

**International Cooperating Ministries (ICM)**  
**Partnership Expectations**  
***Keys To An Effective Church Growth Partnership***

This document is a summary of the expectations ICM has for in-country ministries that become Church Growth Partners. Together with our Partners, we seek to nurture believers and assist church growth worldwide, and to see people, communities and nations transformed through Jesus Christ and His Church. If after reading these expectations you feel that your ministry qualifies to become a Partner please complete a Questionnaire or contact ICM at [icm@icm.org](mailto:icm@icm.org).

- Commitment to Nurture Believers Through the Use of Mini Bible College (MBC): Mini Bible College is a devotionally practical survey of the Bible. As a part of the exploration for a partnership, ICM asks that the potential partner review the MBC content via a sample of programs along with the accompanying printed material. The ability to designate a specific **Nurturing Coordinator** is essential; this individual will work with ICM's Director of Partnership Review to work out a "Nurturing Plan" (Discipleship Plan).

If there is another curriculum in place for nurturing the believers, two things are required:

1. The current discipleship program is to be provided to ICM and
2. MBC is to be implemented in the churches our Partnership builds, and following a test period, ICM informed of results

- Develop A Model of Church To Be Built: Church Growth Partnership building projects are typically built in rural areas and the use of a *standard* or *model* building plan, established up-front, allows both sides of the Partnership to have the same expectation as projects are submitted for approval. This model plan should include the dimensions, basic materials (e.g., cement block or brick, stucco finish, type of roof), cost, a sketch (a blueprint is not needed) of the building and the time-to-build. Attention should be given to roof water drainage. By having an agreed-upon model plan established, approvals will go more quickly given that there will be no need to go back-and-forth with questions on the plans.

Partners must have the resources to designate a **Building Coordinator** to oversee the construction of each project. Having construction experience is an important qualification of this person.

- Have Administrative Capability: Have a **designated administrator**, who will handle submitting pictures and requesting project payments, receiving and directing payments for projects, submitting reports and prayer requests, and responding to ICM's questions in a timely manner.
- Have Financial Capability: to help assure that projects started will be finished on-time, on-quality and on-budget, ICM expects the Church Growth Partner to have the financial capability to purchase the land needed for each church and to cover all office and administrative expenses, including communications and oversight of the ICM church building program. A partner must have a bank account in the name of the organization and not an individual.
- Use Partnership Website: Once a Partnership is approved, access to our Partnership Website is established, including providing a Partner with a Username and Password. This is a means to submit applications, payment requests and reports. The website also becomes a source of information regarding the status of the Partnership and its projects. The Partner needs to be able to find answers to certain questions without writing to us and waiting for an answer. For frequently asked questions: [partners.icm.org](http://partners.icm.org).

- Training of Pastors: Pastors of churches built through the Partnership are to have at least 1 year of Bible training and to engage in ongoing training available to them. MBC study material can be used to provide a good biblical foundation and can be a source for further study for pastors. The Partner is also expected to have a source for training new pastors, so that as new churches are planned, there will be pastors available.
- Qualifying Congregations: A potential Partner should have at least 30 of these congregations. The characteristics of a “qualifying congregation” are noted below.
  - land owned by Partner
  - designated pastor dedicated to only the one congregation; this is asked so that the pastor may devote time to the nurturing of the congregation, the growth of the church and the planting of daughter congregations
  - at least 100 members or attendees with a minimum of 80 adults
  - 15 kilometer distance from other evangelizing bible believing churches, having 100 congregants and a church building, with a focus on rural areas
  - willingness and ability to plant 5 Daughter Congregations
- Covenant Fund Contributions: The Covenant Fund exists to help grow the body of Christ, and to give the partnering organization a tool for the continuation of church building for its daughter congregations if and when the Partnership is discontinued. Through its signed application, each church covenants to pay into an in-country fund, controlled by the in-country Partner, for the exclusive use of constructing other churches or purchasing the land on which to construct a church building. This expectation is also intended to demonstrate gratitude to God for His provisions. ICM does not set the amount but does ask that an amount, or percentage, be set to facilitate the work of the Partner and their churches.
- Maintaining Buildings to the Honor of the Lord: Every church building is to glorify God! We believe that one aspect of this is to maintain His house in an excellent manner. This includes maintaining the paint on the building (in some areas this means being painted once a year), maintaining the grounds surrounding the church, and maintaining the inside floors and walls. Any structural damage should be repaired. The cost of maintenance is the responsibility of the in-country Partner.
- Activity and Nurturing Reports: Activity Reports on the life of each building project are due every 6 months following a church’s dedication, for a 3-year period. Nurturing Reports on the Partnership’s use of the MBC curriculum are due every 6 months, for as long as the MBC curriculum is in use. We expect our Partner to help with this by providing timely reports, since it is in the Partnership’s best interest and is a part of our combined stewardship. Reports are submitted through the Partner Website using forms provided.
- Responsibility for Budget Overruns: Once a budget is agreed to, it must be adhered to. If the construction of a project goes above the budget ICM agreed to fund, overruns will be the responsibility of the church and in-country Partner.
- Statement of Faith: ICM’s statement of faith may be viewed on the ICM website ([icm.org](http://icm.org)). ICM has adopted the Lausanne Covenant as its statement of faith. A Church Growth Partner is expected to agree with the Lausanne Covenant, which can be viewed at [lausanne.org/lausanne-1974/lausanne-covenant](http://lausanne.org/lausanne-1974/lausanne-covenant).

For further details on these Partnership points, please see our *Church Growth Partnership Manual*.