

3 Ways to Help Make the Most of Missionaries' Experience When They Visit Your Church

1. INVITE THEM TO THE TABLE

The churches who understood how to humanize our experiences often invited us to attend their elder meetings and sit with their staff, along with the Sunday morning update and small group meetings. They intentionally asked us, “What have you learned that we can learn from you? What are three things you do to share the gospel that we could utilize here? Where are we blind?”

Missionaries often see the cultural trends before others do. They know how trust is earned when cultural Christianity is gone. Instead of treating missionary visit as just a field report, try viewing it as a consultation.

2. LET THEM TRAIN YOUR CHURCH

Inspiration fades by Monday, but equipping reshapes culture. Missionaries spend their life navigating skepticism, initiating awkward conversations and enduring long seasons where nothing seems to move. That experience is gold for people learning to build relationships with not-yet-believers.

Invite your missionary to host a workshop, share at your young adults gathering or share with your small group leaders about how to live missionally where they already are. We call this “daring to be awkward,” stepping into relational risk for the sake of long-term trust.

3. INTEGRATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Start to build missionary insights into your evangelistic systems, pastoral care and life of the church. Identify the evangelists in your congregation, ask them what missionary techniques they already practice and challenge them to think about what new ones they could develop.

Set up quarterly video calls where missionaries can meet with a dedicated small group of congregants who desire to live missionally. When the goal is to live like a missionary, those calls will make the distance between the zip codes smaller, and accountability will keep the momentum going.

EFCA churches, I want to encourage you to give missionaries space to shape your church's imagination for how the gospel can be shared in your own community. Challenge your congregation to move beyond being mere supporters of the missionaries to *participants* in the mission. The Great Commission isn't just a calling for full-time missionaries—it's for all of us.



Scan to read the full article—*What Most Churches Miss When Missionaries Visit* by Brittany Bruns—on the EFCA Blog.