

THE IDEAL MISSIONARY SUPPORTER

How can I become a better supporter of JML?

“**The love of Christ controls us,**” wrote Paul (2 Cor 5:14). Does it? Does it control our money? Our home? Our work? And does it control our attitude to mission and a lost world? Can I introduce you to the ideal missionary supporter...

Informed

The ideal missionary supporter is **informed**. He knows what is going on in the world, and where the action is. Today's missionary supporter has a multitude of aids. And he uses them to kindle his interest and fuel his prayers. He reads missionary magazines, he uses the prayer manual published by his chosen missionary organisation, as well as using the monthly or quarterly prayer list which gives him up-to-date prayer requests.

He receives letters from several missionaries personally, and gains an insight into their situation through such information. And lastly, he gains missionary information from the news media, and has some idea of what's going on in the world. He senses where missionaries are likely to be in danger or under pressure.

Identified

The ideal missionary supporter is **identified** with his missionary partners. As the love of Christ controls him, he tries to enter into their lives in such a way they feel, suffers what they suffer, and rejoices in their joys.

We can illustrate what it means to be identified by looking at some biblical characters. Moses asked to be blotted out of God's book of life (Exod. 32:32); Ezekiel so entered into the anguish of the exiles in Babylon, that he sat where they sat for seven days, speechless (Ezek. 3:15); Jeremiah, his heart so heavy that he cursed the day on which he was born (Jer. 20:14); Paul, the greatest missionary of all, identified with his churches and his Christians. “My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you” (Gal. 4:19).

Have you ever prayed about a missionary or mission field feeling your heart will break. Do you pray for the churches and pastors of Africa like that? That's what it means to be identified. Yes it's tough, but we're not playing games. We're fighting a spiritual warfare.

Interceding

The ideal meaning missionary supporter is constantly **interceding** for missions. Because of prayer the gospel can be planted through missionary radio, hospitals, schools and Bible Colleges etc..

Recalling William Carey, who sought to lay the true foundation of mission in England, he wrote, taken place, have been in answer to prayer, and it is in this way, we have the greatest reason to suppose, that the glorious out-pouring of the Spirit, which we expect at last, will be bestowed”.

The intercessor for missions will be at one with his Master, who prayed not only for his disciples, “but also for those who will believe in me through their word”.

Involved

The ideal missionary supporter is involved in the missionary task. He does not regard the work of missions as something to be done by the church, or the missionary as some society, or by ‘my friends’. He recognises that the responsibility for the world evangelisation rests upon him, and upon everyone who claims the name of ‘Christian’. So he looks for ways to be personally involved.

He will certainly give missions – his money will be made available. His time, too, will be shared. His home will be at the disposal of missionaries. He will be in close touch with his missionary friends. He will write to them. He will supply some of their personal parcels, books, magazines or tapes. He will be concerned, their education and welfare. In other words, his life will intertwine with the lives of missionaries at many points.

Do you know the ideal missionary supporter? You don’t think he exists, you say? Well, I’ve met him. Yes, thank God there is an ideal missionary supporter. His name is Jesus,

He is perfectly informed. Even when I don’t know what on earth is happening to my missionary friends, or when I’m out of touch with the world of missions, Jesus knows.

He is perfectly identified. He feels every pang, every sigh, and is able to sympathise. He is present in every circumstance. He is there.

He interceding constantly. When others sleep. He who miraculously supplies every need when all human resources fail. It is He who sends deliverance in times of danger. It is Jesus who stops time, or makes the clock race, in order to weave His perfect pattern of circumstances. In times of suffering, distress or even death, it is he who is able to sustain, strengthen and comfort. Missionaries are not immune from the common ills of mankind. But wherever and whatever they may be, Jesus is there.

How wonderful, then, that Jesus seeks our co-operation. Far from regarding our help as superfluous, He makes it essential. His plan for the world very much depends on us, weak as we are. He does not expect of us what we cannot do; but he does call us to attempt great things for Him. By the help of

His holy spirit, let us determine that we will do all we can to become 'the ideal missionary supporter'.

If you have any further questions concerning missionary support or if you require further details, please write to:

JML MINISTRIES