



GLOBAL
MISSIONS

ADVOCACY TEAMS 2018

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. - Philippians 1:3-11

ADVOCACY TEAM DNA

(Original content from Upstream Collective - modified by permission)

Advocacy Teams – or A-Teams – are Calvary Boise’s tangible expression of commitment to supporting our sent ones. They are what we believe the Holy Spirit is leading Calvary Boise to accomplish in order to live out our Missions Convictions (see calvaryboise.com).

These teams will serve as the primary link between the church as a whole and the sent one(s) making A-Teams the most integral aspect of effective sending for successful gospel proclamation among the nations.

DEFINITION OF AN ADVOCACY TEAM

Simply put, the ultimate goal of Calvary Boise’s Advocacy Teams is providing biblical love and care for all sent ones.

Advocacy Teams are groups of church members who deeply love their sent ones. They are made up of 4-15 individuals centered around a team leader placed under the pastoral authority of the local church. Collectively, they advocate on behalf of the sent ones to the church and advocate on behalf of the church to the sent ones. *This is accomplished most basically by ongoing relationship through communication, prayer, and giving.* Because of the bond formed with their Advocacy Team members, sent ones can be open and honest; allowing the team to see their strengths, weaknesses, successes, failures, and needs.

There are two major categories of service in Advocacy Teams: *care and representation*. Teams' success depends on their ability to fulfill these roles from the time that the sent one(s) prepares to leave for the field until they return.

1. **CARE** - All sent ones live in physically, emotionally, and spiritually challenging environments. Some are raising children far from extended family. Others struggle with cultural adjustments and language barriers. Most significantly, all serve on the front lines of spiritual warfare. For survival and spiritual health, *sent ones need assurance that they are not alone, that others in the body of Christ love them and are committed to their welfare and success*. Sent ones need empathetic listeners— compassionate, caring friends who are not in a supervisory role. This also involves identifying specific needs that the team can meet or organize others in our church to meet.
2. **REPRESENTATION** - Among their family, friends, coworkers, bible studies, etc., Advocacy Team members champion their sent one(s) and their mission. They call for ongoing participation in the sent ones' lives and ministries even though they are far away. Through the united effort of the Advocacy Teams at Calvary Boise to live out the vision of sending well, the general congregation can sense a healthy ongoing connection to the sent one(s) and vice versa.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SENT ONES, A-TEAMS, & CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The ultimate success of the mission, corporate health of the sending church, and health of the sent ones directly correlates to 1) the church leadership's encouragement, training, and accountability for team leaders, 2) the team member's level of commitment and execution, and most importantly, 3) the sent one's willingness to stay connected from afar.

It is important for all parties involved to clearly understand the seriousness and degree of commitment required to successfully accomplish front-line missions. Each person – from the team member, to the Lead Pastor and Missions Pastor of Calvary Boise, to the sent one on the field – must understand their role and responsibilities. If we don't do this together, it will compromise the overall success of the mission, harm the sent one, and hurt the sending culture at Calvary Boise.

SENT ONE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Build and Cultivate A-Team Members** – Sent ones who are yet to depart are responsible for establishing and cultivating their own teams *before* being sent out. They are also responsible for effectively leading and growing their team while away. Therefore the quality of the team will depend in large part on the sent ones level of investment.
 - a. For sent ones that are already on the field, Calvary Boise will aid in establishing Advocacy Teams on their behalf but the responsibility for cultivating and leading the team remains on the sent one.
2. **Communicate** – Relationships require multiple parties to mutually put in time and effort. It is expected that those on the field will do their due diligence to communicate with the Church Leadership and their A-Teams. Specific topics of discussion are; ministry vision and progress of specific ministries, status of financial support and any urgent financial needs, health issues, ministry and family praise reports, general issues and challenges, ministry opportunities, prayer requests, etc.

ADVOCACY TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The foundation of an A-Team begins with at least one committed team leader. They are usually the ones who have the deepest existing connection with the sent one(s) or the calling or passion to develop one. Team leaders take on the responsibility of organizing the team's functions for ultimate success. They do this in several ways but most notably by planning and scheduling team meetings and checking-in on each team member's progress in their responsibilities.

NOTE: The sent one and Pastor Martin are responsible for vetting and appointing/replacing all team leaders, clarifying their responsibilities, and ensuring they are executed with excellence.

The Team Leader(s) will:

1. **Initial Gathering** – Once the Team Leader is appointed, the team should take time in the beginning to meet over a meal and get to know one another and how they are connected to the sent one(s).
2. **Contact the Sent One(s)** – The Team Leader will contact the sent one(s) and invite them to the first team meeting via FaceTime (etc.) to introduce themselves to the team. The Team Leader will also facilitate future quarterly fellowship times, inviting the sent one to FaceTime in to these meetings also.

3. **Gather the Team Regularly** – The Team Leader will determine a regular time and place to meet. Ideally, meetings will be kept short – around an hour to an hour and a half.
4. **Encourage the Team** – The Team Leader will lovingly encourage the team members to execute their responsibilities faithfully and with excellence.

ADVOCACY TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

While the sent ones are on the field, A-Team members will be recruited during weekend services, via word-of-mouth from existing team members, etc. A good balance is for team members to commit to the sent ones' next full term (time between state-side visits), which is usually around 2 years. Depending on team members' seasons of life, they may need to step out of their role on the Advocacy Team. If so, the team member should look for a replacement for themselves alongside the church leadership and the rest of the A-Team members.

Team Members will:

1. **PRAY** – The most critical role of Advocacy Teams is to pray together as a team and on an individual basis. It is ideal that our missionaries are lifted up daily even if in just a quick, individual prayer. Corporate prayer is powerful and so we encourage meeting up on a regular basis, as often as possible but preferably no later than monthly. The sent one(s) should ease this process by providing up-to-date prayer needs. Also, it is important that the Advocacy Team share with church leadership urgent prayer needs so that the church can pray corporately during weekend services.
2. **FELLOWSHIP** – Time together over meals and conversation is imperative to a healthy church family therefore we desire that teams meet up each quarter for fellowship. This time can also be used to pray, share important updates, plan projects, and/or communicate with the sent one(s) via FaceTime, Skype, etc.
3. **RELATIONSHIP** – It's extremely rare for sent ones to maintain healthy relationships back home. Part of providing care for them is the commitment to stay connected. Team members should make a goal of personally connecting at least once a month. This can happen through phone/FaceTime/Skype calls, emails, videos, social media, texting, handwritten letters, or any number of creative ways.
4. **GIVE** – Money is a tool to permit kingdom expansion. It also aids a family to simply get by. Therefore, we encourage all A-Team members to partner with their sent ones "in the gospel" through sponsoring them financially. Calvary Boise has

a user friendly giving platform called Giving Fuel that accepts donations and allows you to share the cause on FaceBook or through text, email, etc. (check out the missions page at calvaryboise.com or ask Pastor Martin should you need help with this). Also, depending on the circumstances, nothing says “I love you” to sent ones like a box full of American goodies. If care packages aren’t an option, consider ways to bless your sent ones regularly and let them know you’re thinking of them.

5. **VISIT** – It won’t be possible for all teams, and it isn’t a requirement, but entire teams or individual team members may visit their sent one(s) on the field. This could be a life-changing experience for both the Advocacy Team and the sent one(s). Please keep in touch with the Calvary Boise Global Missions office to find out when a team will be serving your sent one next – CBGM is committed to visiting each mission on a rotating basis every 1-3 years and our goal is to populate these trips with committed A-Team members!
6. **SEND OFF AND WELCOME HOME** – Some of the hardest times for sent ones takes places when preparing to leave for the field and when returning home (permanently or on furlough). There are many needs during these times like housing, transportation, etc. Advocacy Teams should be prepared to discover those needs and seek to meet them as much as possible, and also advocate them to friends, family, and the greater church body (by communicating them to the Missions Pastor).

CHURCH LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The Global Missions Pastor (currently Martin Taylor) will serve by;

1. Effectively identify future missionaries and equip them for the work of missions.
2. Communicate with the sent one monthly.
3. Facilitate/Communicate urgent announcements/prayer requests to the greater church family, pastor team, and elder board.
4. Facilitate/Communicate A-Team events on the church calendar.
5. Provide ongoing training to the greater church family, pastor team, and elder board.
6. Provide accountability for A-Teams and sent ones.

A-TEAM MEMBER PRO TIPS

Here are lots of tips for success as a sender at Calvary Boise:

GET EDUCATED

- o Understand missions and the biblical role of a sender (see book list at the end of this booklet).
- o Ideally the team is formed before the sent one is officially sent out from Calvary Boise. As such, spend time with them and their families prior to their departure. Get to know them and their kids on a personal level. If they are already on the field, do this throughout regular communication.
- o Ask specific questions about their lives: What kind of work are they doing? What does a typical day look like? What are their living arrangements? What is transportation like? What is it like to shop for food or cook there? What is the climate and how does it affect them? How are they treated by the locals? How are their children treated by the locals? Do they work on a team? If so, how are their relationships within the team?
- o Ask specific questions about the culture: What is the host culture's attitude toward time: slow or fast-paced? Do locals tend to be more task-oriented or people-oriented? Are the locals generally open to interacting with foreigners? What is their attitude toward Americans? How welcoming are the national and local governments to foreigners like themselves? What is the level of risk in operating in the host country? If a high level of risk is involved, what kinds of precautions do they take to do their work? What are the prevailing beliefs in the area? What is the level of oppression, including outright demonic activity in the area? How does this affect them and their family? How healthy is the local church? What kind of interaction do they have with the local church?
- o Ask specific questions about their projects: What are their objectives? How are they pursuing those objectives? What obstacles have they run into? What are some encouraging aspects of the work going on there? What are some discouraging aspects of the work?
- o Read up on current events in their country and/or region, and ask how these events affect their lives and/or ministry.

PRAY A LOT

- o Beginning six months before their departure, meet with the sent one(s) monthly for prayer.
- o After their departure, communicate regularly to develop a working prayer list. Use the list to pray individually daily and as a team weekly and during meet-ups.
- o Pray for your missionary in your small group, with your family, and in your own prayer time.
- o Pray not only for the sent one(s), but also for the people whom they serve, and seek to reach.

COMMUNICATE OFTEN

- o Text, email, write them on Facebook/Instagram, make a Skype call, or send a letter at least once a month.
- o Send birthday cards, anniversary cards, Christmas cards, etc.
- o Send them a gift card they can use online for digital goods, such as iTunes or Amazon.
- o Ask if they have any practical needs that the Advocacy Team and/or the church body could help with.
- o Ask questions about their physical, emotional, and spiritual health.
- o Inform them of recent happenings with the church, in your own life, and around your city.
- o Understand that life on the field is just as full (if not more so) than life in the US, and that you may not immediately hear back from them. If they do not respond within a week or so, try again. If they continue to be non-responsive, contact church leadership.

BOLDLY REPRESENT

- o Keep in contact with church leaders to be able to relate pertinent information about the sent one(s) to them (and vice versa).
- o Follow existing channels for communicating prayer requests to the entire church like @global.missions Instagram and the Global Missions email list. Also, provide input as necessary.

- o Distribute the sent ones' prayer cards to anyone interested outside of Calvary Boise. Also know that prayer cards will be in the lobby and that the church will reprint as needed.
- o Invite others to join the Advocacy Team. Obtain new member's email addresses and relay them to church leaders so they can receive the sent ones' updates and prayer requests.

PROVIDE GENEROUSLY

- o Ask if they need assistance in areas of personal business, such as preparing taxes or registering for absentee ballots during elections.
- o If they will be coming home on furlough, ask them whether or not they need assistance finding housing or a vehicle.
- o Offer to help clean their temporary residence or stock their pantry before they return.
- o Coordinate meals and/or childcare for them the first week of their arrival.

SEND OFF AND WELCOME HOME

- o While they are in the pre-field stage, meet together (with the team) once a month for prayer and encouragement.
- o As the departure date draws near, offer assistance in packing, moving, shopping, and/or childcare.
- o If possible, be present at the airport when they depart and return.
- o Read a book about sent ones to better understand their experience (ask Pastor Martin which are recommended).
- o Read a book about reentry to better relate to them (ask Pastor Martin which are recommended).
- o If needed, assist in securing housing and a vehicle before they return. To broadcast the need to the church, be sure to ask or Pastor Martin to do a bulletin/verbal announcement 6-8 weeks in advance.
- o When they come home, schedule time with them to ask questions, see pictures, and talk about life in their host country. To schedule an event at the church (or get it announced at the church), be sure to ask Pastor Martin 6-8 weeks in advance.
- o After they return, pray with them about their host country, including their friends and contacts in the host country.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Let the Nations be Glad by John Piper

Introduction to Global Missions by Zane Pratt

Church Planting Movements by David Garrison

All Authority by Joey Shaw

Serving as Senders by Neal Pirolo

Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation



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