

Cape Bible Chapel Missionary Care Teams

“You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.” 3 John 6b-8

Cape Bible Chapel desires to be a sending church which is supportive of our missionaries in a manner worthy of our Lord. Our missionaries are going out to share the gospel where God’s name is unknown or neglected. We love God’s glory and are thankful for the opportunity to participate with our missionaries, who are bringing the gospel to previously unreached people.

To that end, the Missions Ministry is working to assure that all missionaries, supported by Cape Bible Chapel, have a church based missionary Care team. In this way we hope to fully meet the needs of our missionaries and to be active fellow workers with them.

What is a Care Team?

A care team is a small group (4-8) of committed people (or couples) who come together to care for their missionary in a variety of ways, striving to help meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. It is a group of people with whom the missionary can be open and honest, sharing their needs, and sharing their successes and defeats.

Why have a Care Team?

Because care teams provide our missionaries with a committed group of people who will show them practical love, keep them visible before the rest of the Chapel family, and strengthened on the mission field.

What does a Care Team do?

A care team works together to care for their missionary, striving to meet their spiritual, physical and emotional needs. The missionary is encouraged to communicate their needs to the team.

The specific ways in which a care team goes about meeting their missionaries’ needs will vary depending on the specific personality and needs of the missionary, as well as the personality (creativity) of the care team. Ask your missionary how you can best assist him; learn from the example of other teams; be creative; pray about it.

The care team takes personal responsibility to serve as the missionary’s advocate at Cape Bible Chapel.

Therefore, we ask that each Missionary Care Team should make a commitment to:

1. Commit to being on the team for at least one year. (Our preference is to see people with a passion for doing this, as long as God gives passion)
2. Meet together on a quarterly basis.
3. PRAY for your missionary individually as well as corporately.
4. Correspond regularly with your missionary.

5. Work to create an atmosphere where your missionary feels safe and comfortable to share personal items with the team that may need to be kept confidential.
6. Be available to provide practical care for your missionary.

Depending in the giftedness of the team and missionary, they will also potentially:

1. (Help) Maintain a newsletter for the missionary.
2. Develop/maintain the church's web page for the missionary
3. Help to develop a prayer team for the missionary.

The following roles will be assigned to people on the team, leaving other members of the team open to volunteer for other specific, occasional duties. **Every team** will have a team leader.

Team Leader – oversight of the team in general, responsible to schedule gatherings and to plan care related things. This person will be the contact for anyone seeking to join this missionary's care team in the future. The team leader may only lead one Care Team at a time.

The remaining roles are **optional** and may be decided upon between the missionary and the Team Leader to fit the missionary's situation.

Communications person (couple) – communicate with your missionary (team with missionary)

Church contact – communicate with our church

It may be helpful to divide the work further by assigning other specific roles (care package, missionary displays, article writer, etc.) others on the team.

Meeting facilitator – plan and facilitate gatherings or special events for your missionary

How are Care Teams formed?

Potential members of the missionary's care team are prayerfully selected by the individual missionary, if possible. The missionary will discuss with the potential Team Leader and other team members and submit a list of the Care Team members to the Mission's Committee leader. The Mission's Committee leader would enlist the help of the Team Leader to contact the selected team members for their participation on the team. It is feasible that some Care Team Members may be parts of multiple Care Teams. The only restriction is that the Care Team Leader may only Lead one team. They Leader can participate as a member on other teams but cannot be the lead on another team. The key for the missionary is to choose people with whom they have already established a level of trust and with whom they will be comfortable sharing personal concerns.

Why does Cape Bible Chapel desire to have Care Teams?

We want our missionaries, who are financially supported, to receive personal care from those in our church, as well.

We will enlist the help of many of the CBC family. Our hope is the Missionary Care Teams will prove to be an essential part of the relationship with our missionaries in the future.

Practical Ideas for Caring for Your Missionary

Before they go

- Pray earnestly for them.
- Be available for them. Encourage them as needed in the final days before they leave.
- Ask them about what they are learning as God takes them down the path that will lead them to a foreign country.
- Help them to get all the supplies that they need to take with them overseas. You can help them by running errands, or offering to take care of their children so that they can more easily run errands.
- Send out e-mail updates.
- Drop dinner off at their house their last few nights so that they can concentrate on accomplishing those last few tasks.
- Help them find a place to stay, if they need a place just before they leave.
- Help them pack the items they'll store here in the U.S., as well as the items they'll take with them or ship.
- Treat them to something special just before they go.
- Have an open house before they leave so they can say goodbye to many of their friends.
- Host a reception for them at CBC.

While they are gone

- Pray earnestly for them.
- Write to your missionary often.
- Keep up to date with what your missionary is doing so that you can encourage them in the work and share their work with the CBC family.
- Remember their birthdays, holidays, and other special days with a card, gift, FAX, or telephone call.
- Write an article for the Missions Newsletter.
- Send an e-mail to them occasionally so that they have current, up-to-date information on their team.
- Pass on any special prayer requests to the church office that can be distributed to the Pastoral Staff and elders and any others that may need to know.
- Send "care packages" occasionally to encourage your missionary or to help meet some of their needs.
- Send your missionary articles of special interest out of the newspaper or magazines.
- Share your prayer requests and concerns with your missionary; they want to pray for you.
- Consider visiting your missionary in the field.
- Send them a good book you've especially appreciated.
- Mail out their prayer letters for them.
- Send them a note to remind them you're praying.
- Help to take care of your missionaries' home while they are away.

When they return

- Pray earnestly for them.
- Be at the airport to welcome them back home.
- Host an open house so that they can see many of their friends and update them.
- Help them to organize a time where they can update the body.
- Praise the Lord with them for how God used them overseas.
- Be available to help them when they arrive home.
- Have a few groceries for them in their refrigerator and cupboards so that they don't have to go shopping right away.
- Help them to find a car to borrow during their furlough time.
- Give them a special night out or some other special treat.
- Help them to catch up with what is current, what's in and what's out.
- Bring dinner by their house for the first few days.
- Introduce them to new people at CBC.
- Help them to get caught up on the latest happenings here at CBC.
- Listen to them, be available.
- Give them space.
- A month before they come back begin keeping a calendar for them, setting up times when people can see them so that they are organized when they return.
- Contact Sunday School classes and small group regarding possible speaking times.