

GETTING STARTED

Get Good Shoes

Find God's mission in the Bible.



Take the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* course or work through a mission Bible study.

Discover that God's mission since the beginning has been to retrieve worshippers from every ethnic group. This goal is expressed a lot more times in Scripture than simply the Great Commission in Matthew!

Learn More:

>> *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*: a radical 15-week course taught by ministry experts which has challenged more than 50,000 lives. It helps students understand God's global purpose from Genesis to Revelation by exploring four dimensions: biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic. Find out more by visiting www.perspectives.org.

>> Check out www.allpeoples.com for an eight-week Bible study workbook by Mike Stroope, *God's Renew*.

>> Check out www.pioneerst.org for an eight-week Bible Study curriculum by Jeff Lewis, *God's Heart for the Nations*. Laden with Scriptures and perfect for small groups this study also includes eight unreached people profiles.

>> For a small group curriculum with readings about history and strategy, look at *Until the Whole World Knows* by Alicia Cole at www.oneholeworld.com. Want something online? Work through the 12 *Becoming a World Christian* lessons at www.thetravelingteam.org.

Get Informed

Know the globe and its needs.

Get a map. Read a book.

Watch the news.

Don't keep your head in the sand. Be aware of what is going on in the world. Attend a local mission conference to hear what God is doing around the globe. Freshen up your geography so international news makes sense.

>> There are several great biographies on Christian and mission heroes. Read some!

>> To get a better idea of what being a World Christian means read *Run with the Vision* by Bill and Amy Stearns. (For these and other books, see www.wclbooks.com or call 1.800.MISSION for a catalog.)

>> The best resource for educating yourself on the current state of evangelism and the needs of the nations is to read *Operation World* daily and pray for one political country at a time.

Get Cross-Cultural

Experience the unreached face to face.

Take a mission trip. Befriend internationals.

Short-term mission trip opportunities abound. But how do you find one right for you? Search these databases and get a feel for who is going where:

www.shorttermmissions.com

www.globalmission.org

www.mfinder.org

www.Rightnow.org

The world is on our doorstep! There are international students on American college campuses from the hard to reach places of the world. Your friendship could be a light in their life. International Students Inc. organizes socials and ministries for internationals on college campuses nationwide.

>> International Students Inc. and InterFACE Ministries plan socials and ministries for internationals on college campuses nationwide. Visit www.iface.org, contact www.isionline.org, or call 1.800.474.8326 to find out how you can be a volunteer Friendship Partner.

Get Evangelistic

Develop a witnessing lifestyle.

Start a discipleship group on campus, at work, or at home.

The life of a missionary has many day-to-day chores like ours except they look for daily opportunities to witness and disciple. You should be practicing this lifestyle at home. Do you know your neighbors and what their prayer needs are?

Read one of these books to get started:

>> *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels.

>> *The Everyday Commission* by Dann Spader and Gary Mayes.

>> *Out of the Saltshaker and into the World: Evangelism as a Way of Life* by Rebecca Pippert.

>> *Cultivating a Life for God: Multiplying Disciples Through Life Transformation Groups* by Neil Cole. Order at www.churchsmart.org.



Get Counseled

Seek accountability and advice for the journey. Find a mentor.

When you are asking yourself, "How do I go about getting personally involved in cross-cultural ministry?" it is so important to have someone to talk to. Does your pastor know of this vision growing in your heart? Write him a letter or meet with him. It may also be helpful to pursue a **mentoring relationship** with someone who is knowledgeable of the opportunities out there. Ask him or her to keep you accountable to the commitment you have made to the Lord. This mentor could help you make out a budget to relieve the danger of debt or help you discern your spiritual gifts and see which direction the Lord may be leading you.

Furthermore, a mentor can help you think through your major! Don't waste four years of college. Get a degree that will help advance the gospel whether creatively or directly.

How to Find a Mentor: Pray that God will lead you to one. Watch for someone of the same gender whose walk with the Lord impresses you. Ask that person to pray about discipling you.

>> Peer mentoring: interact with like-minded friends, share ideas and advice, and get refueled for the journey.

Get Prayer

Make an impact from here. Gather some friends and pray for the nations.

Pray for the people on God's heart.

Pray strategically by making use of the many informative prayer guides available on Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and others. See the faces of the unreached as you go about your day by utilizing the *Unreached People Prayer Card Pack* from Pioneers. These 24 photo cards have succinct prayer points and are transportable.

>> For resources, check out www.pioneers.org and www.ywam.org/prayer.

>> Join the Bibleless People Prayer Project by signing up to pray regularly for one of the 3000 language groups who do not have the Scripture in their heart language. Visit www.wycliffe.org/bppp

TRAILMARKERS

Can't See the Trail? Turn on your lamp.

"Your word is a lamp unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105). Instead of constantly trying to figure out God's will for your life,

spend your time getting to know him personally. Then his desires will become plain and your desire will be to please him.

Read the Bible and ask yourself, "What does this passage teach me about God's character?"

Wondering "What's the Point?" Get ready to worship God with all nations.

Worship is what we will be doing in heaven. That

is the goal of missions in the first place. So, become a better worshipper. He deserves it, and you will be refreshed by it.

>> Pick up *Let the Nations be*

Glad by John Piper at a local Christian book-store.

>> Consider what true worship is by reading *The Air I Breathe* by Louie Giglio, or order his audio series entitled "Worship – That Thing We Do" from www.266generation.org.

Need Action Now?

Make intercession a habit.

Don't just pray in generalities. Fervently pray for God's glory to cover all the earth. Use Scriptures in prayer.

The Lord promised to provide all your needs, so ask him and be ready to take radical steps of faith.

>> Some suggested readings that will enhance your prayer life forever: *Prayer Walking* by Steve Hawthorne, and *Intercession* by Dutch Sheets. Find these and other great intercession books at www.arsenalbooks.com.

Feeling Alone?

Mobilize your local church to stand with you.

In some cases a home church may not react encouragingly to a student's new vision. If this happens to you, don't give up. Set out to mobilize that church so they will be eager to join God in what he is doing. Pray, share ideas with the mission

committee, supply the church with eye-opening resources, inform them of conferences and possible speakers, offer to organize a mission trip or to coordinate a *Perspectives* course. Use this time to serve your church in any way; it is vital training for ministry.

>> Inspire your congregation with compelling stories of what God is doing in the world through the hands of ordinary Christians! *Shaping Eternity* is a five-part video series created

to help your church witness the transformation people undergo by finding a new sense of purpose while participating in the mission of spreading God's fame to the unreached. There are testimonies and a music video to help you introduce them to the vision. Find this at www.shapingeternity.com.

>> Use the *Dramatic Presentations* to highlight various mission topics. Get the Sunday school class to do a missions-focused Bible study.

>> If you are teaching Sunday school for kids ages 5-10, use the *Kids Around the World* curriculum supplement with videos.

For all of these resources go to www.pioneers.org or call 407.382.6000.

>> Use two-minute vignettes that educate about the status of world evangelization, world religions, and the biblical basis of missions to show in church gatherings. Called *Infobytes*, these ten animations are found at www.pioneers.org or www.sermonspice.com.

>> Also get your church to host one of these life-changing seminars: *Unveiling God's Glory*, by Bob Sjogren (www.gospel.com/unveilingglory/Home.html), *Day of Discovery* by Steve Shadrach (www.thebodybuilders.net), or *Operation Worldview* by Werner Mischke and Bob Schindler (www.mission1.org).

PITFALLS

Lifestyle choices

How are your lifestyle choices being determined – by the Lord or by society?

We live in a society that tells us we have to have an SUV and a cell phone just because. Don't follow blindly into this black hole. Evaluate what your real needs are as opposed to unnecessary conveniences.

Don't compare yourself with Americans who make up the top of the world's wealthy. Consider how other societies live. Spend money on what would benefit your ministry and please the Lord rather than getting carried away in the current of the "American Dream."

Debt Loop

"Help, I've fallen and can't get up."

Credit card debt and school debt delay many from active involvement in missions. In the interim many lose interest and settle into the normal American lifestyle.

Don't lose your focus. Live on a tight budget and use every extra penny to pay it off. Pray God would raise up the means to cancel it out.

>> For guidance in budgeting (or books such as *Debt Free Living* by Larry Burkett), visit Crown Financial Ministries at www.cfmministry.org.

>> Read some good advice about debt in the *Real Life Issue* brochure entitled "Debt. Can it hinder you from being obedient?" Visit www.pioneers.org.

Straggler's Shelter

"I'm too busy to do God's will"

It is hard to admit this about ourselves, but is it true? Are you so busy that you turn down opportunities to serve or to learn more about God's heart before asking him if he wants you to say "yes?" Have you considered freeing up your schedule so you are available?

It is so easy to get carried away with activities. Sit down and write out a mission statement for your life. What are your priorities, your goals, a Scripture you would like to live by? From then on evaluate which activities apply to that mission statement and avoid those which distract from it. This will help you keep your priorities in order.

Dead End Trail

Short Term Inoculation

"I've done my duty."

For many people today a short-term trip is the end all. Perhaps they go for the experience and the tough reality keeps them from coming back. Or perhaps they went out of guilt and feel

now they have done their duty and can go on with life. Or maybe they had a bad interaction with the mission agency that sponsored the trip and have written off cross-cultural ministry.

Don't let these tragedies happen to you. Your duty is to obey God continually, not to patronize him with a token performance. Find out how he wants you to serve his mission and get back on *The Trail*.

Detour: Can't Wait Spur

Compromising the call for a relationship

Are you waiting for the right person?

It can be disillusioning as time goes by. Society may say you are being too idealistic and choosy and suggest you marry any nice person, but do not panic. Father God knows your heart and your needs. His timing is perfect. Pray for your future spouse, that he or she will embrace God's call on their life. Or maybe God has chosen single-

ness for you. Complete trust in the Father will equal no regrets. Meanwhile don't just stand there; keep following God down *The Trail*. You never know what (or who) may be around the next corner!

THE GOER TRAIL

Set Your Compass

Ask God to begin showing you a people group or region to focus on.

"Instead of asking, 'where do I want to go?' ask 'from where can I bring God the greatest glory?'" Get informed about the 10/40 Window – the region where the majority of the unreached and needy live.

>> Introduce yourself to various people groups by looking into the online resources at www.pioneers.org and www.bethany.com/profiles/home/html. Pioneers has downloadable prayer guides and cultural strategy reports on many unreached groups.

Know Who's Who

Get to know 3 mission agencies and how they operate.

Attend mission conferences to meet agency representatives. Also ask your church which agencies they are working with already and get to know those. Another option is to look into your denominational mission board and its policies.

Get Training

Pursue cross-cultural and Bible training. It's essential!

So many missionaries, once they get overseas and encounter the challenges of cross-cultural church planting, wish they had invested more into training. It is the kind of thing where you don't realize how much there is to know until you start learning. Consider cross-cultural communications, anthropology, linguistics, and Bible courses.

But these days getting that training can be done in a variety of ways: Bible Colleges, Liberal Arts Christian Colleges, Internet courses, 1-2 year degrees, MAs by extension, etc.

>> Discover the Muslim world by taking the 12-week *Perspectives on the World of Islam* course at local churches across the country. Go to www.perspectivesonislam.org.

>> Many of us learned Christianity the American style – don't export that extra baggage. Discover what contextualization is all about by participating in an ethnographic research trip.

>> Try www.mfinder.org under "Missions Training" for a listing and links.

Start Tentmaking

Get work experience in your trade.

Another way to bless the nations is to work overseas professionally while being an intentional witness. Explore the idea of tentmaking, like the Apostle Paul. A good place to start is to read the series of articles, "Tentmaking 101," posted on www.globalapps.org.

Find Hiking Buddies

Build endurance and momentum by finding a group to pray for you regularly.

First, find some mission-minded friends and pray regularly for each other. These friends will be a source of accountability against materialism and distractions.

Second, sign up for an e-mail newsletter to track with the rising movement of collegiates and grads who have committed to praying, giving, and going two years or more. Learn more at www.SVM2.net.

Third, it is so important to stay actively involved in your local church during this formation time. Churches are increasingly wanting to invest in people and projects with whom they feel ownership and accountability. If you wait to inform them of your mission intentions after the fact they may not get their strong support.

Are your parents resistant to the idea of you giving up your life for this cause? *The Real Life Issue* brochure entitled "When God says, 'Go!' and Parents say 'No!'" may be an encouragement to you. Find it at www.pioneers.org.

Communicate

Learn how to effectively present your vision to others.

Public speaking skills are so important when you are trying to raise awareness of the needs of a people group or highlight a ministry opportunity. Take a course, read a manual, or talk to someone who casts vision well, to pick up this skill.

>> Get started by reading *Secrets of Dynamic Communication* by Ken Davis. For a copy go to www.kendavis.com.

Also, be aware that others behind you in this journey may be looking up to you. Take note of who and be a mentor to them.

Tend to the Hurts

Seek counseling for past hurts or they will come back to haunt.

Heading off to the mission field with injuries and baggage is asking for trouble. Deal with these before you go. These untreated injuries can tear at team relationships on the field.

>> Get counseling from a pastor. Read *The Father Heart of God* by Floyd McClung. Check out www.elijahhouse.org for books on overcoming particular struggles. Also, see www.minirthclinic.com for self-help books and counseling services.

Gather Your Provisions

Recruit senders and find the right gear.

Don't let this step of the journey intimidate you. Gathering a "home team" can be a very edifying time. You are connecting with people and dependent on God. God is working in peoples' hearts to desire to invest in eternal fruit. Your mission ministry is a way they can do that. Beautiful friendships can form out of this.

Being connected with a local church sure makes this process easier. However, there is a right way and a wrong way to approach this endeavor, so do some pre-reading. Here are some ideas.

>> For starters, read the *Real Life Issue* brochure entitled, "Support Raising. I want to serve God but I don't want to raise support!" Find it at www.pioneers.org.

>> *People Raising*, a course by William Dillion. He also has a Short Term/Summer Support Manual at www.peopleraising.com.

>> A revolutionary approach to support raising is *Honoring and Connecting with the Heart of a Donor* by Christian Development Ministries. A free e-version is available by calling 1.888.236.1500 or e-mailing CDMAChrist@aol.com.

>> On the side, read *Friend Raising* by Betty Barnett for ideas on how to bless your supporters.

>> If you want accountability consider Boot Camp, an intense two-day seminar to help workers get to their ministry assignment quickly and fully funded. Find out more at www.thebodybuilders.net.

Cooperate

Learn how to value a diverse team and to resolve conflicts.

This is so important because, among Western sending nations, team conflicts are a significant cause for people leaving the mission field early. These problems with peers are depleting the harvest force. Learn how to be a team player before you go.

Many large missions agencies provide training in team dynamics.

Think It Through

Begin formulating your church-planting strategy.

Strategy and five-year plans are not infiltration from the corporate world. God is pleased with a well-thought-out plan. Isn't he a God of wisdom and order? Don't just concentrate on getting to your target people group. Be in prayer and research on how best to evangelize them.

>> Read *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally* by David Hesselgrave. Order by calling 1.800.MISSION.

>> Be trained how to learn the target culture from the inside out by reading the curriculum *Exploring the Land*, by Bennett and Felder, and going on a research trip. These expeditions teach

you how to uncover social structure and social dynamic issues which determine what a culturally relevant church should look like. Get more information at www.pioneers.org.

>> Also try the downloadable resource *Pioneer Church Planting: A Rookie Team Leader's Handbook* at www.pioneers.org.

Yack Like the Locals

Begin language learning now.

What an advantage it would be for you to know some of the language before you land in your focus field. Take an evening course at a community college. Chances are there are some immigrants from your focus country living in a nearby city. Visit their community, eat in their restaurants, and find a friend or language helper. At least buy the tape series from the bookstore and be disciplined to listen to them regularly.

When you do live in that language field try this well-proven approach, *Language Acquisition Made Practical*, by Brewster, otherwise known as the LAMP method.

THE SENDER TRAIL

Live Sacrificially

Make a lot of money and live like you don't. Give it away!

As God births his global vision in your heart, your eyes will be opened to the truth behind, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). Then, your question may change from, "how much of my money am I going to give to God's work?" to "how much of God's money do I need to live on and how much can I free up for eternal investments?" God has a wonderful way of blessing the generous.

Build Relationships

Connect with goers, ministries, and causes.

Ask God to direct you to the ones with whom he wants you involved. Invite these individuals over to hear their vision. Visit local ministries. Attend a mission conference to find out who is doing what. If you are a pastor, go visit the missionaries the church supports.

Engage in Intercession

Where the real battle is won or lost

The greatest contribution you can make to God's mission is through prayer. Being on the front line, the missionary depends on your prayers for protection and success. Prayer is making a difference in receptivity to the gospel in the 10/40 Window. The amount of strategic prayer may very well make the difference of when this target people group is reached.

>> If intercessory prayer is missing, the full extent of God's power is often stifled in the lives and ministries of evangelists and pastors. *Prayer Shield*, by Peter Wagner, is a field manual to help you step into the gap and intercede for those on the front line. It will show you if you have been called to intercessory prayer and provide step-by-step instructions on how to do it. Order it and other intercession resources at www.arsenalbooks.com.

>> Pray not only for the missionary but also intercede for those they are praying to reach! There are tools about certain people groups and regions of the world. Get one and pray specifically. Go to www.pioneers.org, www.ywam.org/prayer, or www.AD2000.org/adoption/pyrmenu.htm.

Be a Sponsor

Support a missionary or organization financially.

Faithful, regular giving enables these servants to do the work to which God has called them. Sponsors are a crucial part of the ministry team.

But go beyond just giving financial support; they need your moral support, logistics support, and prayer support. Send letters and care packages; offer to manage their business affairs while they are gone, and offer hospitality when they return.

>> A must read for you is *Serving As Senders* by Neal Pirola. Order it from 1.800.MISSION.

Be a Spokesperson

Get others to pray and support this missionary as well.

Share about your experience as part of this ministry with your prayer partners. Invite interested friends over for a party to hear from your missionary. Volunteer to help with the mission week to your church.

WORLD CHRISTIAN CAREER TRAIL

Any career can relate to God's global cause. There are many opportunities to use your skills for world evangelization if you are faithful to search them out.

>> Check out www.finishers.org to assess your gifts, and file a resume to uncover opportunities waiting to be filled in mission organizations.

>> Intercristo can also help. They are a job referral service to Christian non-profit ministry organizations. They also offer career assessment tools. Go to www.intercristo.com.

The following are some ideas of World Christian Careers!

Business Professionals

Witnessing expatriates, lobbyists for persecuted Christians, international justice lawyers, and businessmen who aid missionaries in creative access countries

Contact a mission agency for how you can play a key role on a church-planting team by writing business plans or managing the import side of an international business.

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