

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CHRISTIAN MISSION AGENCY

With so many Christian mission agencies to choose from, how do you know which one is the right fit for your church? Here are some things to think about.

INTEGRITY

- Is the Agency well established and growing? Is there a Board and are the members listed on the website, and not related to each other?
- Does their mission statement make sense to you? Is what they say they do reflected in their promotional material?
- Do they provide regular reporting and news from their overseas projects? Are the Annual Audited Financial Statements publically available (on the website)?
- Do they have healthy relationships with an established set of partners and is the focus of their activity based on how partners are empowered in their work?
- If they are caring for children is the management of residential facilities accountable for the use of funds? Are the children being cared for protected by policies and standards of safe conduct? Is the residential facility operated by a board rather than one or two individuals?
- Are team and personal visits to projects provided for and are visitors to the projects required demonstrate their personal integrity and comply with child safe guarding standards?
- Can you be sure that your money will be used with integrity? Are detailed receipts issued and are project reports available?
- What percentage of giving goes to administrative costs? If the answer is zero how are the costs of operation covered?

CONTEMPORARY

- Do they take both spiritual and physical needs seriously?
- Do the stories and pictures they use they tell focus on what the partners are doing or what expats are involved in?
- Are projects that are implemented planned to enhance long term self-sustainability?
- Are the images and pictures used presented so as to enhance the dignity of the individual photographed?
- Do they encourage independence in churches and community projects?

GOOD FIT

- Do they share your church's core values?
- Does the size of a local church matter to the agency – will they work with all size churches?
- Will they be responsive to our feedback?
- Can your church participate in the governance of the agency?
- Can we develop an effective relationship with the local staff?