

## Partnership Agreement between Mission ONE and [other organization]

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,  
always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,  
because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you  
will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

—*Philippians 1:3–6*

The Apostle Paul thanked God that his ministry was a “partnership in the gospel” with the church at Philippi. Likewise, as we work together toward a common vision with common values, we thank God for our friendship and *our* “partnership in the gospel” of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This document describes guidelines for our partnership. At Mission ONE, we believe that cross-cultural ministry partnerships can be healthy and even beautiful. We believe that healthy partnerships may be formed by Christian leaders and their ministries when they are characterized by godly character, cultural intelligence, and organizational competence.



### GODLY CHARACTER

**The foundation for healthy partnerships is *following humbly our***

**Lord Jesus Christ, for the glory of God.** Humility is at the core of a healthy partnership.

Leaders of mission agencies engaged in healthy partnerships are characterized by humility.

We believe that this one thing—Christlike humility—will more than anything else, determine the long-term health of a cross-cultural partnership. One of the best ways to express humility is by listening. Listening carefully to one another, *listening with our hearts*, is a vital part of developing trust and keeping trust—and for building a long successful partnership.

### CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE (CQ)

**Partnerships are healthier when there is a mutual desire to grow in cultural intelligence so that we *understand deeply our diversity and unity, for the glory of God.*** The multitude of nations and peoples are a beautiful picture of the creative diversity of God. At the same time, it is our nature as people to believe “my way” of seeing the world is the “right way.” We easily underestimate the differences in our worldviews, our thinking, our values. Even with a common faith in Christ, people from diverse cultures think in very different ways. For example, in the west, one of the highest values is *individualism*. In many nonwestern nations, however, *community* is much more highly valued, and *individualism* may be viewed with suspicion. Differences like this can easily contribute to misunderstanding in a cross-cultural partnership. This is why *understanding deeply our diversity and unity* is so important in healthy partnerships.

### ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETENCE

**Organizational competence means *practicing wisely the art and science of partnership for the glory of God.*** Organizational competence is essential for healthy cross-cultural

partnerships. Wise practice includes such things as mutual commitment to a clear vision... handling money with good judgment and biblical stewardship... providing periodic reports about ministry progress, prayer requests and needs... and having accountability for leaders through a board of directors or other culturally appropriate structure. Most every organization has a single top leader. It is healthy and wise that the leader be open to having his or her decisions be reviewable periodically by other godly individuals who are peers.

**TOGETHER, WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:****1. National Missionary Teams**

- A. Mission ONE and [other organization] are mutually committed to evangelism and church planting by teams who are revealing the love of Christ by word and deed. These teams serve among unreached or oppressed communities in culturally effective ways.
- B. In addition to raising regular support for teams of national missionaries, Mission ONE also tries to raise support for special needs and projects to advance the team's ministry.
- C. Each team will have a team leader. In most cases, this will be the same key leader that currently represents your organization with Mission ONE.
- D. A national missionary team member can be replaced at the discretion of your team leader and board of directors. No immediate notification of Mission ONE is necessary. Changes will be reported to Mission ONE in the quarterly team report.

**2. Handling of Funds**

- A. Funds sent to [other organization] must be distributed under the oversight of the [other organization] accountability board and [other organization] leadership team.
- B. Funds will be sent to [other organization] quarterly. It is [other organization]'s responsibility to budget the funds over the next three months.
- C. Funds will be sent only after Mission ONE has received last quarter's team report from the team leader. The team report includes information about ministry progress, stories, and prayer requests.
- D. Funds that are sent will be distributed to the team of national missionaries under the oversight of your team leader and board of directors. This means that, if desired, you can distribute the funds in varying amounts to individual team members.
- E. A detailed explanation of how last quarter's funds were distributed or used must be reported in the quarterly team report. The United States government is now requiring international aid organizations, including Christian charities, to provide more detailed reports showing how funds are distributed internationally.
- F. Only funds that Mission ONE receives for [other organization] in the previous quarter will be sent. Therefore the amount of funds sent may vary from quarter to quarter.
- G. Funds for special needs and projects may be sent more often than quarterly.

**3. Reports about the ministry**

- A. Quarterly team reports from the team leader are required in order to receive the next quarter's support. If there is no report, there will be no support.
- B. The team leader will provide the report for the entire team. The report may or may not have detailed information about the ministry of each team member.
- C. Team reports must include an accounting of how last quarter's support funds were distributed or used. This means that the name of each national missionary and the amount that he or she received must be reported. If some funds were used for other than missionary support, these details must be reported too.
- D. The team report must include the information that is requested by Mission ONE.

- E. Mission ONE will distribute the reports in a timely way with all the donors who are supporting [other organization].
4. Requests for special funding
    - A. When special needs and project opportunities arise for which [other organization] would like to have additional funds raised, the [other organization] team leader will notify Mission ONE by telephone or email.
    - B. Mission ONE will, in turn, provide by email a project proposal form to the [other organization]. The form provides clear guidelines in a question and answer format for gathering the information necessary to create a good proposal.
    - C. From this project proposal form, Mission ONE will create a project proposal and share the need with its donor community.
  5. Mutual Responsibilities
    - A. Mission ONE staff and [other organization] staff will pray for each other regularly.
    - B. They will act under the oversight of their own board of directors or other accountability structure.
    - C. They will provide to each other a copy of their Statement of Faith along with this agreement.
    - D. They will provide audited or official financial statements upon request of the other party.
    - E. They will be open to visits from time to time.
  6. Reviewing the partnership
    - A. This partnership between Mission ONE and [other organization] will be reviewed at least every two years. This review will be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, Christlike encouragement and humility, as is fitting of a “partnership in the gospel.”
    - B. The partnership review will consist of a face-to-face conversation that covers a variety of issues, such as: our respective faithfulness to God’s calling, ministry health, progress and needs, and other related organizational or personal issues as may arise.
  7. Discontinuation of partnership
    - A. In recognition of the fact that over time, people and organizations do change for many different reasons, either partner may discontinue this partnership with a notice of 90 days.
    - B. The partnership may be discontinued for violations of godly character, cultural intelligence, or organizational competence.
    - C. The partnership may also be discontinued for other reasons, such as a change in the direction or purpose of either partner organization.

**WE AFFIRM THE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES IN THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Mission ONE leader      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of [other organization] leader      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**ADDENDUMS TO THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

1. Statements of Faith of Mission ONE and [other organization].
2. Official description of ministry activities of [other organization] with signature and date.
3. Official document from government to demonstrate [other organization] is a registered charity (if available).

## **Mission ONE Statement of Faith**

We believe...

1. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God, and that they are the final authority in faith and conduct.
2. In one God, the Creator of all things and man; eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal, imminent return.
4. That man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby brought upon himself not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God: and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach the age of moral responsibility, are sinners before God in thought, word, and deed.
5. That for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
6. That all who by grace through faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, are born again of the Holy Spirit; and thereby become children of God.
7. In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling and empowering, the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
8. In the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.