

Ministry Partner Development (MPD)

CORE CONVICTIONS

February 2014

The AE Core Convictions for MPD identify the non-negotiable heart attitudes of ministry partner development. This is the DNA of AE regarding MPD. It is “who we are”.

- I. We are convinced that God’s word is the foundation for MPD and for the way we deal with money. We believe God owns it all and that we are to be faithful stewards of all that he has entrusted to us. We recognize and trust God as Provider of all we need, including our finances.
- II. MPD is part of our ministry. Therefore we work on MPD with the same amount of energy and passion as the rest of our ministry.
- III. MPD is a continuous process of relationship building, not an activity driven only by a financial need.
- IV. We see MPD as an opportunity to involve people in what God is doing.
- V. We see MPD as an opportunity to let people experience God’s blessing as they give.
- VI. We recognize that the fund development process is a means that God uses to develop our character and our communication skills.
- VII. We promote the importance of the highly relational nature of MPD with a strong emphasis on face-to-face contact.
- VIII. We encourage all staff to give generously, whether personally or through their staff account when appropriate.
- IX. We encourage staff to raise more than they need so that they can respond easily and quickly to needs they become aware of in Agape.
- X. We trust God for a ministry vision that is not defined by a perception of limited resources.
- XI. We do not want the lack of money to be a reason for tension within staff families. Therefore staff should not be allowed to be under-funded for a long period of time.
- XII. We demonstrate to our children that God provides well.
- XIII. We encourage one another in MPD. We speak freely about MPD and finances in an atmosphere of transparency. At the same time, we discourage unconstructive complaining about MPD because it can undermine the faith of younger staff, deflect staff from rejoicing in God's provision, create a negative atmosphere within the ministry and a negative image to those outside the ministry.
- XIV. When we challenge others to join staff, we can say with conviction that God will provide sufficiently for those whom He calls.

- XV. The country leadership plays a key role in modelling MPD practices and setting and implementing policies that encourage a good MPD culture.
- XVI. We recognize God calls some to go and some to send. MPD brings these two things together.
- XVII. We recognize that building spiritual movements everywhere includes building spiritual movements of ministry partners in each country. Reaching 100% support locally is possible.
- XVIII. We do not encourage the use of subsidies for salary but rather the use of funding for a limited period of time to assist, if needed, in helping to develop personal support.
- XIX. We believe that every staff member can find ministry partners to supply salary, personal ministry reimbursements, and central ministry costs, as well as pension benefits as appropriate in the country. However, there may be a very few staff members, who, for instance, come from another religious background or come to faith late in life, who may need other sources of funding for a period of time before they are able to develop enough contacts.
- XX. We emphasize the importance of having an attitude of healthy contentment. Our satisfaction is in God Himself and not in the level of support we have raised. God is sovereign concerning the amount of support He provides; this support can sometimes be abundant, sometimes limited. We espouse neither a poverty nor a prosperity gospel and do all we can to honour God as we trust Him for our support and work hard to build teams of supporters around us.