

Your Church and Christar

Partnering in the Great Commission



The Vital Role of the Local Church

Ministry in least-reached communities begins in and is continually sustained by the local church. From the moment believers begin to gain a vision for cross-cultural service to their time on the field and when they return, they depend on the local body of Christ to actively participate with them in ministry.

The local church's role in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission is ongoing and multifaceted, involving the entire body of believers. Beyond sending their most valuable resource (people!), congregations provide numerous forms of crucial support, enabling them to invest in global outreach—and ultimately in advancing God's Kingdom in places where few have been introduced to the hope of the gospel. In turn, churches are blessed as they actively participate in the Great Commission and broaden their vision of what the Lord is doing around the world.



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christar.org/church

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Christar: Structure, Strategy and Support

Based on the model seen in Acts 13, we believe it is the role of the local church to send and support the ministry of cross-cultural workers. As a mission agency, Christar provides employment, strategy, care and donor-support structures that facilitate the sending process as congregations send workers to establish churches among the least-reached.

It is our joy to come alongside your congregation, helping members participate in the Great Commission in ways that align with your approach to cross-cultural ministry. Our team provides structure that helps churches navigate the complexities of sending workers internationally, as well as strategy that equips workers for faithful and fruitful ministry. And we support workers through specialized care and resources, enabling them to thrive as they live and serve in challenging environments.

Our mission is to establish churches in least-reached communities—those without access to a fellowship of believers that proclaims the gospel in their language and in a culturally relevant way.

We know that no one organization, project or person can bring the good news to the 40% of the world that's currently cut off from the good news of Jesus. But together, the Body of Christ can.

Christar partners with churches in the shared goal of seeing Christ worshiped in places where He is not yet known. We help members of these local congregations invest their gifts, skills, vocations, time and resources as active participants in the Great Commission. This involves providing a wide range of services to both cross-cultural workers and those who partner with them to establish churches among the least-reached.



Who We Are

christar.org/vision-core-values



Our Distinctives

christar.org/distinctives



How We Establish Churches

christar.org/polaris



The Least-Reached

christar.org/why-least-reached

Cross-Cultural Workers' Primary Responsibilities

- Strive to bring glory to God by establishing churches among least-reached people
- Participate in pre-field assessments and complete training according to a personal development plan
- Build and regularly communicate with a team of prayer and financial supporters
- Cultivate a connection with God and seek His guidance and provision through daily prayer, regular team prayer and frequent communication with prayer partners
- Pursue personal holiness through regular study of God's Word
- Work in harmony with team members, in partnership with like-minded groups and in submission to the leadership of the sending church and Christar
- Be accountable to the sending church and under the authority that the church delegates to Christar
- Confer with both church leadership and Christar leadership in making major ministry decisions
- Pursue fruitfulness in ministry through creative efforts consistent with the purposes of Christar and the sending church

Workers serve under the spiritual authority of the sending church, working in harmony with Christar to guide ministry decisions.





The Sending Church's Primary Responsibilities

Assessment and Alignment

- Affirm workers' character and fitness for cross-cultural service
- Check for alignment of cross-cultural workers' vision and projected ministry plan with that of the sending church
- Assist in workers' application to Christar by filling out a pastor's reference form

Commissioning

- Conduct a commissioning service, ideally within 30 days before workers' initial departure for the field

Support

- Contribute toward workers' financial support (While Christar does not require sending churches to provide a specific amount, we suggest they give 20% or more of a worker's support figure when possible.)
- Pray regularly, privately and corporately for workers' ministry and well-being and for the people groups among which they serve

Connection and Care

- Connect regularly with workers (Consider assigning an individual or group to serve as the primary liaison between the church and the workers.)
- Protect the security of workers serving in creative access areas by using appropriate terminology in communication with and about them
- Ensure workers know who to contact in the church regarding financial matters, spiritual/sensitive issues, focused prayer, etc.
- Share workers' needs with church members (as security allows) while they are on the field
- Provide time for workers to share about their ministries while on home assignment
- Engage workers in church activities and ministries during home assignment
- Provide adequate time for workers on home assignment to rest, further their education and share about their ministry in other churches
- Keep workers up to date about church news (as security allows)

At every stage, ministry in least-reached communities is continually sustained by the local church.

Christar's Primary Responsibilities

Pre-Field Preparation

- Connect those who want to go with ways to use their unique gifts and skills in least-reached communities that align with their churches' approaches to fulfilling the Great Commission
- Assess individuals' readiness for service, as well as areas of strength and places for growth
- Provide workers preparing for the field with personal development plans that take into account their prior experience, skills and desired location of service
- Offer Church Ministry Residencies, which provide a framework for equipping next-generation leaders with practical skills in the context of their local churches
- Provide opportunities for workers to join teams with a shared vision and strategy

On-Field Support

- Provide support in language learning
- Train workers in a church-planting framework that equips them to form strategies fitting for their ministry contexts
- Offer support and resources that help workers serve well and thrive in difficult places
- Provide debriefing for workers on home assignment

Finance and Human Resources

- Process donations, as well as oversee insurance and tax reporting
- Provide payroll services and administer benefits, including retirement plans, health insurance and life insurance, for workers

Church Support

- Help local churches send and care for their own who follow God's call to serve in least-reached communities
- Assist church leaders in involving their congregations in the Great Commission
- Offer to facilitate strategic ministry planning retreats

Great Commission Resources

- Equip believers to pray specifically and intentionally for the needs of cross-cultural workers and the least-reached
- Partner with God's people seeking opportunities to invest their resources for eternal impact
- Invite volunteers to use their professional skills to help cross-cultural teams minister more effectively
- Communicate the needs of the least-reached and ways God is working around the world, connecting believers to opportunities to be involved and rejoice in what the Lord is doing

***Christar helps churches
send workers well and
participate more fully in the
Great Commission.***

Frequently Asked Questions About Sending

Q: Who decides where/how a worker will serve?

A: We want workers' ministry roles and locations to align with their churches' approaches to fulfilling the Great Commission and with the guidance they receive from the Lord. We work with individuals, couples and families to identify places of ministry that align with their priorities.

Q: Where can churches send workers through Christar?

A: Our mission is to establish churches among the least-reached: those without access to a church that proclaims the gospel in their language and in a way that's relevant in their culture. So, we seek to partner with churches to send workers to communities of least-reached people, whether they're living in their homeland or as immigrants or refugees. Christar workers currently serve in approximately 35 countries, and we're always looking to expand our ministry to new people groups and places.

Q. Do Christar workers serve on teams?

A. The vast majority of Christar workers serve on teams: small groups of people with complementary gifts who are committed to the goal of planting churches among the least-reached through an agreed-upon ministry plan, mutual care and mutual accountability.

Q: In what types of roles do Christar workers serve?

A: Christar workers serve using a wide variety of skills, gifts and vocations, in areas including (but certainly not limited to!) business, education, health care, resources and crisis relief.

Q: What does it practically mean for a worker's authority to reside with his or her sending church?

A: We do not override the church's sending authority. We believe that the sending church has continuing spiritual oversight of the worker and an important say in matters related to a worker's fitness for employment with Christar. Through the authority delegated to it by the church, Christar holds employment authority by providing field supervision, accountability and pastoral care.

Q: Can Christar send a worker to the field without his or her church's approval?

A: No. We believe the local church, as the sending entity, must be in full agreement and give final approval before a worker departs for the field. Christar does not have the authority to make that decision independently.

Q: Do workers have access to counseling and care while on the field?

A: Yes. Christar field leadership and member care personnel work together and with the sending church to provide support and resources on the field and in the U.S.



Our Church Engagement Team

The Christar Church Engagement team exists to help local fellowships participate in expanding the reach of the gospel across the globe. This team is comprised of workers with years of experience on the field: individuals who intimately understand the realities of cross-cultural ministry and the needs of those who serve overseas.

Our Church Engagement representatives offer training and resources that equip congregations to more intentionally engage least-reached people, to launch new church-planting initiatives and to send not only individuals but entire teams to serve cross-culturally. Our staff also works with churches to ensure that they are prepared in the event that the workers they send face a crisis.

We praise God for the churches that partner with Christar and for the opportunity to come alongside you as you send and support. It's our joy to see local congregations embrace opportunities to participate in God's global work and be blessed by their roles in seeing churches established where they don't yet exist.



Connect with the Church Engagement Team

christar.org/church-engagement-team

Christar U.S.

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