



For Individuals or Families Considering Relocation to Support a New or Small Church

Thank you for your openness to God's leading in your life. You will be blessed for your willingness to sacrifice your time, energy, resources, and personal relationships in order to help accomplish the four pillar mission of the church in a new community:

1. To present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion
2. To teach and nurture the believers toward a sanctified life and to faithfulness by God's grace and through His Word
3. To preserve sound doctrine by "contending for the faith"
4. To offer loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ

Relocation to support a new or small church falls under the definition of "Tentmaker Mission Work"

*After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla...And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. **Acts 18:1-3***

Tentmaker Mission Work

"Tentmakers are individuals and/or families who move to an area with the intent to plant or support a church. In the long run, they would be expected to be financially self-supporting. See more on financial support below.

*I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. **Acts 20:33-35***

Key Questions to Consider in Preparation

As you continue to prayerfully seek God's direction and counsel with your local elder, here are some key introspective questions to give insight regarding your readiness to embark on a "tentmaker" mission.

Counting the cost

Have you spent time talking with missionaries and others who have relocated about the difficulties of separation and other tests different than those experienced in your current environment? Do you have faith that God will provide your material needs? Are you at peace with this decision, even if it means making significant financial sacrifices?

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not

able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. **Luke 14:28-30**

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. **Luke 14:33**

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. **Luke 12:30-31**

Demonstrated passion for outreach

Are you currently participating in local ministries? Do you regularly witness to your unsaved neighbors, coworkers, etc.? Are you able to build and maintain good relationships with the unconverted?

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. **Hebrews 13:2**

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **I Timothy 2:3-4**

...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

Victorious living

Are you living an overcoming life? Is there unconfessed sin, or are you currently struggling with besetting sin in your life?

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. **Titus 2:7-8**

Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. **Romans 12:9**

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? **Matthew 7:3**

Relationships

How do you get along with your family, church brethren, coworkers, etc.?

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? **I John 4:20**

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:1-3**

Submission

Have you demonstrated a submissive spirit in regards to church leadership and doctrine? Are you willing to submit to those sending you and those receiving your relocation?

*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. **1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13***

Motives

Why do you want to relocate? Are you seeking God's glory by taking this step? Are you running away from any God-given responsibilities at home? Under what scenarios would you consider your relocation a "success"?

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. **Colossians 3:23-24***

*Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of you Father which is heaven. **Matthew 6:1***

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ...watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. **II Timothy 4:2-5***

Finances

If short-term financial assistance is needed to assist your transition

It is recommended that you first seek assistance through your family and local church. If assistance through these sources does not meet financial needs, counsel with your local elder to discuss short term assistance that may be available through HarvestCall. For a longer term international assignment, the Servant Fund can be utilized.

Leading

If you feel called to support a new or small church but do not have specific geographic leading

As in any aspect of our lives, prayer for God's direction is the best course of action. As an additional resource, your local elder can put you in contact with the Church Establishment Committee, which may be aware of specific local needs and opportunities in our various new or small churches.

Working together for good

God promises in Romans 8:28 that "*all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" If you are living faithfully and victoriously with God, and He calls you to relocate to a small church, He will make all things work together for good as you labor with your fellow believers in Christ's kingdom.