



## Missionary Receptions

### **Why Receptions?**

When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch after their first missionary journey, they “gathered the church together...declared all that God had done with them, and...remained no little time with the disciples” (Acts 14:27-28). They reentered face-to-face life with their sending church, communing both corporately and privately. Receptions for returning Sojourn missionaries are a simple, effective way to set the tone for hospitality, celebration, and mobilization.

### **Responsibilities**

Due to the growing number of Sojourn missionaries, receptions are mostly the responsibility of the missionary's Advocate Team. Follow these key steps:

- First, communicate with Sojourn International ([international@sojournchurch.com](mailto:international@sojournchurch.com)) to establish an appropriate date, time, and location for the reception. The best option is typically at the missionary's Sojourn location during or after a Sunday service. Another great option is hosting the reception at an Advocate Team member's home.
- When this is established, begin communicating the reception to as many people as possible. Directly contact people whom the missionary identifies as friends and supporters. Communicate with Sojourn International to ensure the reception is promoted through Sojourn social media. Spread the word broadly as well, such as creating a Facebook event page.
- Plan among the Advocate Team to bring snacks and drinks for the reception. This can be as simple or elegant as the team desires. Consider providing snacks and decor related to the missionary's country of service. Water and coffee are usually available at each Sojourn location. Please note, this expense cannot be reimbursed by Sojourn International.
- On the day of the reception, set up the venue prior to the event and have the snacks and drinks prepared as people arrive. Also be ready to break down and clean up afterward.

### **Reception Structure**

Receptions usually last two hours. The first 30-45 minutes is to allow everyone in attendance to mingle. This will then be followed by a report from the missionary and Sojourn International pastor-led time of Q&A and prayer.

Thank you for serving our church and missionaries in this crucial way! If you have any questions, please contact Sojourn International at [international@sojournchurch.com](mailto:international@sojournchurch.com).