



Care Pro Tips

Clint Clifton once reflected: “In my experience, church planters who give up on the ministry usually feel a sense of despair brought on by severe isolation.”¹ Sending Churches should commit to do everything they can to guard their planter and his family from isolation and despair. An intentional, proactive plan to care for the planting team will go a long way toward this.

Here are a few tips to help you care for your planter:

1. Think holistically

Take some time to consider how your church can care for multiple aspects of your planter’s health. A lack of health spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially, mentally, familially and maritally can hurt your planter’s chances for success or worse.

2. Build the relationship

Care is personal, so take the time to invest in a personal relationship with the church planter and his family. You will never know what will really help him and his family if you always jump straight to business. Invest the time and energy necessary to build a relationship strong enough to foster openness and authenticity.

3. Ask don’t assume

Don’t assume that what gives you life will be life-giving for your planter and his family. Anticipate needs, for sure, but ask them about ideas and allow them to be a part of the planning.

4. Be generous

Too often we think planters will be happy to receive our leftovers. Don’t send left-over curriculum for their summer camp or buy cheap hotdogs for their event. Give them the best you can. Care for them in a way that testifies of God’s graciousness to your own church.

5. Find ways to single out care for his spouse and family

Sometimes care for the spouse and family is tacked onto the things you plan to do for the planter himself. What if we thought of the spouse first, and worked to care for her and her needs? You would bless her, and it would likely be one of the most life-giving things you could do for the planter and the plant.

6. Make it easy to get emotional health

It’s hard to ask for help, especially when you’re struggling emotionally or mentally. Work to normalize your planter’s care for his health in these areas. Check in with him regularly, even when you think he’s fine. Provide a trusted third-party he and his wife reach out to and offset the expenses of getting real help. The more you can anticipate and alleviate barriers to health in these areas, the more likely your planter will be to seek help when he really needs it. And we all need it sometimes.

Send Network can help...

Healthy churches are planted by healthy church-planting couples. Send Network provides a team to encourage planting couples and show our appreciation for their work with events, resources, gifts and community building with other planting couples. **Learn more at SendNetwork.com/Care.**

¹ “[Starting a Church Planting Care Team, Part 1](#)” by Clint Clifton