

Introducing the New LINKS Assignment

Once every two years your church receives at least one new family. They may not be members of your church; in fact, they are most likely members elsewhere. But they become part of your church and develop relationships that may last for years. How much a part of your church they will become largely depends on you and other leaders in the church.

These new “family members” are your LINKS missionaries.* New LINKS assignments are distributed every two years, and this is the year it takes place. Some in your church may already be familiar with the missionaries with whom your church is LINKed; however, there are probably new people or some youth and children who are not acquainted with them.

Now is the time to celebrate the LINKS family’s adoption into your church family. You can find ideas for adoption parties/celebrations online or in books at the library. A creative person in your church may also have some great ideas. As you plan, keep asking “Will the person who knows nothing about LINKS and about this missionary have a proper understanding after this event?”

Following are a few ideas to get started. Use any or all of them, adapting them for your church, or create your own.



- Review the information about your LINKS family received from your district, then contact your LINKS family as soon as possible to ask additional questions.
- Create a display/bulletin board with pictures of the LINKS missionary family. Have a section for each person in the family (and maybe their pets). Try to find items that represent each person (his/her hobbies, favorite foods, world area where that person was born [if a country other than your own], and where they live/serve now).
- Invite church members/families to purchase a small item for a member of the family or for the whole family. Such items could be a small game that the family could play, a family friendly movie, or items listed in the information received from the district. Keep the items small and light, so shipping doesn’t cost too much, and be sure it is something the LINKS family will be able to use where they live. If your missionary cannot receive packages, send money to Global Treasury Services for your LINKS and inform the missionary of the monetary gift and what event it represents.
- Make LINKS refrigerator magnets by attaching a magnet to copies of a photo of your missionary (if you do not have a creative access missionary). If there is no photo, a silhouette of the person(s) or a map of the area where they are serving may be substituted (again, if they are not creative access). Distribute to your congregation.
- Host an adoption party, allowing people from your church who are the same ages as the family members to represent each person. Video the party for the LINKS missionaries, and be sure to give the family members a rousing welcome.
- For an adoption ceremony, adapt the dedication or baptism ritual from the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* with your church and new LINKS missionaries in mind. Have the pastor, pastoral staff, local NMI council, and entire congregation state how they will support the LINKS missionary family. Close with a meaningful prayer.

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* The words “family,” “missionary,” and “missionaries” may be used interchangeably, depending on your LINKS assignment.