

**Spiritual / Psychological / Administrative  
Principles and Practices Helpful for  
Raising Support for PC(USA) mission workers  
By Jim and Lois Caldwell**

1. TWO CONNECTED NEEDS

Congregations need the invigoration and health which comes from looking outward, from thinking of and caring for others instead of themselves.

The PC(USA) needs the financial support to send and care for Mission Workers who are commissioned and sent out by it.

2. SET GOALS FOR APPROACHING THE TASK

Example: Increase support for PC(USA) Mission Co-workers who are from your presbytery (both number of congregations and amount from each).

Reasons: Mission Co-workers can visit more easily, and at less cost to churches, which can get to know them better.

3. TWO INTERACTING PRINCIPLES

Introduce PC(USA) Mission Workers to pastors, Mission Committees, and congregations – and help them to get to **know** each other **personally**.

“For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.”  
- Jesus (Matthew 6:21)

4. TWO OBSERVATIONS

The biggest need is for convinced, involved pastors! Most pastors need to be convinced, *by experience*, that their people’s involvement with Mission, and especially with Mission Workers, produces greater congregational health and increases giving. (**See other side.**)

Mission Co-workers are the best ads for the PC(USA)! -

when they share what they see **God** doing, rather than what the Church is doing.

5. MAKE IT EASY & SIMPLE FOR CHURCHES TO RESPOND AND FOR YOU TO FOLLOW UP

Provide materials which contain all information necessary for commitment (pledge) except the amount and the identification of the respondent.

Have churches send the Presbytery a copy of the Pledge Form which they submit to PC(USA) Headquarters.

6. TAKE ONGOING ACTIONS SO SUPPORTING CHURCHES HAVE GOOD EXPERIENCES

a. Help bridge communication gaps

- Advise Mission Workers ASAP of pledges from churches in your Presbytery, and provide them with contact information for Mission Chairpersons of those churches.
- Ask Mission Workers to let you know, far ahead, when they will next be in the USA.
- Let Mission Chairpersons of supporting churches know, far ahead, about when the Mission Workers they support will be in the USA, and urge them to e-mail about arrangements.

b. Take the initiative to give helpful advice, such as ...

- It is usually better for Mission Workers to share about their ministry than to preach.
- Have one or more events where members can talk leisurely with the Mission Workers, so they can get to know them personally.
- Publish excerpts from Mission Workers’ letters to keep them before the congregation.
- Support your Mission Workers by praying, in worship, for them and specific needs the share.

**WHY** will our congregation benefit from getting to know and care for Mission Co-workers?

“What we've discovered in getting to know missionaries here at PPC is that missionaries carry with them extraordinary experiences. We in the West, especially in an area such as the “Main Line”\*, often think we can meet our needs and solve our problems based on our own abilities. We rely on our own network of contacts, on our jobs, on our bank accounts, on our possessions.

*“But missionaries, who typically have very little income and who work in alien environments, understand that they have to depend on God. As a result, they often see God at work in ways we do not see. They experience miracles that either we do not see -- or do not avail ourselves of -- because of our self-dependency.*

***“Our involvement with missionaries at PPC has been a blessing to us. Hearing their personal stories has allowed our faith to grow. They have shown us that, by relinquishing control of our lives to God, we will become more aware of God's power and the abundance of His miracles.”***

- Elder Gail and Tom Infield, Paoli Presbyterian Church, Paoli, PA

\* The “Main Line” is the prosperous suburban area west of Philadelphia, in which Paoli is located.