

## EOD Missions Committees Conference Call

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 | 7:00-8:30pm

### Missionary Love Busters

#### Series Notes

#### Facilitators:

- Cal Anthony (EOD Assistant Superintendent & District Missions Representative for PAOC International Missions)
- Matt Janes (STMnetwork Director for Eastern Canada, Member Care Coordinator for PAOC International Missions)
- Marie Miller (Foundations Ministries, Evangelist, Missionary, Author)

Thanks for joining us tonight! Time permitting; we will be discussing 3 Missionary Love Busters:

1. Money – why Global Workers need it, why they ask you, how to handle requests.
2. Quality time – why this is important, what partnership isn't, how to make the most of your time together.
3. Communication – understanding each other's perspective, what's fair to expect, how you can help improve this.

#### Missionary Love Buster #1: MONEY

**Problem:** Many of our churches feel overwhelmed and pressured by our Global Workers asking if they can receive support, or receive an increase in their support.

- **Many of our global workers feel frustrated with the inability to connect with our churches to communicate their vision. They don't know how to get on a church's 'radar'.**

**Causes:** Global Workers need money for their mission. Most of the time, their mission doesn't provide them with an income. They could be considered volunteers, and they are reliant on donations from individuals and churches to fund their mission.

- Unfortunately, many of them call the same churches for support, and some churches receive several requests per week. This is causing plenty of frustration at the local church missions committee level. Many have been asking: "Why are we being asked for money from so many missionaries, and what do we do with all of the requests?"
- Equally frustrated are the GWs who claim that most pastors or mission committee leaders don't return phone calls, emails, or requests for appointments – this is AVOIDANCE, and it is felt.

**Possible solution:** Churches could clearly communicate their system of how they decide on supporting Global Workers to those who ask.

- **Begin connecting with them by asking to be added to their newsletter list**
- **Let them know they can apply in (certain month) to your missions committee (provide that application for them)**
- **Then the missions committee could evaluate based on predetermined and advertised criteria**

**Tips and tricks to increase the LOVE:**

- ☑ **Churches should be prompt in returning emails/phone calls and handle them politely – speaking the truth in love with excellence**
  - ☑ **Churches should be clear with when financial support would begin, how much it would be, for how long it would last, and when increases might happen**
  - ☑ **Provide additional support if your missions budget is met and surpassed**
  - ☑ **Have a commitment form you use with all partners, not bad if it seems like a contract, this makes it crystal clear to both parties**
  - ☑ **If a church needs to STOP supporting a Global Worker – follow some “best practices” when reducing or ending support**
  - ☑ **When you’re having a missions emphasis Sunday or Conference, allow GWs to request additional funds for special projects (another application works)**
  - ☑ **Have a “no side deals” policy with your missions committee – make sure you communicate to your entire committee that support requests are handled as a team, and that members should not be making promises on the side to GWs – a unified front means less people get hurt!**
- *From a local church: “One of our MLB’s has been- what happens when a missionary gets sick and comes back (from overseas)? This has raised all sorts of issues, not the least of which is: How long do you continue financial support? In our case, we have provided support for two years, while the individual was only actually out of the country a total of three months.”*

**In summary:** If you have a process for handling requests in place, a lot of annoyance, stress, and avoidance can be avoided.

**Flip it!** What can Global Workers do to help churches avoid the frustration of requests?

**Ideas include:**

## Missionary Love Buster #2: QUALITY TIME

**Problem:** Many of our GWs want a chance to share their recent stories with their supporting churches, but can't get in!

- **They are looking for a chance to connect with your church in a way that's meaningful that could deepen the partnership, but nothing seems to work.**

**Causes:** There are so many!

- What if they are not great Sunday morning speakers?
- What if you only have 1-2 missions emphasis Sundays/year?
- What if their schedule doesn't coordinate with your church calendar?
- **ROOT CAUSE:** There is a breakdown in the fundamental understanding of what a true **partnership** means – with the church, and with the GW
  - If a church gives a GW money and the GW gives the church receipts and reports, most would see this arrangement as that of a boss/employee relationship. Why then do many churches and other not-for-profit groups call this partnership?
- A true partnership means not only can you help the GW, but the GW can help you – this breaks down the “one-way street mentality” where our systems are set-up in order to deliver money, goods, and people to “those poor people over there”.
- Sometimes our GWs get lumped in with how we feel about “those poor people”, and a subtle (and not so subtle) sense of superiority is created.
- Churches don't see GWs as able to help them, as *they* are the rescuers, and the natural inclination of a church with the rescuer mindset is to keep the rescued in a role that requires assistance.

**Possible Solution:** Churches and missions committees should encourage the partnership aspect where a GW can return and contribute to their churches' growth and leadership development, or discipleship process.

- **We are encouraging our GWs to come back to Canada with more than a sermon and pictures**
- **We should see GWs as extensions of our staff, and use them and their skills accordingly, in as many different ways as we can think of**

**Tips and tricks to increase the LOVE:**

- ☑ **Don't be afraid to open up different opportunities for them to share, lead, train, teach, etc., but don't just give them the leftovers or pastor's holidays**
- ☑ **Get out of the Sunday box and see them as contributors to any part of your church's mission – local or overseas**

- ☑ If you can't find a way to involve them with your crowd, expose them to your core leaders, and at minimum with your missions committee
- ☑ Give them an honorarium and cover their expenses, regardless of your monthly support. Err on the side of generosity, and remember the Biblical principles of paying people for their work, and for what they're worth

**In summary:** A proper perspective of **partnership** means Global Workers can serve you too. Seeing them as an extension of your church's staff and using their skills accordingly will deepen the partnership on both sides.

**Flip it!** What can Global Workers do to help churches avoid the frustration of quality time together?

**Ideas include:**

### **Missionary Love Buster #3: COMMUNICATION**

**Problem:** In many cases, a supporting church and a Global Worker will only communicate when one partner wants something from the other.

- **Common complaints include: "We never hear from them! We don't even know what they are doing over there. We heard a rumour they were..." And that's from the Global Workers! Inevitably, church leaders end up saying the same things about Global Workers.**

**Causes:** Our partners are victims of "out of sight, out of mind". Because you don't see each other, you forget until you remember you need something from the other.

- Perhaps the GW is updating one person on staff, then that staff member doesn't pass the updates along, and the missions committee is in the dark.
- Even worse, a GW has been sending their updates to the old missions committee lead where they are being ignored or deleted without being forwarded.

**Possible Solution:** Communications could be assigned to one missions committee member in particular. This person would be responsible to obtain or receive updates from the Global Worker on behalf of the church, and also ensure the flow of church updates back to the Global Worker.

- If you're only ever exchanging communications when one of the partners needs something, this is lowering the partnership down to a relationship built on needs and triggered by urgency

#### Tips and tricks to increase the LOVE:

- ☑ Request regular updates from your GW partners, and make sure they have a current newsletter being sent to several e-mail addresses, including someone from your missions committee
- ☑ If you want something – ask for it in advance to allow for travel, spotty access to email, power outages, etc.
- ☑ Ask for home assignment dates in advance, so you're not caught off guard trying to book them at the last minute when you hear they're in Canada
- ☑ If you have staff gifted in graphics and communications, offer their services to the GW to help them design a newsletter, slide show or video – this could be added to your "support" of global missions
- ☑ When your church shifts the missions portfolio to another staff member or you have a new missions committee lead, tell your GWs who they need to be communicating with

**In summary:** Lead by example. A Global Worker who is included in your church's regular updates will understand your church's ethos of regular communication and seek to equal it.

**Flip it!** What can Global Workers do to help churches avoid the frustration of poor communication?

**Ideas include:**

Thanks for joining us for tonight's call on Missionary Love Busters! We're doing this to *improve the shared funding relationships* between PAOC churches and Global Workers.

If you would like to discuss these issues in greater depth with any of our facilitators, please contact Cal Anthony at the EOD office: [canthony@eod.paoc.org](mailto:canthony@eod.paoc.org).

In 2 months, we will look at 2 more critical MLBs: Care, and STM Teams.