

# SENDER OR SUPPORTER?

THE SUPPORTING CHURCH	THE SENDING CHURCH
<p><b>1. The focus is on money.</b> The church's involvement and success in world missions is gauged by how much money the church gives to missions; and, indeed, the church may give a large amount of money to missions.</p>	<p><b>1. The focus is on people.</b> Missionaries are real, live people whom the church is called to counsel, mature, send, and care for.</p>
<p><b>2. The church chooses from among missionaries who have already established their strategy.</b> Missionaries who have already been accepted by agencies and who have been assigned to a field approach the supporting church for financial support. Thus, the missionaries tend to shape the strategy of the church's outreach.</p>	<p><b>2. The church has more opportunities to establish its own strategy.</b> Because sending churches are a part of the preparation process, they develop missionaries who are likely to take on the vision of the church, and not vice versa.</p>
<p><b>3. The focus is on quantity.</b> The supporting church wishes to give a little money to each of many missionaries.</p>	<p><b>3. The focus is on quality.</b> The sending church wishes to give a lot of money to a few missionaries.</p>
<p><b>4. Church members have little personal involvement with missionaries.</b> The supporting church contributes to the ministries of many missionaries, which makes it difficult to become extensively involved in a personal way with each missionary. Contact with the missionaries consists of furlough visits and prayer letters.</p>	<p><b>4. Church members have maximum personal involvement with missionaries.</b> Because the sending church knows the people whom it is sending, it earnestly desires to prepare them, meet their needs, and maximize their effectiveness.</p>
<p><b>5. The church can claim only minimal "ownership" of its missionaries.</b> Because a supporting church cannot invest much time, care, and money in every missionary, it can truly claim any missionary to be "its own". A missionary sent collectively by many supporting churches is accountable to them all. The supporting church recognizes that it has an obligation to be involved in world missions to some extent. It is better to be a supporting church involved in missions than not to be involved at all.</p>	<p><b>5. The church can claim its missionaries to be "its own".</b> The sending church mentality says, "We have invested our time and energies in preparing Joe to go overseas. He is one of our own going out to be our representative cross-culturally."</p>