UK Churches, Global Mission and Ownership

The following table represents the spectrum of churches that accept the gospel, are committed to the Scriptures and believe that the gospel is for the world. The way they work that out and relate to mission agencies varies. There are lots of stereotypes here and many churches do not fit neatly into one of these sections, but it may be a helpful grid for categorising UK churches. An explanation of this table and the implications for mission from the UK can be found in '**Churches and Agencies in Partnership**' by Bryan Knell available from the Global Connections office at £3 for members and £5 for non-members.

Title	1 Survival Mode	2 Jerusalem first Mode	3 Do it for us Mode	4 Inform us Mode	5 Partner with us Mode	6 Help us do it Mode	7 Don't interfere Mode
Involvement in global mission	These churches don't do anything corporately in global mission because they are struggling to survive.	This sort of church concentrates exclusively on the local scene - either because they see Acts 1:8 as an expanding process or because they are convinced their local community is more needy.	These churches think that agencies exist to do global mission for the church and they are prepared to support agencies to act for them.	These churches expect agencies to make the decisions but would like to be informed regularly.	These churches see themselves as equal partners in global mission. They want to be involved in decision-making.	These churches believe that they should drive mission, but appreciate that specialist and experienced agencies can help them.	These churches want to remain completely independent, thinking that agencies will take over if they are allowed to be involved.
Likely characteristics	• Probably a small church • Often elderly congregation • Several people committed individually to global mission. • They probably have a world map on the notice board.	• Strong leadership • Focused vision • Many local community projects • Considerable resources going to local mission	• Traditional response to mission • Former mission workers in the congregation • Regular global mission events • Have links with mission workers overseas but not from their own congregation • Passive mission committee • Very little agency news and prayer material gets used on Sunday	• Active but often ignored mission committee • Traditional approach to mission but done well • Few turn up for mission events • Agency news stays in piles on a table • Regular but small financial contribution to agencies and/or missionaries	• Largish church • Strong leader of mission committee • Strong summer overseas programme • Considerable financial gifts • Prayer material from a variety of sources used on Sunday • Leaders travel overseas	• A church founded or re-launched in the last 10 years • Often a member of a 'new church' network • Looking to agencies for resources and expertise • News comes from secular sources or the visits of members of the congregation • Imaginative and creative presentation of news • Leaders travel overseas	• Independent mindset and want to learn from their mistakes • Suspicious of anyone outside their own tight network • Strong leadership • Generous financing of the church's own overseas projects • No financial contribution to agencies • Lack of networking can cause problems overseas
Probable reaction of agencies	• Agency personnel usually forget the church, but try to build links with keen individuals	• To create an emphasis on world mission needs a leadership change	• This church presents no problems and is easy for an agency to service	• To increase support, agency staff visit as often as possible	• This church is time-consuming for an agency • Difficult questions arise about overseas direction	• Agencies usually need to change their organisational structure to help this church • Challenge for agencies of financing the services offered	• Many agencies don't know these churches exist!

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