

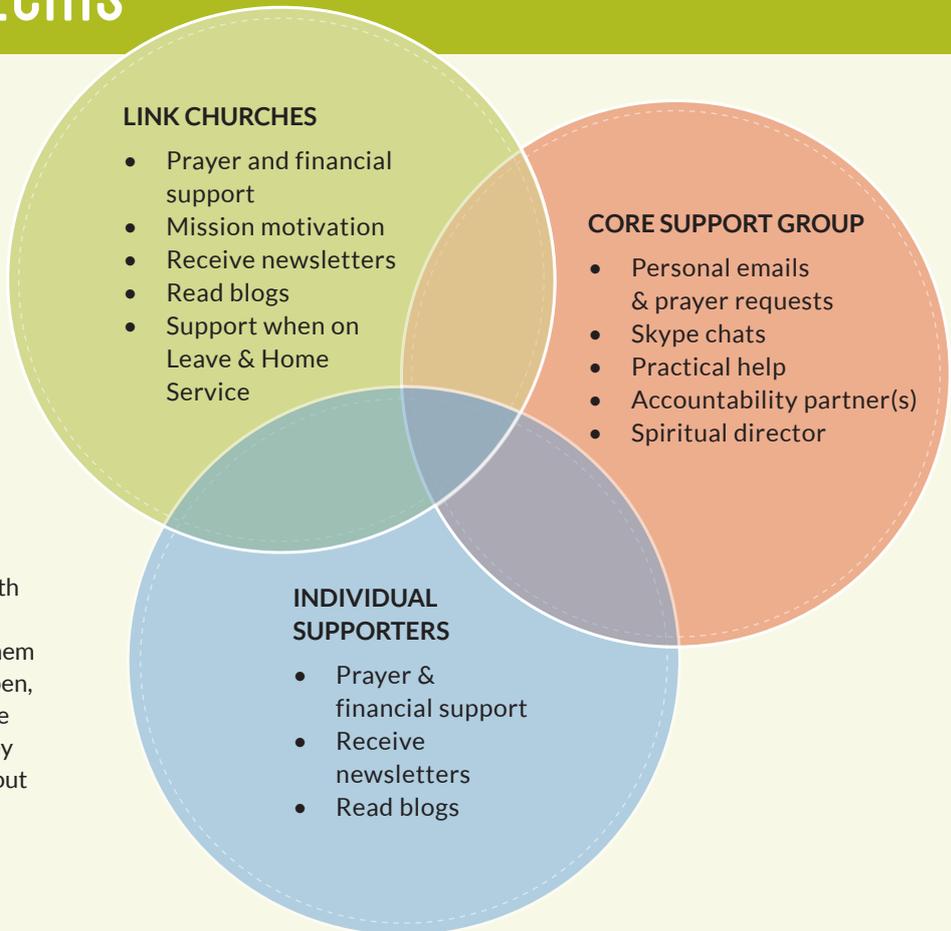
PARTNERING WITH NZCMS

Churches and individual supporters are foundational to providing the financial, relational, pastoral and spiritual support for the ministry of NZCMS Mission Partners. It is this commitment to the worldwide mission of the gospel that allows a Mission Partner's ministry and the wider ministry of NZCMS to exist.

Over the past few months we've been slowly developing and implementing a new strategy which seeks to recognise these partnerships. The diagram on the right is useful in giving a visual picture of the wider support structure.

LINK CHURCHES

We will seek to connect each Mission Partner with five Link Churches. Mission Partners may have other churches who wish to be partnered with them as 'unofficial' links. We are happy for this to happen, but we cannot guarantee Mission Partners will be able to spend time with these churches while they are on deputation (visiting churches to speak about ministry overseas).



EXPECTATIONS OF LINK CHURCHES

The expectation is that Link Churches will play an increased role in the support of their Mission Partner. This might include:

1. Pastoral Care Support:

This involves providing some pastoral care for the Mission Partner both while they are overseas and when they are back in New Zealand.

2. Prayer and Financial Support:

Prayer and financial support are foundational. Prayer is the lifeblood of the mission partnership and keeping Mission Partners' situations and needs alive within the church family is the key to ensuring they are supported prayerfully. Currently Mission Partners depend on donations from Link Churches and supporters for 50% of their living costs. Link Churches will seek to raise an amount which will depend upon the financial viability of each church involved. \$2000 a year is what many Link Churches aim to raise. Some may give more, some less. This will be tagged specifically towards the 50% the Mission Partner is seeking to raise.

3. Relational Care:

While one or two members of a link church might have a focussed pastoral care relationship with the Mission Partner, it is important that other church members are also expressing their partnership relationally. Essentially this is building friendships with the Mission Partners. This might include sending birthday/Christmas cards, care packages/gifts to mark

special occasions, emails, cards or letters expressing their prayer and interest.

4. Practical/Logistical Support:

While NZCMS takes the lead in providing the resources needed by Mission Partners when they are in their location, Link Churches can take a primary role in providing practical and logistical support for Mission Partners while they are in New Zealand on Leave and Home Service (a period of time which includes deputation). This may include the provision of accommodation, a car, age appropriate toys, DVDs and books for children and adults etc.

Obviously our hope is that this relationship is not just one way but that the Link Church will also receive much from developing closer ties with the Mission Partner. Undoubtedly having someone connecting with the church who represents to some degree the face of overseas mission will be invaluable in motivating others within the church to consider the relevance of mission and the possibility of serving through being involved in overseas mission themselves.

In order to foster this relationship NZCMS will seek to ensure that each Link Church has priority contact with the Mission Partner during their time on Leave and Home Service. The goal is that this will include about one full week of normal deputation.

If you or your church is interested in a Link Church partnership please contact the office to begin the conversation.