

Crafted Prayers for Finding Local Partners

God has already been at work:

Father God, long before we moved here, You began working in the hearts of your people here. Whether they be believers in the target population, near-culture believers, or someone entirely outside our grid for potential partners, we know that You have been at work. Lord, we want to rightly perceive where You are at work, and join You there. Don't let us waste time pursuing the wrong people just because they look right to us; help us to see with Your eyes the people that You would have us pursue in partnership.

Partners or Employees?

Father, we ask also that You would test our hearts - we have dreams and visions and holy ambition for the work You have entrusted to us, but we know that others You have called to reach this people also have dreams and visions. We don't want to co-opt others or simply recruit locals to become subordinate to our vision - rather we want to be people who come alongside and support the growth and development and implementation of Kingdom vision in the hearts and lives of local believers and near culture partners. Help us to look for ways to genuinely empower others - not simply so that they can be empowered to work for our vision, but rather that we might become genuine partners with them in receiving Your vision for this people and this place, and that we might receive grace to pursue that Kingdom vision together, each submitting to the other out of reverence for You. Father, in our zeal, help us to search for genuine partners in the gospel, not just employees.

Grace to Learn

Lord, we know that our understanding is limited - both of Your purposes here and of the local way of life. Help us to receive Your grace to walk as humble learners alongside our local brothers and sisters, seeking to see Your Kingdom through their eyes. Help us to both correct and be corrected. Help us to learn and to teach. Help us to envision and be envisioned. Help us to lead and to follow - and to know when to do each.

Wisdom with Finances

Father, as we seek to build genuine partnerships, help us to understand how best to use money - when to use it, when to set it aside. Help us to see the many traps that money creates in the context of partnership with local friends. Help us to be generous, and yet not create unhealthy dependency. Help us to hear You, to follow the lead of Your Spirit, knowing that different situations call for different solutions.

Knowing Where to Look

Father, help us to look in unexpected places to find the people in whom You are working. Help us to look not only to the best and brightest, but to the disaffected, the disillusioned, the troublemakers on the edges of the groups with whom we are engaging. Help us to pursue not just those we may perceive as gifted, but those who are responsive and most of all obedient.