

REALITY VENTURA SENDING STRATEGY

We, at Reality Ventura are captivated by Revelation 7:9, “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne” of God. Our global vision is to join God in the advancement of gospel centered global endeavors with an emphasis on the least reached peoples.

Reality Ventura has developed a Sending Strategy by which we help cross-cultural workers discern God’s calling, prepare them to go, ensure that their needs are met while they are gone, and welcome them back into the life of the body when they return.

Reality Ventura has a Sending Team made up of members of the body of Christ at Reality who have a calling on their lives to mobilize, encourage and facilitate partnership with individuals who are being prepared to serve the Lord in global ministry. The Sending Team serves under the authority of the church elders to help carry out Reality Ventura’s global vision. If you are interested in learning more about the process of becoming a global partner with Reality Ventura read the following Sending Strategy.

If you are unsure of your vision for ministry, want to learn more about Reality Ventura’s gospel centered global endeavors with an emphasis on the least reached peoples, or you’d simply like to connect with a member of the Sending Team or staff to share your story and receive prayer for any international ministry you are involved in, please contact the Global Ministry Coordinator: jenniferweir@realityventura.com. Include your name, the ministry you are considering—or are already engaged in and your involvement at Reality Ventura.

SENDING PARTNERSHIP

Why do we partner with cross-cultural workers?

The primary purpose of global partnership at Reality Ventura is for the Gospel to go forth and to make disciples. Whatever the ministry on the field is, the purpose is to build bridges and develop relationships through which to deliver the Gospel. Secondly, at Reality Ventura we desire to see the Gospel bring renewal to the least reached peoples.

Who do we send?

We partner with individuals or families who regularly attend Reality Ventura, who share our global vision, and who have demonstrated a commitment to the life of this body by participating in any of the following:

- Attending a Community group or

- Regularly participating in corporate prayer or
- Faithfully serving in an area of ministry at Reality Ventura

Cross-cultural workers are typically sent out as an individual/family unit. When multiple individuals or families pursue cross-cultural ministry together in the same location, each individual/family must initiate the sending process. Those interested in pursuing being a part of a long-term Reality Ventura church-based team may contact the Global Ministry Coordinator: jenniferweir@realityventura.com.

When do we get involved?

We as senders, desire to speak into the formation of each worker's vision for global ministry. We want to be part of your decision-making process regarding if, where, and when to go. Contact the Sending Team early to work through the sending steps with you. **Timing is important!** Use this timetable for contacting us if you desire to begin the sending partnership process:

- **Three - Four months before** a short-term (two weeks to six months) global ministry commitment
- **Six - Nine months before** a medium-term (six months to two years) global ministry commitment
- **Nine months - one year before** a long-term (two years or more) global ministry commitment

** The sending process is not designed for weekend or one week trips. However, if you are participating in such we would love to know!

Step 1 || Discerning the Call

Your Responsibilities

Carefully read this sending strategy and prayerfully consider whether your vision is aligned with the vision of Reality Ventura and whether your planned departure date fits into our guidelines.

1. Write a **Heart Letter** describing your ministry vision.
2. Send your Heart Letter to the Reality Ventura Sending Team and Elders with the information listed below and a recent photo of yourself. E-mail: jenniferweir@realityventura.com.. *Feel free to respond with "I don't know" to any of the following questions if needed.*

- Describe your ministry vision. Include location, purpose and length of time and the names and ages of those in your family going with you. Your expected date of departure or general time frame when you would like to go.
 - Describe the sending agency you plan to serve with and how you see this organization aligning with Reality Ventura's global vision.
 - Describe why you feel the Lord is calling you to this vision for ministry including what your prayer life has looked like and ways your call has been confirmed thus far.
 - Describe your current involvement at Reality Ventura including the following details:
 - Where you live and how long you have attended Reality Ventura.
 - The area of ministry at Reality Ventura where you are actively participating or serving including prayer meetings you regularly participate in and Community Group.
 - The names of any pastors, staff members, Sending Team members, or other leaders at Reality Ventura that you know and that know you.
 - If you are a student, please let us know if you intend to remain locally, attending Reality Ventura throughout the preparation time leading up to your trip departure.
3. Meet with the person(s) assigned by the Sending Team as often as necessary to confirm this calling.

Our Responsibilities

1. We will prayerfully confirm your call to go.
2. We will provide a representative—your designated point person—who will:
 - Review with you the sending strategy and our vision for ministry.
 - Facilitate communication with the Sending Team to confirm your specific direction, the timing, and location of ministry.
 - Provide a church endorsement to sending agencies who require one.

Step 2 || Prepare to Go

Your Responsibilities

1. Participate in a confirmation meeting with your point person, the Global Ministry Coordinator and an assigned Reality elder to discuss issues of expectations in partnership, accountability on the field and Reality Ventura's spiritual covering as your sending church.

2. Regularly meet with your point person to establish relationship, receive Sending Team direction and pray over the steps of preparation. Keep your point person informed about your activities and progress.
3. You are expected to raise your own funds. You should diligently work to raise support (both prayer and financial) and communicating about your ministry and its purpose.
 - As soon as Sending Team confirms that you will be sent, you may write a support letter and have it reviewed by your point person. Support letters should be sent to family members and friends. Reality Ventura does not receive donations designated for individual global partners. All giving should be directed through your sending agency.
 - Before departure a deadline will be established with the Sending Team by which you are expected to have at least 50% of your financial need met and the money submitted appropriately.
 - Provide your point person with regular financial updates for the purpose of prayer.
 - You may receive some percentage of your total financial need from Reality Ventura's global fund as determined by the church's Global Finance Team through prayer on a case-by-case basis.
4. Fill out the Global Partner Information Form, Budget Form, and any other paperwork provided by the Sending Team and return it to your point person as requested.
5. Receive prayer at designated times prior to your departure.
 - For short-term workers this will be at a weekly corporate prayer time or between Sunday gatherings at church by members of the Sending Team and staff.
 - Mid-term and Long-term workers will receive prayer at all gatherings on a designated Sunday before departure, and should be available at the global table after each gathering to talk with people.

Note: Long-term workers may also be introduced at a church gathering 3-6 months prior to send-off.
6. Long-term workers (those planning to serve more than 2 years overseas) have a few additional expectations:
 - You will be expected to discuss the length of your initial term with your point person and the Global Ministry Coordinator to come to an agreement on how often you will plan return visits (home assignments) to Reality and/or receive field visits. The general guideline is one home assignment (4-6 weeks long) every two years.

- Additionally, you are expected to establish a core prayer team of 3-4 people at least two months prior to leaving. The names of this core prayer team should be shared with your point person.

Our Responsibilities

1. The Global Coordinator, an elder, and your point person will conduct a confirmation of partnership meeting. At this meeting, all participants will sign a Pledge to Partnership.
2. Your point person will:
 - Meet with you as often as needed for encouragement, prayer, and relationship.
 - Give advice on how you might establish your core prayer team.
 - Help you fill out the Information Form and Budget Form. Along with discussing any additional paperwork required.
 - Talk through the logistics of prayer support, finances, health insurance and immunizations, passports and visas, travel arrangements, home assignments, field visits and communication.
3. We will set up a time for laying on of hands and a prayer send-off during a Prayer for the Nations and/or Sunday gatherings (if you are a mid or long-term worker). You will be asked to send a three-point email to your point person before this answering these questions:
 - Your full name, where you are going and who you will be serving
 - The dates you will be gone and the name of any organization you're going with
 - What you hope to see God accomplish

Note: It's important that all global partners are able to communicate a clear and concise description of their ministry that can be shared at prayer times as well as printed in church materials/newsletters as well as online. If there are security concerns, please specify how to best communicate your ministry in public, in print and online.

4. Your Community Group is a place where you can expect to find prayer support, experience community life, and develop personal relationships.

Step 3 || Go

Your Responsibilities

1. Maintain a daily personal time of worship and devotion to the Lord.

2. Communicate regularly with your point person.
 - Provide monthly updates for the Reality Ventura Monthly Global Prayer Newsletter.
 - Make known to and seek counsel from the Sending Team regarding any significant life or ministry changes while on the field (change in ministry focus, location, marriage, baby etc..)
 - Provide an annual ministry update and updated budget.
4. Make personal needs known to your leader on the field.
5. Submit to spiritual accountability with your leader on the field.
6. Long-term workers will be required to prepare for and arrange both a field visit and home assignment (visit) with the Sending Team approximately within every two years unless there are unique circumstances.
7. Manage your finances well and maintain the needed financial support.
8. Annually provide an update regarding your ministry vision and goals and finances.

Note: It's the responsibility of all workers to plan for their yearly taxes while on the field. All donations received by individuals should be treated as income and is taxable.

Our Responsibilities

1. Diligently pray for you.
2. Provide personal care and encouragement through communication.
3. Communicate your needs to the church body so they can also pray for you.
4. Prayerfully respond to requests for additional financial help.
5. Help arrange field visits and home assignments when you are visiting (for long-term global partners).

Step 4 || Transitions & Return

Your Responsibilities

1. If you plan to either stay/return for a longer period of time than your designated term for which you were sent on the field, or change your vision for ministry on the field, then re-submit a Heart Letter to the Sending Team for review. The Sending Team wants to be involved early on in your decision process regarding any changes or extensions of time on the field in order to consider continued partnership.
2. Set aside time for physical rest and time with the Lord.
3. Set aside time to debrief with your point person.
4. Submit to receiving care or biblical counseling as it might be determined by your point person.
5. Get involved again in the life of Reality Ventura by attending church regularly, participating in corporate prayer times, Community Group, and other activities.
6. Be prepared to share when asked, and effectively communicate, answers to these questions:
 - What did you learn from the people you served and what did they learn from the Lord?
 - What were you able to do and give in your ministry?
 - What was challenging and what was good about your experiences in cross-cultural ministry?
 - How should others continue to pray for the people group you were ministering to?

Our Responsibilities

1. Provide ongoing prayer coverage.
2. Help facilitate re-assimilation into our church and culture.
3. Help with any needs for transportation or housing the first few days after your return.
4. Your point person will:
 - Communicate with the church body regarding your return.
 - Spend time with you in prayer and debriefing.
 - Help you assess your global ministry experience and prepare effective communication to share with others.