

# BSM SENDING PARTNERSHIP PATHWAY

*training up catalysts to start multiplying gospel movements on every campus*

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## OVERVIEW

We want to be a part of seeing God move mightily on our campus. We want to see every student on Tarleton's campus be within arm's length of the gospel. As the LORD continues to move on our campus we also realize that we are strategically positioned to be a launch pad for gospel workers into the world. Every student that comes into our ministry has a shelf life. They all leave eventually. We want to take the posture that students don't leave, they are *sent!* Like arrows, we launch them into the harvest field to be gospel multipliers in ministry, on campus, overseas, or the marketplace (Luke 10:2). We are praying expectantly as students invest in our ministry and are trained in disciple-making that God will call many of them to plant their lives on the college campus in order to see this work multiply itself throughout our state and the nation - whether short-term or long-term, a lead planter, a key staff person, or a supportive marketplace worker who seeks employment in the city to be community to the campus ministry team.

## DISCLAIMERS

- AN ART NOT A SCIENCE - This document is an attempt to write out how we help send those who are seeking to plant work on a college campus in a manner worthy of God so that we too may be fellow workers for the truth (3 John 6, 8). There are expectations and plans, but we want to be a Spirit-led people. The structure is in place to facilitate people, not vice versa. The fruit comes from the vine, not the trellis that supports it. We tend to the trellis, we care for the vine. We tend to the sending framework, but we care for the people. That is our heart throughout this process.
- WE NEED THE LOCAL CHURCH - We don't function without our local churches. And for us to say "every church is like \_\_\_\_" would be folly. Within the church's role we recognize that each church will have their own preferences. This is not meant to twist a church's arm into how they send our mutual students, but as we've sent out 100s of students over the past decade we have seen there are some things that set up the sent ones for success. These are best practices that need to be adapted to the specific local church.

## 3 KEY PLAYERS

This process will rest on the ability for the candidate, his/her local church, and the BSM to work in tandem to ensure that the right person is sent at the right time to the right place in the right way. The keys to this process will be **communication, humility, submission, and honesty** on the part of all the key players. Without the work of all three players the Candidate will not be sent in a manner that brings honor to the LORD. The three key players are:

- Tarleton BSM
- Local Church
- The Candidate

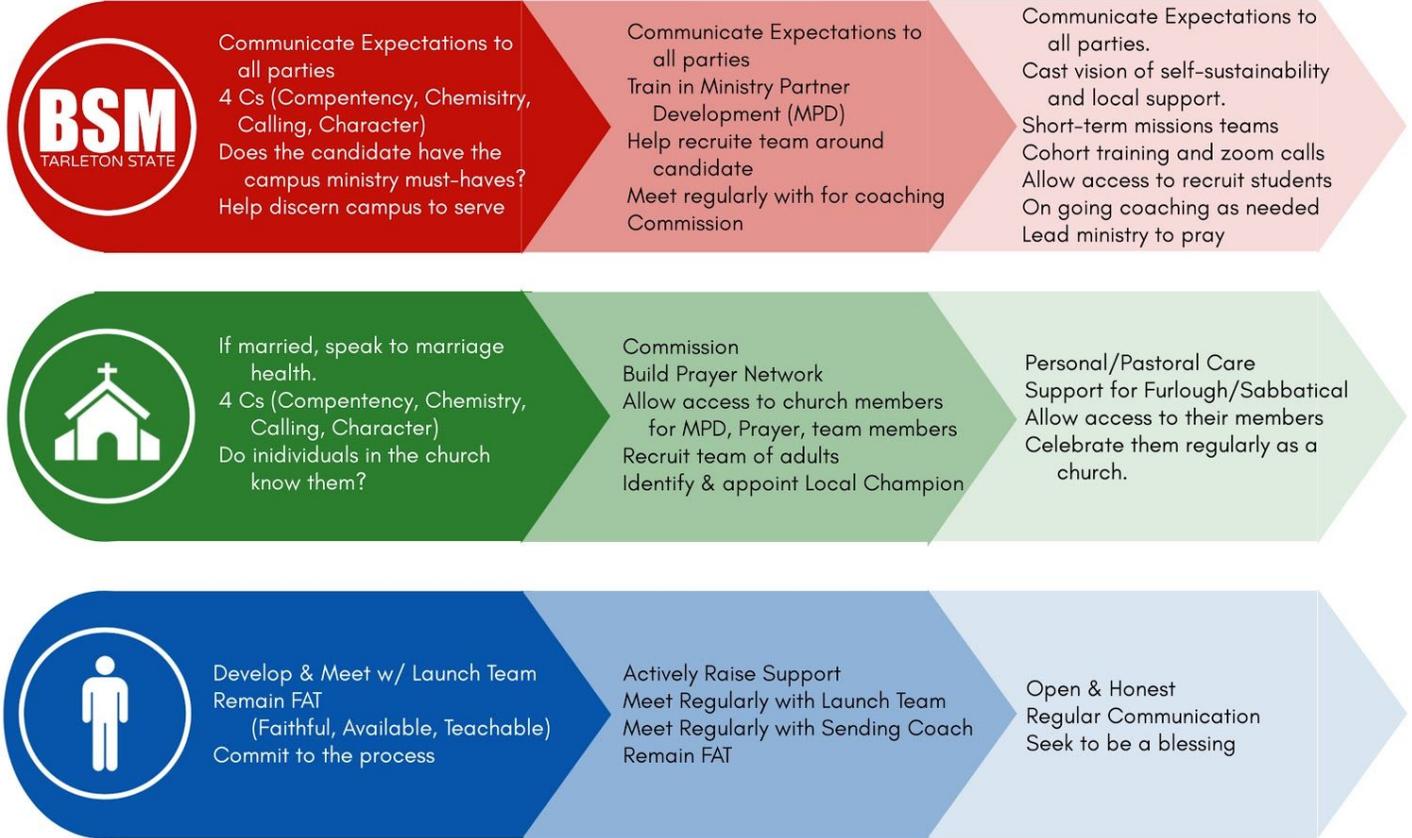
## 3 STAGES IN THE PROCESS

- ASSESS - Is the candidate ready to go? Do they have the character/calling/competency/chemistry to be sent?
- SEND - How do we give them the tools to get to the harvest field and succeed?
- CARE - How do we care for the candidates in our network once they are on the field and what are the expectations?

## ASSESS

## SEND

## CARE



## ASSESS PHASE

*As potential Candidates step forward and seek to be sent the ASSESS phase will begin. During this phase the candidate will meet with a “launch team” made up of a designated BSM Staff member, a church staff member, and a key lay church member. Each of these individuals will offer insight to different part of the candidate’s life and help to assess their calling, character, competency, and chemistry before being sent.*

### BSM ROLE

- **CALLING** - The BSM will work alongside the Candidate to discern if this is something God is calling them to do. How has God spoken to them? How has the community of faith affirmed this? Do their giftings, experience, and passions line up with this next step?
- **COMPETENCY** - The BSM will work to assess the Candidate’s ability to work within the ministry structure of campus ministry. They will assess the Candidates ability to work with and relate to college students, create and communicate vision, participate in and train others in evangelism, discipleship, and missions, and partner with the local church as the missions arm to the college campus. Is it evident that the Candidate can *do* the ministry expected of them? Previous performance can speak to likelihood of future success. This will include evaluating and speaking to the Candidates other giftings.
- **CHEMISTRY** - The BSM will speak to the Candidate’s chemistry when working with others. Does the Candidate understand and fit within the vision and ministry they are headed to, show understanding and skills that align

with their personal conviction, and has the ability to work well with others? Would you want this person on your team? If not, perhaps they shouldn't be sent?

- **CHARACTER** - The BSM will speak to the Candidate's character based on their experiences with them on the mission field. *Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9*
  - Fruits of the Spirit
  - Integrity
  - Honesty
  - Faithfulness
  - Availability
  - Teachability
  - Work Ethic
  - Ability to make decisions
  - Response to stress
- **PRAYER** - The BSM is expected to stay faithful in prayer, seeking the Lord's guidance and discernment on the direction and instruction offered to the Candidate.

#### **LOCAL CHURCH ROLE**

- **CALLING** - The Local Church will also speak to the Candidate's calling to help develop a multi-faceted view of what God is doing in order to discern if this is something God is calling them to do? How has God spoken to them? Has this been seen in the life of the church? Do their giftings, experience, and passions line up with this next step?
- **COMPETENCIES** - The Local Church will speak to the Candidates ability to serve within the local church setting. They will speak to the candidate's interrelationships within the church, their marriage, family dynamics, etc.
  - This will include evaluating and speaking to the Candidate's gifting played out within the local church.
- **CHARACTER** - The Local Church will speak to the Candidate's character and personality based on their experiences serving with them in the local church.
  - Fruits of the Spirit
  - Integrity
  - Honesty
  - Faithfulness
  - Availability
  - Teachability
  - Grit
  - Work Ethic
  - Ability to make decisions
  - Response to stress
- **PRAYER** - The Local Church is expected to stay faithful in prayer, seeking The Lord's guidance and discernment on the direction and instruction offered to the Candidate.

#### **CANDIDATE ROLE**

*The Candidate's expectations during this phase will differ from those of The BSM and The Local Church.*

- **MEET WITH LAUNCH TEAM** - The Candidate will meet with their launch team to discuss their calling, character, competency, and chemistry. Their Launch Team will consist of a staff member from their church, 1-2 key adults/couples, and a BSM staff. The goal of the Launch Team is to assist and advocate for the Candidate.
- **FAITHFUL** - The Candidate will be expected to be faithful in their time and resources during this process. They are expected to stay faithful to their current ministry, church, and relationships.

- **AVAILABLE** - The Candidate will be expected to be available to meet with their sending/launch team as a group and as individuals.
- **TEACHABLE** - The Candidate will be expected to be open to instruction and guidance and willing to listen and apply what they are taught from their sending/launch team.
- **PRAYER** - The Candidate is expected to stay faithful in prayer, seeking The Lord's guidance on the direction they are moving.

## **SEND PHASE**

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*If the Candidate is assessed and it is determined to be a candidate ready for the field then we will begin the SEND phase. The BSM and the Local Church will need to both be ok with moving forward with the Candidate. There are elements of this phase that will be present in the ASSESS phase so the transition has some overlap.*

### **BSM ROLE**

- **COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS** - The BSM will need to continue to communicate expectations to the Candidate and their local church. During the Sending process the local church has given their blessing to move forward to the BSM is holding the line as to the expectations and timeline for the launch.
- **WORK WITH CAMPUS AND TEAM (IF ANY) ON THE FIELD** - Because of the connections with the BSM's network of campus ministry the BSM will work with the Candidate to make sure reception and timeline are moving forward
- **TRAIN IN MPD** - BSM will be sure to train Candidate in Ministry Partner Development in order to better prepare them to raise their salary and ministry budget.
- **GIVE PLATFORM AND ASSIST IN RECRUITING TEAM** - The BSM will actively pursue recent graduates and staff to join the team and move along the Candidate.
- **REGULAR COACHING** - The BSM Staff Rep on the Launch Team will meet regularly (at least monthly) to assess the Sending process and how the candidate is doing with training, MPD, etc.
- **COMMISSION** - The BSM will want to commission the Candidate in some way before they and their team leave. This will not take place of the commissioning that happens in their local church but in addition too.

### **LOCAL CHURCH ROLE**

- **ALLOW ACCESS TO ITS MEMBERS FOR MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP** - Longitudinal success for the Candidate leans heavily on the buy-in of their local church. Because of its student turnover rate, the BSM has a very short memory. In four years time, no one knows the Candidate after they leave. The more the whole church is aware of the SENDING, the better support they will have.
  - **PRAYER** - help the Candidate connect with the "prayer-ers" in the church.
  - **FINANCIAL PARTNERS** - nothing can boost a Candidate's confidence more than knowing their local church is backing them. One of the most tangible ways is monthly/annual financial partnership, but more than that is giving the Candidate a platform (list of names, introductions, access to Sunday School classes, stage time, etc) to ask individuals and families in the church to become monthly financial partners.
  - **TEAM RECRUITING** - Is there a family, empty nesters or some 20 somethings in the church that would be open to moving alongside the candidate to their campus so they have a community of believers and a "host family". Think of the families and older couples that have made college such a rich experience for students while at the BSM?

- IDENTIFY A LOCAL CHAMPION FOR THE CANDIDATE - Who is the couple or individual that will continue to bang the drum and keep them in the church's memory after they transition to the field? Who will be the consistent one who keeps up with them and makes sure the church knows what is going on? Ideally this will not be a staff person. The church will help the Candidate identify this person.
- LAUNCH TEAM MEETINGS - The church will work with the designated BSM staff to meet with the Candidate through this process in order to celebrate the victories, and troubleshoot the challenges.
- COMMISSION - When the time comes for the Candidate to leave the local church will need to commission their missionary and celebrate their obedience and their new ministry in the harvest field.

#### **CANDIDATE ROLE**

- MEET WITH LAUNCH TEAM - The Candidate will meet with their Launch Team for encouragement and updates about how the process is going.
- MEET WITH BSM STAFF - The Candidate will meet with their BSM staff for continued coaching and training through the process. Think of the BSM staff as their coach/guide/advocate through this process.
- RAISING SALARY AND MINISTRY BUDGET - The Candidate must be fully funded before they head to the field.
- COMPLETE REQUIRED TRAINING - As the Candidate works through this process their will be reading and various assignments in preparation for the field. They are expected to complete it within the timeframe.
- FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE, TEACHABLE - Continue to be FAT throughout the process.

## **CARE PHASE**

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*The Candidate has been assessed and sent! The moment they shut the door on the U-haul or hop on the plane the CARE Phase begins. By God's grace, the church and the BSM have just birthed a Missionary and just like a newborn baby, the birth is only the beginning. In order to see the Missionary succeed personally and in ministry there needs to be a plan to care for them. There are variables in this phase that will make this more fluid: the Missionary's needs and the local support system they develop. Each of the variables require us to be connected and aware with what is going on with our Missionary on the field and adjust accordingly. There will be more CARE up front but will taper off and look different the longer the Missionary is on the field. This would be an overview of what the first 1-2 years could look like:*

#### **BSM ROLE**

- VISION OF SUSTAINABLE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT - Some people will launch and not need a lot of coaching or support, others will need more. Some will walk into a place where there is a strong support system of believers already in place and so they will plug in there quickly, others may not have a strong Christian community and will have to build one. It would be inappropriate for the BSM and the Local Stephenville Church be the sole, continual source of community and support for a Missionary after several years. The BSM will continue to seek and promote plugging in to that system on the field.
- SHORT-TERM TEAM SUPPORT - the BSM, if semester schedules allow, will send student teams of Tarleton students to help with the work, do member care, and encourage the work going on. At minimum, a visit from a BSM staff person.
- ONGOING TRAINING AND COACHING - BSM staff will remain in consistent, regular contact with the Missionary. Weekly texts, Monthly Video conversations, Quarterly Cohort Meetings with other Missionaries.
- PRAYER - The BSM will be in contact regularly to gather and distribute prayer requests and pray for them.
- ALLOW TO RECRUIT FROM STUDENTS - The Missionary will be invited and encouraged to recruit existing Tarleton students to their ministry teams.

## LOCAL CHURCH ROLE

- PERSONAL/PASTORAL CARE - The local church is in a prime position to remain connected at least on a monthly basis to check in with the Missionary to talk through their emotional and spiritual well-being, do marriage/relationship check-ins, see how church involvement is going.
- FURLOUGH SUPPORT - The local church and her members will help arrange logistics of housing and transportation when the Missionary circles back through Stephenville. Just and they've *sent* them well, they will want to *receive* them well.
- ALLOW ACCESS TO MEMBERS - As Missionaries get on the field and needs arise - relationally, physically, mentally, spiritually - the local church will want to encourage its members to be involved in the life and support of the missionary. It can't be "just a staff thing" because staff change.
- CELEBRATE THEM FROM STAGE - When the Missionary is back, give them time on Sunday morning. Video call them in during the semester. Celebrate their victories and pray for their struggles when the church gathers.

## MISSIONARY ROLE

- OPEN AND HONEST - The tendency is to pretend like everything is ok until it's beyond repair. The Missionary isn't on a spiritual pedestal and is not immune to failure - everyone knows this, so there will be clear, open, and honest communication about how everything is going.
- REGULAR COMMUNICATION - At least monthly communication to the Local Church and BSM. There must be intentionality about communicating back with the LOCAL CHURCH and the BSM. How can they pray with insight and intentionality if they never hear? How can they be a partner in the gospel without knowing what's going on?
- GIVE BACK - The Missionary isn't just a receiver of the partnership, they are the giver in the partnership. Their experience and insight is needed to help equip others to follow in their footsteps. They are expected to seek to be a blessing.