

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Partners International?

- A Christian faith-based organization founded in 1943 that brings Canadians into partnership with indigenous Christian ministries
- Registered as a Canadian charity that supports more than 100 partner ministries in more than 50 countries on four continents
- Focuses its work on the most difficult, least resourced and least reached parts of the world

### What does Partners International do?

- Provides opportunities for Canadians to share their financial resources with Christian ministry workers in the developing world
- Contributes to and enhances the charitable and missions-related goals of Canadian donors
- Identifies and establishes partnership with the most strategic, indigenously-led Christian ministries that are effectively serving their communities
- Through partner ministries, helps to: proclaim the Good News, care for women, children, the sick and the poor, train leaders, plant churches, and provide humanitarian and emergency aid

### Who does Partners International partner with?

- Christian organizations in developing nations that fit with our mission, values and doctrinal statements
- Indigenous groups that have the vision and potential to break through existing cultural, religious or political barriers to achieve significant new growth
- Organizations with a solid base of local people who believe in their ministry and are involved in it
- Ministries that desire to gain economic independence, and that are both willing and able to report how they have used partnership funding

### Where does Partners International work?

- Our partners are active in Africa, Asia, China, India, Indonesia, Latin America, Middle East and Eastern Europe

## **How do Canadians contribute?**

- By sponsoring children, students and church planters
- By supporting projects that help our partners construct church buildings, start schools, drill wells and carry out a host of other initiatives. Many of these gift items can be found in the Harvest of Hope catalogue.
- By participating in trips organized to provide practical assistance to those served by our field partners

## **What are the advantages of partnership?**

- Cooperative advantage: partnership provides a tangible way for Canadians to work with Christians in the developing world, matching people who need resources with those who can provide them.
- Economic advantage: A Canadian donor can achieve significant ministry returns for a relatively small financial investment. Western dollars stretch further in the developing world. It's responsible stewardship to use Western resources in ways that will make the most difference.
- Cultural advantage: partnering with indigenous organizations reduces barriers of language and culture in reaching out to communities in need. Local Christians are best positioned to determine strategies and approaches for communicating the good news. Effective partnerships mean more people can be served in ways that are meaningful to them.
- Geographic advantage: The majority of the world's Christians live outside the Western world, in countries where economic needs are great. Many countries that were once tightly sealed against the good news now allow discreet evangelism by their own citizens. In these countries, indigenous partnerships are the only way to reach the population.

## **What safeguards has Partners instituted to avoid unhealthy dependence by partner ministries?**

- Partners doesn't send money directly to individuals, pastors or local churches, but works with organizations that agree to pursue mutual accountability with us.
- Partners gives resources based on more than just need alone in considering partnership, we look for organizations that have clear, measurable and achievable goals and objectives, written policies and procedures to guide staff, adequate personnel and local credibility.
- Partners believes that underwriting 100% of a ministry's need is not in that ministry's best interests. We encourage ministries to become self-supporting.

## **Where can I go for more information?**

- Visit our web site: [www.partnersinternational.ca](http://www.partnersinternational.ca)
- Visit our head office at: 8500 Torbram Road, Unit 56, Brampton, ON L6T 5C6
- Contact Tom McLagan, Director of Development at 905.458.1202, ext. 228 or toll free at 1.800.883.7697. Email Tom at: [tomm@partnersinternational.ca](mailto:tomm@partnersinternational.ca).