

# The Sanctuary Fellowship Missionary Sending Policies

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## Goal of missions at The Sanctuary Fellowship:

*To be a catalyst of God-honoring change in all areas of life for the people of \_\_\_\_\_.*

## Purpose of this document:

To establish a best practices of sending and support of missionaries, whether short or long-term in assignment. For purposes of clarity, TSF considers a “short-term” assignment being equal to one year or less. “Long-term” assignments are equal to greater than 1 year. This document will provide information about how The Sanctuary Fellowship evaluates, equips, and supports its members who are exploring a call to international mission work.

Due to the nature of this work, The Sanctuary Fellowship takes any missionary partnership very seriously. We see our missionary partners as extensions of the ministry that is taking place in and through The Sanctuary Fellowship. Our desire is to help our members through the process of discerning the call, preparing for the deployment, and supporting themselves both financially and spiritually as they serve. Should a missionary become endorsed by The Sanctuary Fellowship, the church accepts full spiritual responsibility as an authority in the missionaries life. Therefore, the process by which a candidate moves from applicant status to an endorsed missionary can require training, recommendations, active participation in church life, endorsement of Life Group, and numerous meetings with the pastoral team, elders, and The Sanctuary Fellowship board of directors.

## Why mission-called members of The Sanctuary Fellowship should go through this application process:

Although this process seems daunting, our hope is that this will serve to better prepare missionaries for success on the mission field. This will also allow TSF to expand it's current ministry scope through your leadership and gifting. Below are some of the benefits of walking through this process.

- **Church Endoresment:** This process will allow you to apply to a well respected mobilization organization - most of whom require church endorsement. If you do not go through this process, we cannot in good conscience endorse you as a missionary sent from TSF.

- **Shepherding:** You have made the decision to walk with TSF in covenant membership which gives the pastoral staff the responsibility of shepherding you - even while you are overseas on deployment. We take this responsibility very seriously and see it as our mission to pray for you, encourage you, and help you to continue your growth in Christ.
- **Relationships:** We want to keep you connected with members of our body who will partner with you in your mission through prayer and possibly through short-term visits to assist with the mission.
- **Church Sponsored Support:** This process will also be the only way to allow you to receive financial support from the church. The amount of financial support will be determined by the pastoral staff and elder board and will be on a case-by-case basis.

### Essential Qualities for TSF Endorsed Missionaries:

- **Trained** - The applicant must be equipped Biblically, disciplined by mature believers, and culturally prepared for their specific role overseas.
  - **Equipped** - Someone who is equipped will be Biblically literate. They must demonstrate a consistent application of Scripture in their personal life and community. The equipped person will be able to provide sound theological responses to basic questions of the faith (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and for the hope that they have within them (1 Peter 3:15).
  - **Disciplined** - Someone who is disciplined will have had a consistent past of submitting themselves to the leadership and guidance of a more mature believer who has helped them navigate the walk of faith. Discipleship is not a once in a while “get-together,” but rather an intentional walking together for the purpose of growing into the image of Christ, forsaking sin, sharpening the disciplines of the faith, and submitting to an authority.
  - **Prepared** - A prepared applicant will have made (and will make) strides towards entering the field having educated themselves in the culture and customs of the target people-group. Such preparation might include language study, cultural classes, missional training (i.e. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement).
- **Ready** - While it is impossible for anyone to anticipate or prepare for every possible scenario to be encountered while on deployment, we believe there are some attributes that enable an applicant to be more prepared to enter the field:
  - **Missional Lifestyle** - Missional living does not begin once a person “gets off the plane.” The command Jesus gave to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:18-20) was Christ’s call regardless of where we live. Because of this, we believe that it is not on a mission trip that one becomes missional, but through faithful living as a witness to Christ at home, in the office, on your street, and in your community. Missional living is consistently and authentically loving and serving the people that the Lord has placed in your life for the purpose of making Him known.

- **Good Stewardship** - Jesus tells a parable in Luke 16 of those who are faithful with little being entrusted with much. A missions candidate should have a proven track record of faithfully stewarding the provisions of God - time, talents, resources, and body. Faithful stewardship of time involves being intentional with time to bring honor and glory to the Lord. Faithful stewardship of talents involves putting your God-given abilities to use for the kingdom, serving the church and believers around them. Faithful stewardship of resources means that one is faithfully and sacrificially giving through tithes, avoiding debt, and refraining from spending on frivolous or worthless things. Faithful stewardship of the body includes refraining from the use of any sort of illegal or harmful substances. Furthermore, good stewardship of the body includes overall health, maintaining a balanced diet, exercise, and rest.
- **Able** - We want to ensure that when anyone is sent by TSF to serve as a missionary abroad, that they are able to make a gospel impact. To effectively do this, we believe that a candidate should be:
  - **Committed** - A candidate should not be easily swayed from what the Lord has called them to do and to be. Languages, culture shock, unforeseen circumstances, and many other things can prove to be incredibly difficult. A candidate should have a history of seeing things through to the end, and not “bailing out” when things get tough.
  - **Strategic** - The candidate should develop a ministry plan for when they enter the mission field. This strategy, however, must be fluid and easily adjusted based upon varying opportunities and obstacles.
  - **Connected & Supported** - The candidate will have a need for support while they are on the ground, and this goes beyond financial support. The candidate should be connected with a network of believers who will help them fight loneliness and isolation and serve as advocates state-side. Regarding financial support, long-term candidates should seek to identify roughly 50+ financially contributing partners. These partnerships should be sought to carry throughout the duration of the initial time commitment.

### **Basic Expectations for Candidates who apply for TSF Missions Endorsement:**

At the discretion of the pastoral team and elders, we strongly encourage that our members who are applying for missions partnerships are:

- **Connected** - A covenant member (in good standing) of The Sanctuary Fellowship
- **In Life Group** - Actively participating in a Life Group at The Sanctuary Fellowship
- **Serving** - Actively serving at The Sanctuary Fellowship

### **Process of Application:**

1. **Apply** - Complete missionary application, which you can request by e-mailing [info@tsf-church.com](mailto:info@tsf-church.com). This application must be completed in its entirety and

submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to the initial meeting with the Missions Pastor.

2. **Schedule initial meeting** - Schedule a time to meet with a leader from The Sanctuary Fellowship where your application will be reviewed and any questions clarified.
3. **Submit Endorsement from Your Life Group** - **For Long-term applicants**, you will need to provide a letter of recommendation from your Life Group leader and one other unrelated individual in your group, affirming your desire to apply for long-term assignment and confirming your active participation in community. **For Short-term applicants**, you will need to provide from your Life Group leader a letter of recommendation, affirming your desire to apply for long-term assignment and confirming your active participation in community.
4. **Preparation for deployment** - This process will vary from person to person, but will include the following: Developing/refining any skills specific to your deployment, addressing any issues of persistent sin (including possible participation in a recovery ministry), raising support (both financial and prayer), and identify a mobilization agency with which to partner.
5. **Develop a Care and Connection Team** - create a team of individuals who have committed to remaining connected to an applicant before going overseas and throughout the time they are serving abroad. This team will be responsible for identifying any prayer needs you might have and sharing those needs with the church and supporters - as appropriate.
6. **Candidate Interviews** - **For Long-term Applicants:** You will need to complete interviews with the TSF pastoral staff, elder board, and mission team. These interviews will be an opportunity for the spiritual and organizational directors of the church to ask questions and further clarify the call to the mission field. **For Short-Term Applicants:** You will need to complete an interview with a TSF pastor. This interview will be an opportunity to ask questions and further clarify the call to the mission field. Once this interview has been conducted, the pastor will submit information from that meeting to the pastoral team and elders. If any questions need to be answered, those will be addressed accordingly.
7. **Become Endorsed** - After the previous steps have been completed, and any clarifying or support material has been submitted, the church leadership will decide if you will receive a formal church endorsement to become a missionary sent from The Sanctuary Fellowship.