



# DIRECTOR'S DESK

## PARTNERS IN MISSION

*Partners in Mission* is an initiative by UFM Worldwide to encourage local churches to be pro-active in world mission, in order to foster greater world mission awareness in the local church and to mobilise Christians for world mission, creating a lifelong world mission commitment.

It is one expression of our conviction of the priority of the local church in world mission and our commitment to assisting churches to be actively involved in cross-cultural mission.

Because we have missionaries working in 18 countries on all continents we are able to offer a wide range of cross-cultural ministry opportunities.

### What does it involve?

Establishing a partnership between the local church and UFM and developing a coherent world mission vision and strategy with such churches which:

- identifies Christians with gifts and a call to missionary service
- identifies countries/people groups of specific concern and need
- prepares a 3-5 year plan to prepare and send Christians to work cross-culturally
- involves Christians actively in world mission through summer teams, specific short-term mission projects, partnerships with national churches
- effectively combines short term and long-term mission service
- assesses the financial resources needed and ways of raising them
- develops an ongoing programme for training and sending missionaries

### What does UFM do?

In partnership with the local church UFM:

- facilitates cross-cultural placements
- arranges an orientation programme
- shares in the pastoral care of the missionaries
- reviews regularly their ministry and progress
- debriefs and evaluates on their return to the UK including cultural adjustment, language learning, health, relationships with national Christians and missionary colleagues, ministry effectiveness.
- plans for possible future cross-cultural service

### What are the benefits?

- Christians called to missionary service will be identified.
- The local church will be able to confirm their call to long-term service and commend them wholeheartedly.
- Christians who gain short-term experience but do not go on to further service will be likely to have a lifelong commitment to world mission in prayer and support.
- The local church will develop a growing awareness of the opportunities and challenges of world mission and a real sense of being actively involved in it.

In my role of co-ordinating *Partners in Mission*, I will be happy to provide more information and, if you wish, to arrange for someone to visit your church to discuss it in detail. ■



**Peter Milsom**