

# World Partners

*the Global Mission of*



Evangelical Missionary  
Church of Canada  
Following Jesus Together

## A Global Mission Lexicon

World Partners is committed to communicating our vision clearly. These terms help us all to understand and engage fruitfully in the Global mission experience.

**Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)** – World Partners’ involvement in Development supports purposes revealed to International in-country Partners and Agents, and starts with people recognizing the resources God has given them, and the creativity He provides to solve their own problems, trusting Him as they live the way of Jesus in society.

**Business As Mission** – We celebrate that international business is part of God’s plan to extend His mission to all people groups. The social, geographic, political, economic and technological dynamics that present challenges for traditional mission efforts are the very things enabling the ever-intertwined global marketplace. We celebrate God’s nudging to cross-cultural and international mission engagement today through this channel – also see “**Global Professionals**”.

**Creative Access Countries** – A context where there are political or social obstacles to being a ‘missionary’ but where followers of Jesus can make a real impact by simply being present and living out the way of Jesus. Workers assigned to creative-access countries are often labelled “sensitive missionaries”, “workplace missionaries” or simply Global Professionals. There are “Business As Mission” and “Expatriate Church community” networks that we can make known to our people who accept the challenge to serve in these countries.

**Culture** - An integrated system of beliefs (about God or reality or ultimate meaning), of values (about what is true, good, beautiful and normative), of customs (how to behave, relate to others, talk, pray, dress, work, play, trade, farm, eat, etc.), and of institutions which express these beliefs, values and customs (government, law courts, temples or churches, family, schools, hospitals, factories, shops, unions, clubs, etc.), which binds a society together and gives it a sense of identity, dignity, security, and continuity.

**Diaspora** – People from a particular culture or country who have been dispersed throughout the world, often with a strong invisible tie to their people that should be affirmed and valued.

**Disciple** – A follower of Jesus, who exudes a posture of a learner, who looks to imitate the Master, and whose life is replicated in others, meaning that a disciple is a disciple-maker, as Jesus was.

**Global South** – a reference to the peoples and countries from South America, Africa, and Asia, who are now the predominant population of followers of Jesus on the earth, and whose voice is increasing in global mission activity. [see Majority World]

**Global Workers, World Partners Supervised** – those who are serving the Lord in cross-cultural or Global contexts, sent out from and supervised by EMCC World Partners. We currently have 20 of these Global Workers, and we see these gifted people as vital “International staff”, who build capacity with and support our Global Partner Church Leaders. They are currently self-funded directly from support networks they each build and maintain.



**Global Workers, Other Agencies** – all EMCC people who are recognized and sent by God, an EMCC church community, and affirmed by World Partners through one of our credentials are classified as “Global Workers”. **NOTE – All Global Workers, regardless of whether they are supervised by EMCC World Partners, or another Agency, shall be included in one directory (being built in 2020), and considered Global Workers of EMCC. This honours our traditions in both streams of the Evangelical Missionary Church history.**

**Indigenous Church** – indigenous people are those who are native, that is naturally originating from a given place. The Indigenous Church is simply the native-born followers of Jesus who lead the advance of God’s good news lived out and translated to their own people group.

**Intercultural / Intracultural** – In working with different cultures, we understand the importance of a mindset that embraces mutuality. ‘Cross-cultural’ focuses on crossing into a new context; same-culture is one’s home culture; inter-cultural focuses on how the interplay of cultures reveals more of God’s purpose and glory than a mono-cultural context, and perspective; intra-cultural envisions new communities where multiple cultures are integrated (without assimilation).

**Integral Development** – When citizens learn and utilize all their God-given resources to provide solutions to their own problems. EMCC, as a part of the Global Church, would view itself as a small part of the Social Resources God has provided, and joins in a Spirit-led response to National Church leaders’ to help advance disciple-makers who live and proclaim good news and see communities transformed. This is different from “Aid” in general, and “Emergency Relief”.

**Integral Mission** - In integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world, we betray the Word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the Word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world.’  
[Lausanne Covenant]

**Invitation** – In the Way of Jesus, we speak of inviting and challenging others on their journey towards or with Jesus, rather than separate out ‘evangelism’ and ‘discipling’. This is summed up in the language of being a ‘witness’ for Jesus (Acts 1:8), sharing out of our own journey with Jesus as we walk alongside others. Rather than simply letting our lives speak (and never proclaiming), inviting people is the Spirit-led act of extending invitation to others that they too can follow Jesus. We start with invitation so people can intrinsically discover Spirit-led motivation in their lives, rather than starting with command so the motivation comes from another person.

**Justice** – As followers of Jesus, we live for our God, who is a God of Justice. As his ambassadors, we stand with those who are vulnerable and treated unfairly in the world. In Canada, if someone is being treated wrongly, you go to the police. This is not the case in the majority world. There is a simple calling for us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8), and in doing so, we remember to include the vulnerable in our decisions, and make it our cause to act justly.

**Kingdom Professional** – See Business as Mission for the term Global Professional.

**Long-term / Career Mission Worker** – The definition of long-term service has shifted in our time, as noted by the Canadian Evangelical Mission Engagement Study (CEMES) conducted by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, from 30 years a generation ago, to somewhere between 2 and 5 years. World Partners recognized the strategic long-term investment of our human resources as a way we can respond to the requests of our Global Partners, in building their capacity, and in joining together in God’s mission to the rest of the world.

**Leadership (Disciple-making Leader) Development** – Disciple-makers with leadership giftings are those whom God calls and positions into leadership over disciple-making movements. Church communities thrive and develop in healthy ways when these leaders model and live out the Way of Jesus, and avoid the pitfalls of building their own empires or egos.

**Majority World** – we speak of the majority of people, who live in Africa, the Middle East, SE Asia, and China. Our posture towards the world’s peoples and cultures is shoulder-to-shoulder, walking together.

**Mission** – in World Partners, mission describes the core purposeful activity of God, and the recognition that the Church is invited by God to participate in the mission of God.

**Missions** – traditionally, this term described all intentional culture-crossing or boundary-crossing engagement. Because it often implies an ‘outreach program’ to others, it can be received as a power-dynamic of one group over another. Therefore, we find greater clarity and centring on Jesus through the use of the term “Mission” [see Mission].

**Missionary** – a person who is sent by God to a different culture whose primary agenda is to share the Gospel of the Kingdom through words and deeds. In recent centuries, this term was commonly associated with people from wealthy Western societies commissioned specifically for this task, and often fully supported financially by people in their home country. Earlier expressions of “sent-ones” were followers of Jesus who were dispersed by persecution, who often used their trade to provide for themselves. [See “Global Workers” for those sent to serve Cross-culturally and Internationally.]

**Member Care** – The policy and practice of World Partners and other Mission Agencies regarding the care and development of all Global Workers. It is a commitment made for Canadian workers we supervise. We are committed, together with the primary sending and supporting churches, that Workers experience Listening, Visiting and Advocating. We have a Volunteer Member Care team, comprised of retired missionaries, who assist our WP Staff to ensure that support, resources, and care is delivered in a consistent manner, which enable spiritual, physical, mental/emotional, and social well-being in our Global Workers. This enhances and enable the good news of the Kingdom to be proclaimed and lived without detriment to those serving.

**Partner-Agency-Church Together** – Sometimes called Church to Church Partnership (C2CP), this paradigm for mission engagement is increasing among our EMCC church communities. Because of the relative ease of Global travel, and the desire of many followers of Jesus to learn experientially, churches are establishing direct relationships with those they relate to in the Global Church family. There are many best practices to be considered to ensure that these partnerships are healthy, reciprocal, accountable, and done with utmost clarity of expectations and mutual understanding. [For more info, please see <https://files.evangelicalfellowship.ca/min/mp/GMR/CODECHURCHTOCHURCHONEPAGE.pdf>] World Partners is committed to providing a link as the Agency so that many churches can have a strengthened link to the overall vision of the Global Partner relationship, and not be triangulated.

**Partnership** - We seek unity across the Global body of Christ that is rooted in mutual love, the example of humility and preferring one another (Philippians 2), and sharing resources without unhealthy dependencies. This is rooted in relationship, is a demonstration of the Church’s unity in the gospel, for the sake of the reputation of Jesus, and the advance of His mission in all the world.

**Polycentric Mission** – The word ‘poly’ means ‘many’, and when applied to the centre of mission, the essence is that the Mission of God is from everywhere to everywhere. In contrast, people can wrongly view mission as “from their culture to the rest of the world”, which can ignore the essential learning of others that leads to healthy mission engagement. Jesus instructs us to “take no supplies”, and to “eat what is set before you” to the 72 as he sends them out to discover what God is already up to among other peoples (Luke 10).

**Posture** – Posture is the approach and attitude within our engagement with others, taking into account the perception and the effects on relationship that come from them.

**Prayer** – Conversation with our Good God, who is guiding us, and causing renewal of all things, either immediately, or by the end of this Age. Prayer is our constant calling of dependence, trust, and accountability with God, who is present in all aspects of our efforts as we journey with Jesus. We call the Church to pray creatively, continually, and corporately for God’s Kingdom to come among all peoples.

**Reciprocity** – In the spirit of mutuality with the whole Church, World Partners is committed to forming and maintaining reciprocal relationships of influence, for the sake of disciple-making movement around the world, including in Canada. As we engage in partnership with followers of Jesus from other cultures, we seek their voice and activity in our culture.

**Resources** – Integral Development moves us away from taking a “project” approach to helping others, but roots true development in the resources God has given to all people. These are:

- Natural Resources - what God has provided in His creation.
- Physical Resources - What we make from Natural resources.
- Human Resources - The skills / gifts in the people
- Social Resources - groups of people who are working together. A farmers group, for example, and the International Body of Christ.
- Spiritual Resources - God Himself, by His Spirit, Life-on-life Discipling, Churches, Pastors, Scripture.
- Economic Resources - Markets, shared economy... Inter-Village sharing.
- Time - It must not be wasted.

*[source: Francis Njoroge, Tearfund, UK]*

**Relief (Emergency / Disaster)** – the coordinated provision of urgent and temporary resources to reduce suffering from a natural or man-made crisis, in contrast to development, which is the ongoing, long-term work of helping people discover the resources God has given them, and the assistance and encouragement towards solving those problems themselves, relying upon our God. Key features of relief include the provider-receiver dynamic in which the provider gives assistance to the receiver, who is largely incapable of helping themselves at that time. It is fuelled by compassion. [See Integral Development]

**Refugee Sponsorship** – the process available for church communities to work together in supporting new Canadians for up to 2 years, who land as refugees. We share the way of Jesus through blessing them, providing basic needs, creating community for and with them, and helping them integrate in society.

**Sent/sentness** – Our God is a sending God. God the Father sent The Son, who promised and sent The Holy Spirit, and sent the Church on mission to the world. This state of “being sent” is the defining mark of the community of followers of Jesus, the Global Church. The ability to listen to God’s invitation to participate in His Mission, and to the people among whom we are sent (John 20:21) [See Calling], includes where we live right now.

**Shalom** – this is often reduced to the concept of ‘peace’. Shalom is the right and complete restoration of all things in harmony with God the Creator. Shalom is the state of flourishing life in the Garden of Eden, disrupted by the Fall, and the introduction of sin, Satan, and death. It predominates the desired blessing of God for His people Israel, and through them to the other nations of the world. It is made available to us now through the “Prince of Peace”, Jesus, for life now, and on the day of Jesus return, will culminate in the renewing of everything (Revelation 21:5) forevermore.

**Short-term Mission Trips (STMs)** – In World Partners, we have managed Volunteer Teams for some time (V-Teams) for our churches. STMs will continue to be one way that our constituents are engaged and mobilized, with support and guidance to ensure best practice from preparation to debrief. The range of STM options will include “vision tours” for discerning what God is doing in given contexts, specialized

trans-congregational teams (i.e. medical), church-led STMs where either a church-to-church partnership or a Partner-Agency-Church MOU is in place. Occasionally, STMs may be guided by World Partners Staff when Canadian church communities do not have sufficient relationship with the Global Partners.

**Tent-making** – In the First Century, Paul the Apostle, and Aquila and Priscilla were professional tentmakers, which they did in the city of Corinth to fund their living (Acts 18:3) while they shared the Gospel, and helped others follow Jesus. Today, this term may still be used for Bi-vocational or Independently-funded Global Professionals who are also desiring to see the advance of God's Kingdom but who do so out of the funding of their business, rather than the financial support of an international church community, [See also: Business As Mission, Creative Access Countries]

**Way of Jesus** – In EMCC, you will hear this term used as a descriptor for the life of a follower of Jesus, to define what we mean when we respond to Jesus' commission to go and make disciples. While NOT a program, it a way of framing one's life with Jesus, for Jesus, and in the power of the Spirit of Jesus that is described in an ongoing, continuous way. It also gives Jesus' followers everywhere a simple and transferrable way of helping anyone to follow Him in their everyday life as well. (see **Values of Our Work** section or wayofjesus.ca)