



MACEDONIAN HOPE PARTNERSHIP

All Embrace Baltimore partnerships stem from combinations of three core values:

INTERCEDING THROUGH PRAYER
INVOLVING PEOPLE
INVESTING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

These three values interact at different levels based on the strengths of the partner church. All Embrace Baltimore partnerships are based on the foundation of INTERCEDING THROUGH PRAYER (Level 1). As God directs hearts toward the mission field of Embrace Baltimore, the INVOLVING PEOPLE (Level 2) will result. Finally, when hearts are turned, and people act in obedience, INVESTING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP (Level 3) will ensue. Many have used the illustration of "time, talent, and treasure" to speak of stewardship. Embrace Baltimore goes a step further to specify these to the partnership between your local church and an Embrace Baltimore church.

VALUES

LEVEL 1—INTERCEDING THROUGH PRAYER (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

No partnership will be fully effective without a foundational commitment to fervent, intentional prayer. Individuals and churches or organizations of any size can establish a prayer partnership with an Embrace Baltimore church, but this must not be simply a "We'll pray for you" agreement.

Powerful prayer partnerships grow through relationship—when praying people become personally involved in understanding needs. Visiting one another's fields of ministry will spur the growth of heart-to-heart relationships, watered by listening to dreams and by the regular communication of needs.

Since frequent communication of opportunities, burdens and challenges is important, those lines must be established and maintained on both ends. The partner church must take seriously the needs and prayer requests presented, and pray intelligently. Those interceding through prayer must pray in faith and with importunity, never underestimating God's powerful response in answer to prayer.

Effective prayer partnerships will result in an outpouring of people becoming involved and investing in partnerships.

LEVEL 2—INTERCEDING THROUGH PRAYER + INVOLVING PEOPLE **(*Matthew 9:38*)**

God has already shown that He is placing Baltimore on the hearts of His people, across America and the world. He is continually calling pastors and church leaders to come and to bring mission teams and specialists to serve.

During the years of Embrace Baltimore's implementation (2008-2009), several thousand volunteers will come to this great mission field to minister to the millions who live here. Various teams will be needed to survey, prayerwalk, lead VBS, Sport Camps, spiritually map church planting sites, and to assist with servant evangelism, evangelistic events such as block parties, and various other projects.

The Embrace Baltimore Mobilization/Evangelism Team will work to appropriately match partners' strengths and needs of local churches. Once a partnership is established, mission projects are easily arranged and accomplished because clear guidelines and expectations have been set through the partnership covenant. The Covenant between you and the local church can be for a commitment of praying for the local church for the period of the partnership and sending at least one Mission Team for a one-time ministry project.

Many times effective involvement of people will result in future prayer support and investing in partnership.

LEVEL 3—INTERCEDING THROUGH PRAYER + INVOLVING PEOPLE + INVESTING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP (*2 Corinthians 8*)

Church partners will have plenty of opportunity to partner by providing resources, whether monetary or material. For example, a new church plant may require in excess of \$176,000 to get the doors open due to real estate/rent costs, the cost of publicity, and other startup needs. Existing churches often face the same rent costs, or the cost of maintaining a property, as well as the cost of supplies to sustain regular ministries. In either case, financial assistance could provide momentum for dramatic turning points in the life of the church, and could set the ministry ahead by years.

Embrace Baltimore churches will develop faith-driven, ministry-based budgets and will set financial goals to be shared with partner churches. In this way, partners may evaluate, and may prefer to provide for specific areas of a ministry budget, rather than donating undesignated funds. (Amount and term of commitment are negotiable based on the Holy Spirit leading the partner church.)

Long-term financial assistance is a spiritual matter, best instituted through much prayer, good communication, leadership discussions, and relationship-building visits to Baltimore, Maryland.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) In this way, effective giving of financial and/or material provisions support will result in continued prayer and people support.

General Guidelines

A clearly stated Partnership Covenant sets the tone for an effective partnership. This document should plainly define expectations, reducing surprises and disappointments, and enhancing relationships on both sides.

The Level of Partnership should be stated, outlining the details of each partner's commitment to Interceding through Prayer, Involving People and Investing in Partnership. As the descriptions above point out, various combinations of the three core values may be included in any partnership. Level 1 partnerships consist primarily of a commitment to Interceding Through Prayer for Baltimore churches. Level 2 partnerships involve commitments to provide both Interceding Through Prayer and Involving

People. Level 3 partnerships incorporate Interceding Through Prayer, Involving People and Investing Through Partnership.

The covenant should primarily spell out the commitment of the Partner church. Its acceptance, however, should also clarify the intent of the Embrace Baltimore local church to make the partnership a meaningful mission experience for its partner.

The local church should contribute to the covenant an expression of its needs under each principle (interceding, involving, investing). The local pastor should outline willingness to visit and share openly with the Partner church about local commitment and needs to further the ministry.

Once Embrace Baltimore introduces a partnership, the partnering churches will be free to develop and establish their covenant, determining what elements and details are included. The Embrace Baltimore Partnership Interest Form serves as an example of how such a covenant might begin.

**For more information on partnerships contact Embrace Baltimore at:
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