

SPICE ROAD FELLOWSHIP ITALY MISSION PROJECT

Questions and Clarifications

What is Spice Road Fellowship?

Spice Road Fellowship is a registered non-profit in USA working for the sole purpose of helping church fulfill the Acts 1:8 mandate by planting credible churches among the South Asian people groups in 85 countries around the world. Organically, a southern baptist work, it focuses on not only partnering with local churches, but is committed to working alongside the IMB in countries they need help in reaching South Asian immigrants. Training and releasing equipped personnel can greatly impact results and that's exactly what Spice Road is committed to do.

Should we think about credible partnerships for gospel work in foreign lands?

To find answers to such partnerships, Springhill must constantly revisit their mission and examine why they exist, and what is Springhill's purpose as the church of God. Do they stand to fulfill His great commission as a whole, or do they wish to focus on a portion of it?

Like Apostle Paul, and his letters, the words spoken will certainly be about foreign lands, and ministry among gentiles and the need to finish the task in unreached places. It's best we examine ourselves as a church from the standpoint of the early church. We go and do things because God opens the door and we become willing to walk through them. To see Christ glorified in the nations is the "New Testament" Church.

Why think about elsewhere when we have needs right here?

Why talk about a place outside the USA while we have needs right here? It's because Christ has commanded us to do so and when we do it we are truly His Church.

And why should we not ignore people we are in touch with locally? Because Christ died for them and we'll remain debtors to them if we hold back the gospel of Christ.

The following are few other questions concerning the partnership with Sarah Binns, the missionary to Italy. As a sending church we want to make sure we understand the process and are prepared to go through with the partnership.

Total Accountability, Transparent reporting from the field, a clear line of communication between Church and mission field, proper checks and balances, clear goal to pursue make this partnership with Sarah a blessing to Springhill's mission.

MISSION ITALY QUESTIONS

A. What happens to Sarah if the Springhill's internal donations aren't what is expected or needed?

Spice Road continues to partner with like-minded churches and through a strong board that is accountable to the government and donors, it'll make sure Sarah is able to fulfill her calling in Europe. Stonebridge will offset part of the cost, as Sarah is employed in its coffee shop business. As the coffee shop grows the revenues will gain strength, further supporting her payroll.

B. How does money transfer from Springhill to SPICE Road Fellowship, USA?

Springhill can make donations in favor of Spice Road Fellowship, USA earmarked for Sarah Binns' support. The Board of Spice Road Fellowship will ensure 100% of the funds are used for the missionary's purpose and that nothing goes into administration.

C. Where do the monies being transferred to SPICE Road Fellowship, USA come from?

The monies come from various partners including like-minded individuals who are committed to its mission of starting churches worldwide.

D. SBC member donations through a dedicated fund?

It is Springhill's discretion to either start a separate fund for the European Ministry, or do it as part of its ongoing mission commitment to worldwide mission work.

Touch India makes donations as necessary and Churches in the region who are partners will also donate for the cause.

E. Will any Missionary salaries be directly paid by Springhill?

No. Salaries will be paid in part by Spice Road Fellowship and the Stonebridge Coffee Shop. The Coffee Shop provides workers compensation, insurance and benefits as required by the Italian law.

F. Will any Stonebridge Coffee employees be directly paid by Springhill?

No. Stonebridge Coffee Company is a catalyst to employ missionaries and send them into places that's either difficult or impossible for the church to enter. As such, Stonebridge has a business model which supports its ventures, and does not solicit any donations from non-profits.

G. Are there any instances where monies from Springhill would need to be transferred internationally?

No. Stonebridge Coffee company is the business arm that is extending into 85 countries through its coffee ventures. As such, it will process immigration and send missionaries

worldwide. Missionaries will be on its payroll. No money would need to be transferred to any Stonebridge entity anywhere in the world.

H. What resources will it take locally from Springhill to support the financial arrangement, communication of the project? Can it simply be added to the current financial team, prayer team, etc?

There is no stringent financial obligation laid on partnering churches. Stress is laid on partnerships that result in the church's commitment to go and join Sarah in doing credible things in the mission field. Nevertheless, any faith-based donation or commitment is welcome to offset financial needs.

I. What resource needs are foreseen in the missionary field?

There is a great need for mission workers who can spend time and help Sarah in ongoing project work. As new churches are started in the target cities, Springhill can revisit their purpose/plan and grow in their partnership.

J. As the project grows, do resource needs to grow or is it simply a matter of larger financial amounts?

No. As project grows, it doesn't necessarily imply larger financial or personnel commitment on the part of Springhill. Rather, Springhill can examine the results and allocate their resources in light of their mission, purpose or as it sees fit based on its commitments at that time.

K. Are other local churches also mirroring any of these tasks, or is it just Springhill?

Spice Road is organically made up of Southern Baptist churches as partners. It is therefore a group of churches and individuals who will uphold these tasks and share the burden of finishing the task of the Great Commission.

L. What is the mechanism/requirements for SBC members who want to be missionaries on the ground in Europe?

SBC members must display a commitment to the calling through their ongoing partnership. Through prayer and involvement in going they can partner in this mission work. Further, a series of interviews and training programs initiated by Spice Road will position them to serve as full time as missionaries in Europe.

Short term missionaries (2-3 months) and Mission trip candidates that seek to take trips for eight days will adhere to the schedule provided by the ground staff, and respond as necessary. Such trips are self-funded and the funds required needs to be raised by the individual through the support of Spice Road fund raising activities.

M. How are they funded?

All long term missionaries are employed by Stonebridge and sent out to work in one of its units. The missionaries are partly funded by Spice Road Fellowship through its donors and partners.

Short term missionaries (2-3 months), and mission trip candidates (8 days) raise their own funds to travel to mission fields. They raise their support through various fund raising activities supported by Spice Road.

N. What expenses would they personally be responsible for?

Short Term trip candidates will be responsible for their airfare, food, lodging and travel. Long term candidates will be sponsored by Spice Road Fellowship. Presently, Spice Road does not provide sponsorship for short-term mission trip candidates, but they stand in a support capacity to help them achieve their goal.

O. Would they be considered SBC missionaries and covered under our insurance policy? If not, who would cover them?

All mission trip candidates will be covered by Trip Insurance according to the policy laid out by our Mission Trip Organizing Committee. The Insurance policy will cover their medical, accident and injury during the entire period of the mission trip.

Long term missionaries will be considered as employees of Stonebridge, and hence, will be covered by the company's Insurance for its employees.