

THE SLIEDRECHT FAMILY

September 2023

Lake Michigan



Our daughter, Miriam, got married to Bol Duot on July 27

Barnabas Teams

At Global Outreach International, we seek to help the local church send out well-prepared and well-cared for missionaries. Missionaries often need preparation and care in unique ways because of the rigors of cross-cultural living and the stress that inherently comes with their many seasons of transition. In fact, many missionaries leave the field early due to these rigors and the lack of care. So for the past year, to help mitigate attrition and provide that necessary care, I have been revamping & further developing a curriculum for our missionaries to establish their own, personal, well-trained Barnabas Teams. A Barnabas Team is a missionary's inner-circle support team that they have prayerfully chosen. It's a small group of people who have committed to partner with the missionary in purposeful prayer and accountability and in proactive spiritual, emotional, practical, professional care.



Barnabas Team Training - Introduction

In the book of Acts, there is a disciple, Joseph, "whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement')" (Acts 4:36), likely because he was notable for encouraging others. Barnabas definitely lived up to his name. He stood up for and recommended Saul (Paul) as a fellow disciple when no one else trusted or accepted him (Acts 9:26-27). He encouraged the new Greek Christians "to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith." He brought Saul to join him in teaching the new Christians in Antioch, and through Barnabas' ministry with Saul, the believers in Antioch learned to be like Jesus in their words, actions and overall conduct. In fact, Barnabas and Saul were so much like

In the last 1.5 years, Global has mobilized long-term missionaries to Alaska, Armenia, Belize, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Israel, Kenya, Mongolia, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, and Uganda (x12!). These are photos of some of them:



Christ, that early “Christ-followers” were called Christians for the first time in Antioch. Barnabas and Saul built up such a rapport with the Christians at Antioch that they entrusted Barnabas and Saul to bring funds they had collected for famine relief to Judea (Acts 11:22-30). The Holy Spirit then set apart and sent Barnabas and Saul to spread the Gospel beginning in Cyprus, where Barnabas was from. It was there where they were no longer called Barnabas and Saul, but

Paul and Barnabas, signifying the humble role Barnabas played in encouraging and mentoring Saul (Acts 13). Acts 13-15 gives a picture of Paul and Barnabas’ partnership in mission and ministry.

And just as Barnabas stood-up for, encouraged, mentored, and ministered with Paul, he did the same for Mark even when Paul rejected him, and so much so that Paul



later asked Timothy to take Mark to him, since he had become useful to him in ministry. (See Col 4:10; Ac 13:5; 15:37-39; 2 Tim 4:10)



We believe in the value of teams of Barnabases and seek to be like Barnabas ourselves, to help missionaries thrive and flourish, to partner with them in life and ministry, to have a deep relationship with them, and to encourage them and mentor them.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the Gospel with us as we seek to mobilize disciple-making movements around the world with

[Global Outreach International.](#)



Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially, or increasing your giving?

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