



## **Harmony Bible Church Global Ministries Field Staff Care Teams**

*Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. - 3 John 1:5-8 (ESV)*

## **FIELD STAFF CARE TEAMS**

Harmony is committed to being a "Sending Church", one that sends our Field Staff out in a manner worthy of God because they are going out to champion the Name of God in places where God's name is unknown or is horribly neglected.

We believe that it is vital for those who are sent out from Harmony to be substantially supported and prayed for by those of us who stay behind.

The Global Ministry Team is responsible for more than a dozen Field Staff here at Harmony Bible Church. The church's Global Ministry Team cannot realistically and effectively "care" for all these people. To that end, the Global Ministry Team is requiring that all HBC Field Staff have a Harmony-based Field Staff Care Team. In this way we hope to more fully meet the needs of our Field Staff and to be active fellow workers with them. We believe Field Staff Care Teams will prove themselves to be an essential part of the global outreach endeavor we are striving for at Harmony.

### **WHAT IS A FIELD STAFF CARE TEAM?**

A Field Staff Care Team is a small group (six to twelve) of committed people/families who come together to care for their Field Staff in a variety of ways, striving to help meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. It is a group of people/families with whom the Field Staff can be open and honest, allowing them to share their needs, their successes and their defeats.

### **WHAT DOES A FIELD STAFF CARE TEAM DO?**

A Field Staff Care Team commits to working together to care for and encourage their Field Staff. They're focus is to meet their Field Staff's physical, emotional and spiritual needs. To a large extent this will happen to the degree that the Field Staff allows and the team is willing. To give the Field Staff Care Team some practical ways to do this we've listed a few examples.

## **WHILE THEY ARE GONE**

- Pray earnestly for them.
- Write to your Field Staff often without expecting frequent or lengthy responses.
- Keep up to date with what your Field Staff is doing so that you can encourage them in their work and share that with the HBC family.
- Remember their birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and other special days with a card, gift, emails, Skype or telephone call.
- Send emails to them occasionally, if possible, so that they have up-to-date information about their team.
- Pass on any special prayer requests to the church office so that the pastoral staff knows how to pray and so that it can be shared during the regularly scheduled HBC prayer meeting times.
- Send fun "care packages" occasionally to encourage your Field Staff or to help meet some of their needs.
- Send them articles of special interest out of the newspaper or magazines (or links to online articles).
- Give your Field Staff a subscription to a magazine like World so that they can enjoy keeping up with what is happening in the U.S.
- Consider visiting your Field Staff on the field.
- Send them a good book you've especially appreciated.
- Mail out their prayer letters for them.
- Help to take care of your field staff's home, vehicle, etc. while they are away.

## **WHEN THEY RETURN**

- Pray earnestly for them.
- Mail out their prayer letters.
- Be at the airport to welcome them back home.
- Host an open house so that they can celebrate God's grace with their friends and family.
- Help them to organize a time at HBC where they can show their photos and update the body.
- Praise the Lord with them for how God used them overseas.

- Be available to help them readjust to life in the U.S.
- Have housing ready for them when they arrive home.
- Help them find a car to borrow during their furlough time. Make their needs known to the team.
- Give them a special night out or some other special treat. Offer to babysit for them.
- Include them in social activities.
- Offer vacation possibilities.
- Help them to catch up with what is current, what's in and what's out.
- Introduce them to new people at HBC.
- Help them to get caught up on the latest happenings here at HBC.
- Introduce their children to other children their age.
- Be available to provide practical care for your global partner (see pages 5-7 of this booklet).

## **FIELD STAFF CARE TEAM ROLES**

Field Staff Care Teams can be organized differently, depending on the gifts of the individuals involved. We want to encourage support teams to have the following roles assigned to various people on the team. You may want to leave other members of the team open to volunteer for other specific, occasional duties.

(It is not necessary that every team have every one of these roles assigned, these are just suggestions.)

***Team Leader*** – This is the person who calls, organizes, and leads all team meetings. (Part of each meeting should be the furthering of the group's understanding about Field Staff care.) The team leader's role on the team is also to encourage others in the fulfillment of their assigned roles and find replacements in the event of change. Lastly, the team leader serves as the contact person between HBC and the Field Staff Care Team.

***Meeting Coordinator*** – Whether the meetings are held in this person's home or not, their role is to facilitate its occurrence. This may include working with the team leader to coordinate meeting places and times, necessary equipment for meeting (i.e. internet connection, video camera, greeting cards to sign,

etc.), and refreshments if so desired. The meeting coordinator will also work with the care coordinator to find a host home should their Field Staff come for a visit.

***Prayer Coordinator*** – Though all team members are responsible to pray individually for their Field Staff, this coordinator serves at least two further roles. First, they must think beyond the stated prayer requests given by the Field Staff and determine appropriate Scriptures and requests that also may be prayed. Second, they are charged with preparing, focusing, and leading the corporate prayer time at the team meeting.

***Logistics Coordinator*** – An administratively minded person may fit this role very well! By working closely with the Field Staff, the logistics coordinator can serve in a myriad of ways. From organizing assets to raising special project funds to planning itineraries for time at home, the logistics coordinator is there to coordinate the Field Staff Care Team to serve as the Field Staff's hands and feet in America when needs arise.

***Communications Coordinator*** – This is the team member who takes the lead in writing to the Field Staff, sending care packages, assist in sending prayer letters, and passing along information to the church. Though each member of the team should receive prayer letters and be in communication, this team member makes that their priority of service. If an emergency arises, they should make sure to contact all team members immediately.

## **HOW ARE FIELD STAFF CARE TEAMS FORMED?**

Members of a Field Staff Care Teams are prayerfully chosen by the individual Field Staff. The key for the Field Staff is to choose people from Harmony Bible Church with whom they have already established a certain level of trust and with whom they can be "real" with.

## **PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR CARING FOR YOUR FIELD STAFF BEFORE THEY GO**

- Ask them what their needs are (materially and spiritually), and pray earnestly for them.

- Educate yourself about the country they are going to and the people they will be working among so that you can more intelligently pray for them, discuss and understand their plans, and advocate for them.
- Be available for them. Encourage them as their emotions fluctuate or change just before they go.
- 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.
- Mail out their prayer letters.
- Offer to have them stay with you 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. Offer to store things for them.
- Treat them to something special just before they go.
- Take them to the airport as a team and have a send off there.
- Have an open house or “Informal Commissioning” service for them before they leave so they can pray with and say good-bye to many of their friends.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on Field Staff Care Teams, contact Pastor Matt Yaley at the Harmony Bible Church office or at [matt@harmonybiblechurch.org](mailto:matt@harmonybiblechurch.org).





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