

# Taking Down the Ministry Pedestal



Cross-Cultural Workers (CCWs) can be put on a pedestal by those who send them. Examples of this can be seen in language like “you’re my hero” or “I could never do what you do!” This led Global Trellis to wonder, how do we—senders *and* goers—collectively, and perhaps inadvertently, perpetuate the ministry pedestal? **What sort of direct and indirect damage is it causing to all of us— to the senders and to the goers?**

## How the Ministry Pedestal inadvertently happens:

### ON THE SENDERS' SIDE:

Senders think, “Cross-cultural workers are not like me: They are superhuman.”

Senders are trying to honor the sacrifice and reality cross-cultural workers face.

### ON THE GOERS' SIDE:

Goers think, “A lot is at stake: I need to be superhuman.”

Goers are trying to be worthy of the money, effort, and prayer invested.

We didn’t get to this place because one side is better or more enlightened or because one side is ignorant, foolish, or desiring to cause harm.

Cross-cultural workers are human, but on the field, the stakes can be calamitous to individuals, families, and organizations.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

With the sender’s side saying “You’re superhuman” and the goers side saying “We need to be superhuman” it keeps CCWs’ humanity and the stakes at odds with each other.

### FOR SENDERS:

Recognize the higher stakes CCWs face

### FOR GOERS:

Recognize the humanity of CCWs