Work hard while at the same time allowing for appropriate time for rest and relaxation. [The key problem many missionaries have is time management; keeping a daily log of activities over a period of a few months might provide missions committee/elders good insight into time management issues.]
8. We have a common enemy who will work against both of us. [We must constantly work to avoid giving Satan a toehold to exploit in the frictions which can arise between missionaries and supporting churches.]
9. We will provide you with prayer support.