



PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE WORLD continue to search for something.

The unreached have no source of real, sustainable hope and no community of believers to help them grow.

The unchurched and the untrained have no mechanism or support to help them develop their faith and then use it to reach more.

Followers of Christ may feel a stirring but don't know how God is actually calling them to respond. They are lacking a clear path forward.

Sharing the message of hope begins with one step, a step of obedience and faithfulness that says yes to God's call. Take your first step and start your journey toward serving in mission today.

In this guide you will find encouragement, inspiration, how you can answer God's call for His service, and practical information about Global Partners. This guide will answer these questions and more:

LISTEN

Is God calling me? Am I called?

GROW

How do I prepare? Why prepare?

SERVE

How does the process work? Who is supporting me? How can I take the first step?



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SERVE: HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

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/////// Am I Being Called?

A pit in your stomach. A fluttering in your heart. A stirring in your soul.

You have picked up this guide to missionary service because you are asking the question: "Is God calling me to be a missionary?" This book is a resource for you to begin wrestling with the answer to that question.

Intimidated? Sure. Thousands of those called before you were intimidated too. But, when God calls us to action, He's probably stretching us for a reason.

Sometimes, God is "lightning strike" direct. Other times? It's a mere sense, a feeling, a restlessness in your day to day. Or, it may be that it's simply a personal response of obedience to the Word of God.

Throughout these pages, you will find examples of what mission looks like in The Wesleyan Church, ways you can actively prepare, and an overview of the process to serve as a Global Partners missionary.

As we begin, here are some things you can do today as you continue to discern the call of God in your life.

////// Pray

Talking with God is the best place to start. Your conviction about your calling will come from time spent in prayer and in God's Word. Not only will this assure you as you move forward, but it will also help you through the challenging times of ministry in the future.

As you continue to pray and read the Word of God, remember that God's leading in your life is dynamic, like your relationship with Him. It will likely change, develop, and expand throughout your lifetime. That is perfectly fine! You may feel that God is calling you to something very specific, or perhaps your sense of calling is rather general. God works in our lives in a variety of ways.

////// Connect

In the process of discernment, it is important to discuss what is going through your mind and heart with those who know you best. These often are trusted mentors, friends, and family members who know you, love you, and are willing to pray with you and speak truth into your life. Have a conversation with your pastor or other solid Christians in your local church. They will be able to provide you with wisdom and perspective that will shine light onto your calling, as well as walk beside you as you serve in ministry.

'///// Respond

Be faithful wherever you find yourself. Continue making Christlike disciples wherever you are. As you seek to discern your calling, God is working in your life to guide you. Hone the skills you will need on the field and discover the type of service you thrive in and enjoy. Since we carry habits with us, this is the perfect time to build healthy patterns and learn selfawareness.



CONVERSATION START THE



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5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR

CLARITY AS YOU CONSIDER

GLOBAL SERVICE



"GOD, HELP ME TO SEEK YOU FIRST AND SEE THE WORLD THROUGH THE LENS OF YOUR LOVE."

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

- Galatians 5:25

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

- Matthew 6:33

"GOD, HELP ME TO SEEK YOUR DESIRE FOR MY LIFE AND ORIENT MYSELF AROUND FAITHFUL LOVE RATHER THAN FEAR."

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

- Micah 6:8

"But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation." - Psalm 13:5

"GOD, REVEAL TO ME ANYTHING IN MY HEART THAT IS CAUSING ME TO HOLD BACK FROM YOUR CALL."

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." //

- Isaiah 64:8

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

- Psalm 139:23-24



"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

- James 3:17

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

-1 Corinthians 1:25

"GOD, TRANSFORM ME TO LIVE IN THE POWER OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN EVERY ASPECT OF MY LIFE."

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Acts 1:8

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

- Romans 12:2



LISTEN

REACHING THE FAR,

NO MATTER HOW HARD

There are millions of people who have never experienced the hope of the good news of Jesus or the transformational power of a growing relationship with Him. In fact, **4 out of every 10** people do not even have access to the gospel. As Global Partners and The Wesleyan Church, we believe that God wants everyone to be made new. We strive to see lives, churches, and communities transformed through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ. That is why we are committed to amplifying local church mission for global transformation.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells us, as His disciples, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." In other words, Jesus is calling every disciple and every church to be reaching the Here & Near & Far places of the world, no matter how Hard.

For many of us, this call primarily expresses itself in our Here — with our neighbors and in our communities. Additionally, the call means we have an area of impact in our Near — the region or country in which we find ourselves. And further still, as a people, we recognize the "power of &," that we are ALSO and simultaneously called to the Far, no matter how Hard — to reach "the ends of the earth."

In our church, God continues to call people to full-time service to the Far — to the unreached, the unchurched, and the untrained. These missionaries are Christlike disciples who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, prayerfully sent by the Church, and affirmed by Global Partners. They diligently carry out the mission to go to those who have never heard the gospel (the unreached) and to those who are not actively being nurtured in their faith journey (the unchurched and the untrained).

HOW DOES GLOBAL PARTNERS "REACH THE FAR, NO MATTER HOW HARD?"

Going to "the ends of the earth" is an overwhelming task and, as individuals, we would be hopeless to do it alone. As Global Partners, we are committed to going where the Church is not yet. We participate in this work by PIONEERING, DEVELOPING, and RESOURCING in both expanding fields and partnering fields.

////// We Pioneer

Pioneering is joining God in His work. We acknowledge that God is already working in the hearts and lives of individuals everywhere we might go. As we follow the leading of His Spirit, we are going to places or people groups where there is little or no witness to the transforming message of the gospel. This means that we not only go to establish relationships to see people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, but we continue to stay to make disciples, develop leaders, and see them through a journey toward advancing sustainability into a multiplying movement.

We cannot always use the same methods wherever we go. We trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and people immersed in the local culture to guide the way the church is started in that place. Sometimes traditional models work well for this. Other times we need to be creative in our approach as we navigate local restrictions. Sometimes a church starts through a building and services. Other times, it's less formal especially in parts of the world where the environment may not be conducive to Christian outreach and church development. It begins with people living intentionally to establish relationships and working alongside those who need Jesus by engaging their neighbors in new ways. Where there aren't churches, our missionaries are engaging in culturally appropriate ways to plant them, and as people come to Christ, they invest in discipling those believers. The purpose of pioneering is to prepare the way for the church to be established and to grow in that setting.

'///// We Develop

As the gospel takes root in an area, we are eager to turn over responsibility and authority to well-equipped national leaders. We are continually working ourselves out of a job. Once The Wesleyan Church has an established presence in a new place, missionaries and local church leaders focus on developing leaders and working toward advancing sustainability. We do this by helping churches mature through the fostering of emerging local leaders, guiding the community to engage in mission, establishing appropriate organizational systems, and intentionally cultivating indigenous theological expression. We are committed to walking alongside people and new churches to ensure that every person and church grows to the full potential God has in store for them, to where there is ultimately a multiplying movement of The Wesleyan Church, engaging from everywhere to everywhere.

////// We Resource

After a new church or group of churches has advanced in sustainability by becoming self-supporting and developing their own leaders, missionaries, and structures, we continue to partner with them through appropriate resourcing. This involves logistical support, facilitation of church-to-church relationships, and development of educational materials, as well as connecting individuals and groups with one another to share experiences, ideas, and techniques. The purpose of this missional resourcing is to unleash the local church and provide the necessary preparations for that church to become a multiplying movement, fully engaged in the mission work of The Wesleyan Church, both in local settings and around the world.



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THE GLOBAL

PARTNERS MISSIONARY

A CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLE SET APART BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, PRAYERFULLY SENT OUT BY THE CHURCH, AND AFFIRMED BY GLOBAL PARTNERS TO AMPLIFY LOCAL CHURCH MISSION FOR GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION.

/////// Global Partners Missionaries are Christlike Disciples

They are being perfected in love by His Spirit, set apart to do His work. They are called to go into the world and spread His transforming gospel.

/////// Global Partners Missionaries are Prayerfully Sent Out by the Church

The Church has the responsibility and privilege of sending missionaries where they are needed most. It is through prayer and connection with God's mission that we prepare and deploy those who are called to participate in the movement of the Holy Spirit around the world.

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¹⁷ Global Partners Missionaries Amplify Local Church Mission for Global Transformation

Jesus gave the Church a mission—to go into all the world and make disciples. Global Partners missionaries enable the local churches that send them to take the mission farther than they could on their own. As we all play a part, we can see global transformation become a reality through the power of the Holy Spirit.

LISTEN

THE MANY FACES

OF MISSIONARIES

FOLLOWING THE CALL IS A UNIQUE PROCESS FOR EVERYONE. GLOBAL PARTNERS MISSIONARIES COME FROM MANY BACKGROUNDS: SOME ARE SINGLE, SOME MARRIED; SOME HAVE CHILDREN, SOME DO NOT. ALL HAVE FACED OBSTACLES AND DOUBTS IN THE JOURNEY BUT HAVE STILL RESPONDED TO THE CALL, "HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME."

HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR STORIES...



was 14 when I moved in 2005 from my native Mexico to the United States. My mom and three younger sisters (ages twelve, eight, and eight months) accompanied me while my dad, a successful lawyer, stayed behind to work. I arrived in El Paso, Texas, knowing no English. I didn't have a relationship with God. He was just a figure that was sometimes talked about at home. My grandma had been a believer for decades, and she had occasionally taken us to Sunday school. For me, going to church felt strange. I never thought I'd have a real encounter with God. But I did.

It was the first time I heard I could have a relationship with Him. I completely fell in love with God and surrendered my life to Him. I was still a young teen. I felt accepted and loved unconditionally. God didn't care where I came from or that I didn't speak English or had a thick accent. He loved me just as I was. He comforted me and gave me a joy that I had never experienced during one of the toughest times in my life.

Four months after accepting Christ, He called me to be a missionary. I wanted to share His acceptance and love with immigrants — people like me. I wanted to let them know, that even though it seemed like everyone around them didn't care about them, and were even mean to them sometimes, Jesus loved them unconditionally — that Jesus didn't see their skin color, mother language, or home country as something against them. He was the one who created them exactly how He wanted them to be. And He loved them the same as any other person.

After graduating from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 2014, I was given an internship opportunity in Europe. I spent the summer working with immigrants with different backgrounds and beliefs — loving people who were going through what I had gone through — because they too were doing it alone. After that summer internship, I returned to the United States for a time and then was appointed to return to Europe, where I currently serve.

By sharing my journey of transformation and how God made me new through faith in Jesus, I see God working in the hearts of people. I celebrate that I am a Mexican who is able to reach out to other cultures from around the world wherever God leads me.

- MISSIONARY WORKING WITH IMMIGRANTS IN EUROPE

e had already lived in the same city as Yusuf for six years when we first met. During our first meeting over coffee, I gave Yusuf a Bible. Over a text I suggested he read Psalm 23 — sharing just a taste of God's peace. Of course, the story did not begin with me already in this unreached city. It started eight years before, thousands of miles away in a suburban Michigan town.

My wife and I had what many would consider a fulfilling and successful life. Two full-time careers, a home in Michigan, and a growing family. We served faithfully and attended our local church each Sunday. Yet, we started to feel a draw towards something more. Little did we know how our story would unfold just a few years later. I worked in the auto industry, and my wife was an architect. **We thought God didn't use those people as missionaries** — **that He only calls pastors, doctors, nurses, and teachers.**

After resigning from our jobs and working tirelessly to raise up financial and prayer partners, we arrived on the field. We intentionally engage with people for the purpose of sharing the gospel in a land where the "soil" is as rocky and infertile as any in the world.





Ust over 19 years ago, my husband and I stepped off the plane to begin our first longterm mission assignment. At the time, I was, in many ways, far from an ideal missionary candidate. We were joining a new team working to plant churches in a small Muslim country.

I was a perfectionist, a naturally introverted lover of solitary activities like playing the piano and reading. My new responsibilities required me to regularly go out and begin relationships with new people, using a new language we were just beginning to learn. The studying and memorizing — that was familiar and comfortable. Using a new language and daily meeting new people and situations — exhausting, to say the least.

I was raised in a tiny town of fewer than 200 people. In our new home, I was learning to navigate life in a city of a few million (with no natural sense of direction — ask my parents!). We had worked to prepare. I had studied how to learn languages and earned a degree in intercultural ministry! But now, each day I was faced with my own inadequacy and fears.

Gradually, I began to understand that God isn't looking for perfect people; He wants willing

ones. On the days when it was hardest, this truth helped me open the door and go out one more time. My job was to stay willing, and God took what I had to offer and used it for something beautiful. He helped me learn bus routes, move on from my mistakes, and come to know and love new people.

LISTEN

"I learned that it is through developing meaningful relationships, discipleship, and God's hand that we see new believers come to know Christ." - a NEXT intern



arrived in Eastern Europe in the middle of the night after one flight cancellation and multiple flight delays. I was too exhausted to unpack, so I dropped everything and went straight to bed. The next morning, I was ready. I was excited to meet the other interns, join the rock-climbing community, and start making an impact for the kingdom.

I had joined the NEXT internship initiative with Global Partners because I would have the chance to teach, lead, and participate in rock climbing while pursuing Christ. Little did I know my expectations, which included serving with the perfect team of interns, were going to be far from my reality.

I quickly recognized that the climbing community was very small and consisted of only youth, and an evident community impact was not going to happen on the spot. As for the team of interns, I have never been a part of a group that was so vastly different from me. Our worldviews, backgrounds, and personalities were quite diverse.

During the first few weeks, my initial expectations came crashing down. I doubted my choice in being a NEXT intern. I questioned my motives. I did not fully click with my team of interns. I was not climbing as much as I'd hoped, and I did not feel like I was making any impact in the lives of the people around me. As time passed, though, God began to reveal to me the reality and beauty of seeing mission work results differently than I had anticipated. I learned that it is through developing meaningful relationships, discipleship, and God's hand that we see new believers come to know Christ.

What I originally saw as a possible mistake began to make sense. I understood that when families and a community are as deeply rooted in Islam and cultural Catholicism as our community was, it may take many years to see relational outreach take hold. When it does, strongholds begin to fall and generational ties that keep people from knowing Christ begin to break.

As God continues to reveal these truths to me, it now seems that my time in Eastern Europe was too short. But as short as it was, my time there was not in vain. Seeds were planted and watered. Some of us interns had the opportunity to discuss Islam and Christianity with one of our Muslim friends. These discussions led to reading the Bible with him at his request. **The beauty of the NEXT internship is that it prepares interns for what comes next.**

I am a part of a Kingdom Force that consists of all generations, ethnicities, economic backgrounds, lay and clergy, male and female — people actively seeking to reach the lost and to bring God's kingdom to earth. With the Holy Spirit's direction, I can make an impact wherever He leads next. magine you are the only pastor of the only church in a Mongolian town of 10,000 people, and the nearest town of any size is almost four hours away. Coming to Bible school four times a year is more than a time of training. It's a time of fellowship, of encouragement, of hope and renewal. It's a time to be teased about your new haircut and time to resurrect old inside jokes with people who have known you for years. It's a time to pray, and sing, and learn, and dance. It's a time to let others bear your burden, and you stretch out your arms to help carry theirs. When you are at Bible school, you are reminded that you are not alone. You are renewed for the work God has called you to.

Imagine you are one of two pastors in a small town 12 hours outside the capital city. You moved there three years ago as a missionary to establish a new church. You knew no one when you moved and fought hard to build meaningful relationships in this small town. You had to learn to function in a village quite different than the one you're from.

Imagine you are a Bible teacher from North America. You love the Bible, and you love the church. You join 20 Christian leaders in a small town in Mongolia. You sleep on a thin pad on the floor in a room with nearly a dozen other people. You use an outhouse in below freezing weather and eat food that you don't cook (in bowls that were rinsed in hot water but definitely not washed with soap). You don't speak the language of the students, and you know how much subtle shifts in language matter with theology. You plan well but realize how much is out of your control. You're thankful that your translator knows the audience, likes you, and has a good grasp on theology, so you (mostly) don't worry when she goes off on a tangent.

Through this week, **you see with new eyes the significance that God came before the hills and mountains; that He owns them and everything on them; and that it's foolish to worship the mountain, a created thing.** You remember the shrines on the tops of hills and mountains that you passed on the way to class. You're thankful for the opportunity to see Scripture through a different lens. You hear singing in a language you don't understand—except the word 'hallelujah' and 'i-a-sus' which sounds different but is the recognizable name of the God you all worship. And, you long for all to hear the Good News of God's love, so that they can be made new.



'////// How is God Speaking?

How is God speaking and leading as you **LISTEN** to Him — through prayer, His Word, and other Christians?





EXPLORE YOUR CALLING シン

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GROW : HOW DO I PREPARE?

//////// Preparation Matters

You have responded to God's call. You believe God is leading you to serve cross-culturally in mission. What is the next step? We recognize the need for preparation because that is what we see in the living example of Jesus. Although Jesus' ministry was a mere three years, His 30 years of preparation and listening closely to the whispers of the Spirit increased the overall impact of His ministry.

You might be asking, "Why do I need to prepare? Won't God provide me with the skills I need?" Of course, God is in the business of equipping those who have been called to serve. Often God equips through diligent preparation. We believe that preparation is vital for the sustainability and impact of your ministry. Preparation helps us thrive in ministry by helping us maintain health, wellness, and longevity in ministry on the field or in our home country. When we go into an assignment ill-prepared, we may find ourselves burnt out and frustrated because we do not have the emotional, spiritual, and practical skills necessary to complete our ministry assignment.

We want to walk with you, strengthen you, and equip you to flourish in whatever assignment you find yourself. We want you to thrive, both in your walk with God and in the new culture that you will call home.

In the following pages, we will examine several ways you can begin preparing for mission service today.



THE EFFECTIVE

MISSIONARY

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS IN BECOMING A MISSIONARY IS HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD AND STEPPING OUT IN OBEDIENCE. AS YOU DISCERN GOD'S CALL ON YOUR LIFE, HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN BETTER PREPARE FOR A MISSIONAL LIFE AND CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY.



/////// Spiritual Formation

A missionary should have a mature and growing relationship with Christ and participate in personal spiritual disciplines.

You can practice this element today! In fact, it is essential that you do. Personal spiritual disciplines include prayer, Bible study, and fasting, as well as many others. We are all unique, so all of us will be drawn to different spiritual disciplines that speak to us and bring us life. Whatever it is, start the practice now. These habits will stick with you and strengthen your ministry once you begin your assignment.

- O Prayer
 - Regular personal prayer life
 - Public/corporate prayer
 - Utilizing fasting in focused prayer

O Scripture

- Regular devotional reading
- Read entire Bible
- Memorization & familiarity
- Meditation & study

O Worship

Corporate & personal worship

Submissiveness

- To God
- To leadership/authority
- To one another
- Gratitude
 - To God
 - To one another
-) Faith
- Perseverance

Holiness

- Surrender
- Personal purity & cleansing
- Power of the Holy Spirit
- Dealing with temptation

Calling

- Clarity, understanding, & articulation
- Corporate & personal calling
- Accountability

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////// Ministry Skills

A missionary is continually developing in their journey for faithful and fruitful ministry. As you engage in ministry, you are growing in your understanding of how God has uniquely created you and what that means for your active participation in Great Commission work and obedience.

Much of this can be discovered and developed through practice and intentional engagement. Here are some ministry skills for focus and development:

🔘 Eva	ngelism	0	Dev	eloping Relationships
•	Knowledge of plan(s)		•	Unchurched
•	Biblical path to salvation		•	Team members
	Passion to reach the lost		•	Internationals
•	Experience & confidence	0	List	ening/Counseling
O Disciple-Making			•	Listen first
•	Reproducing disciples		•	Active Listening
O Abi	lity to Lead Groups	0	Con	flict Resolution
•	Small group Bible		•	Interpersonal
	studies		•	Ability to mediate/
•	Ministry teams			facilitate
O Con	nmunication Skills	0	Coa	ching/Mentoring
•	Testimony	0	Теа	mwork
•	Teaching		•	Finding your fit
•	Preaching		•	Respecting others' gifts
•	Public prayer		•	Pulling your weight
O Language Acquisition			•	Adding value
	Develop preparatory skills	s		



/////// Self-Management

As Christians, we are to let our light shine and to live above reproach. Obediently and faithfully living out God's call impacts and affects all areas of your life.

A missionary should demonstrate the ability to appropriately manage their personal and public life. Here are some areas of self-management to consider for personal evaluation, assessment, growth, and development:

O Financial Stewardship

- Tithing
- Personal budgeting
- Being content
- Debt management
- Giving to others

O Physical Wellness

- Health
- Nutrition
- Exercise
- Rest

O Emotional Wellness

- Stability
- Stress management

O People Skills

- Conversational ability
- Relating to others
- Eye contact
- Initiative

O Time Management

- Organization
- Promptness
- Scheduling
- Prioritizing

O Family

- Boundaries
- Healthy support

O Personal Growth

- Ability to lead others
- Self-awareness

O Personal Integrity

- Honesty
- Transparency
- Accountability

🔘 Learner

- Humility
- Asking good questions
- Listening

C Educational Preparation

 Educational background to match the ministry of desired service

🔘 Life Skills

- Personal hygiene
- Laundry
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Navigation/ability to use map

GROW

///////

DEVELOPMENT

WORKSHEET

NOW THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF GROWTH AND HEALTHY SERVICE AS A MISSIONARY, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO CREATE AN ACTION PLAN TO FURTHER DEVELOP IN SOME OF THESE AREAS. TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON EACH AREA AND WRITE DOWN WHATEVER COMES TO MIND. HOW ARE YOU BEING LED TO GROW AND DEVELOP IN THESE AREAS? BE AS CONCRETE AS YOU CAN.





'///////	Ministry Skills	///
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		States and a state of the state
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///////	Self-Management	



RESOURCES

TO GET YOU STARTED

SOMETIMES IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN WHEN EXPLORING YOUR CALL. WE HAVE CREATED A LIST OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITE BOOKS AND RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED. **CHECK THEM OUT!** ////

/////// Online Resources

Global Partners Resource Page: find information on ways to pray, read life-transformation stories, watch inspiring videos, and access other content to inspire and equip you to live on mission.



gponline.org/resources

MomentumYes is a free, six session lesson and video resource that invites everyday people to rethink God's mission, the call of the church, and their individual roles. It is a free online videobased curriculum for churches, small groups, and individuals.

momentumyes.com/course-overview

• **Perspectives Course:** God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable and, perhaps, crucial for any Christian.

perspectives.org



////// Books



Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first Century **by Timothy Tennent**



Cross-Cultural Servanthood: A Serving the World in Christlike Humility **by Duane Elmer**



Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures by Sarah A. Lanier



The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative **by Christopher J. H. Wright**



Discovering Mission by Charles R. Gailey and Howard Culbertson

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SERVE : HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?





CALLING

Whether God calls in a "lightening strike" or through a mere sense, a feeling, a restlessness in the day to day, the Global Partners mobilization team is committed to offering missionary candidates pathways of obedience to the Great Commission. They know the mission field and walk the journey of discernment alongside the candidate to help discern God's leading. As the missionary candidate explores his or her call to mission, he or she engages with the mobilization team to gain both clarity and affirmation. This journey begins with an inquiry call with a mobilizer.

02

APPLICATION

When ready, the candidate begins the application process and walks the path with the mobilization team. This process is a multi-step journey with intentional space given for discernment in how God is leading for service. It includes multiple applications and interviews, with areas of focus on testimony, calling, theological affirmation, wellness, and ministry experience.

0 3

EXPLORATION

The mobilization team walks beside the candidate through the process as he or she discerns God's specific leading for cross-cultural service. This includes intentional conversations and focused prayer around opportunities considering the candidate's giftings, passions, and sense of leading, and how that fits with a team, needs on a possible field, and type of work. The exploration phase brings clarity and narrowing for a particular field of service, leading up to placement and appointment.

0 4

APPOINTMENT

Once the candidate has completed the application journey with approval, they are officially appointed as a Global Partners missionary with placement to a particular field of service. Upon appointment, notification is sent to the missionary's local Wesleyan church where his or her membership is held, to the corresponding district, and to the broader Global Partners team.



ORIENTATION

Shortly after appointment to a field of service, missionaries attend Launch, a two-day onboarding experience followed by six monthly virtual calls with their cohort. Launch provides a clearer understanding of Global Partners' organizational missiology, processes, and financial systems.

06

INITIAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Global Partners equips newly appointed missionaries with the skills and support needed to build a team of prayer and financial partners. Missionaries are coached to share their stories and invite individuals and churches to join them in having an impact in the world. Donor Services and the Church Engagement Team works with local Wesleyan churches to inspire generous giving throughout a missionary's time of service.



TRAINING

Global Partners missionaries are prepared for crosscultural service through intensive training in the areas of language acquisition, cultural adaptation, and interpersonal relationships.

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DEPLOYMENT

Global Partners resources missionaries to ensure they are prepared, supported, and healthy to effectively serve at every phase of ministry development. As missionaries are deployed for field service, field, area, and Resource Team leaders work together to offer ongoing administrative support, as well as on-field opportunities for continued learning and mentoring.



SERVICE

As determined by assignment, a missionary will serve their designated term, focusing on faithfully engaging in the specified work on their particular field, as set forth by the field and area leadership. While serving, the missionary maintains strong relationships with their partnership team.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

After completing the term of field service, missionaries return for a season of reconnecting with prayer and financial partners. They attend REquip, a one-week training event designed to equip missionaries with ongoing professional development as well as facilitate reflection, reconnection, and refocusing before they return to the field for another term. ///

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REDEPLOYMENT

Global Partners values the long-term resilience of missionaries and provides ongoing training, wellness, and administrative support to ensure missionaries are ready to resume field service. Upon completing their Partnership Development, a missionary will be redeployed and return to the field to serve another term.



ALUMNI

Upon the conclusion of missionary service, Global Partners leadership helps missionaries finish well. Missionaries who have completed their service are encouraged to participate in a guided debrief of their experience and are equipped for the transition back to life in their passport culture. They are welcomed as members into the GP Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship as new alumni.



TYPES OF SERVICE

THROUGH THE MOBILIZATION PROCESS, PRIOR TO PLACEMENT, A MISSIONARY CANDIDATE DETERMINES SERVICE TYPE, BASED ON LENGTH OF DEPLOYMENT. **THERE ARE FOUR SERVICE TYPES:**

- /////// NEXT | 2 months to 1 year
- /////// Short-term | up to 1 year
- /////// Mid-term | 2-3 years
- /////// Long-term | 3+ years





NEXT Internship | 2-6 months NEXT Residency | 1 year

NEXT is a mentored, cross-cultural immersion experience designed to help young adults explore who they are in God's mission. NEXT interns and residents grow as disciples through the four essentials of Community, Culture, Character, and Calling. As a NEXT intern or resident, you will journey with experienced mentors in a cross-cultural mission context, learn more about God, His mission, and your unique part in His global Church, and engage in relationships as you practice intercultural skills that equip you for what's next.





E SHORT-TERM

up to 1 year

A missionary serving as a **short-term** volunteer engages with a Global Partners field from one month up to a year. Some of these opportunities are centered on meeting an immediate need on the field, while others focus on creating intentional time to explore God's work in your life. Short-term service will provide cultural immersion and ministry experience all within the context of longterm mission work.



SERVE



MID-TERM

2-3 years

A missionary serving **mid-term** engages in a two to three-year term as an employee of The Wesleyan Church. You will be appointed to a field, build your partnership team, and receive training and resources for successful ministry. Culture and language learning are key areas of focus as you build relationships and engage with the work on the field. Mid-term service provides opportunity to serve in a longer capacity than our shortterm options. Upon completion of your term, you will evaluate if God might be leading you to long-term service.





3+ years

A missionary serving long-term is appointed to terms of service of three or more years. Different than midterm, this deployment type holds with it an understanding that you desire to serve multiple terms of service. You will be appointed to a field, build your partnership team, and receive training and resources for successful ministry. Culture and language learning are key areas of focus, especially during your first term, as you build relationships and engage with the work on the field. Long-lasting, transformative work takes time, and long-term service provides opportunity to cultivate that very thing. A missionary serving long-term is an employee of The Wesleyan Church and receives training and resources for successful ministry for the long haul.

SERVE

YOUR SUPPORT

NETWORK

When a Global Partners missionary moves to the field, they are not able to take all the people they love with them, but that does not mean that their family, friends, and church do not continue to support them in ministry and life. Missionaries continue to build and develop relationships with partners comprising their support network that encourages them through prayer, finances, and friendship throughout their time of service.

Prayer partners are invaluable and essential to the effectiveness of the work and ministry of the missionary.

The primary way financial partners are invited to participate in sending you is through Faith Promise giving. the believer looks to the Lord, **in faith**, asking how much He would have the believer give. then the believer promises to give as the Lord directs. The Faith Promise is vertical, being made between the believer and the Lord.

AS A GLOBAL PARTNERS MISSIONARY, YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK CONSISTS OF FIVE PRIMARY GROUPS.

////// Personal Relationship Network

We are all the body of Christ. You have an expanded relational network of friends, family, and acquaintances who care about you and have interest in partnering with you through prayer and financial giving. They may not go to your church or be geographically close but still desire to play a part in sending you out. Missionaries are coached to share their stories as they connect and invest in these relationships.



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/////// Local Church

Your local church is a foundational partner in your support network. These are the people who know you and love you deeply. They are the people who have journeyed with you through the discovery of your call. In many cases, these are the people who have known you for years and are familiar with how God has been working in your life throughout that time.

A local church that sends a missionary is sending out one of their very own for the sake of the kingdom to reach the far, no matter how hard. They want to partner with that missionary in any way they can. This includes helping the missionary prepare for the field mentally, spiritually, financially, and emotionally. It means supporting the missionary on the field through faithful prayer, finances (both one-time gifts and faith promise giving), encouragement, and love. It can include engaging in the ministry of the missionary by supporting projects and sending short-term teams.

/////// Home District

In addition to your personal relationship network and local church, your home district is a beautiful example of the network of churches that we benefit from as Global Partners missionaries in The Wesleyan Church. The district is a multiplication of your local church support as churches from across your district are also excited and invited to partner with you, to support you, and engage in ministry with you. Just as you can expand your ministry by partnering with your district, churches across your district are multiplying their ministry through you.

SERVE

/////// People on the Field

The people you meet on the field are wonderful resources to missionaries. **Local people** can offer support by helping you adapt to new surroundings and make relational connections. While you are on the field, you are not alone because your new neighbors, local friends, and spiritual leaders are excited to help you learn about their culture and become your on-site family. Take time to build relationships where you are. Every relationship starts person to person, family to family, community to community.

Your **Global Partners teammates** on the field are a further resource to help set you up for successful and fruitful practices and ministry. They offer seasoned experience and understanding for language learning and cultural adaptation.

/////// Your Global Partners Resource Team

As part of Global Partners, the Global Partners Resource Team provides wellness, training, and administrative support. Our commitment and promise to you is to:

- Train and equip you with tools for success before you go and connect you with a ministry team who will fully embrace you when you arrive.
- Provide you with a fundraising coach to help you raise enough support.
- Offer you a wellness team to care for you and those in your care.
- Have a shared mission to be pioneers with you, as we go here, near, & far ... no matter how hard.

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SERVE

FREQUENTLY

ASKED QUESTIONS

/////// How long does the sending process take?

The length of time it takes to send a missionary varies greatly from person to person. For some, the process takes less than a year; for others it takes much longer. There are several factors that go into sending an individual or couple as missionaries, including calling, gifts, development, experience, and training. The timeline can also be affected by the type of needs on the field and their urgency. For example, if a candidate's skills match an urgent need on the field, they may go through the process rather quickly. On the other hand, particularly for people called to long- term service, development and training may be a priority and can take several years.

/////// Is there training to better equip me to become a missionary?

Global Partners equips each missionary for cross-cultural service according to his or her specific needs. Training varies based on your desired length of service and given assignment. All long-term missionaries engage in a fourweek, residential training program. Additionally, rolespecific training may be provided once you are placed in an assignment and before you are deployed.

/////// Can I serve if I have debt?

While debt is certainly a concern, there is hope. We encourage you to do all that you can to reduce your debt before you are assigned. However, we also recognize that in many contexts, debt is a reality we face. We will help you consider solutions that will enable you to serve as soon as possible.

/////// How old do I have to be to become a missionary?

While a Global Partners missionary must be 18 years of age or older to serve in their own assignment, there are many opportunities for service before that time, including short-term mission opportunities within your local church or district.

/////// Can I serve with my dependent children?

Global Partners places a high value on the contribution of the missionary family. Serving together can be an example in your community, and your children may be the avenue God uses to build relationships and ministry opportunities.

We understand each child has unique needs in growing up on the mission field. We will endeavor to support, advocate for, and assist them — and you as parents — in their healthy development and as they become adults and re-enter their heritage culture. With this in mind, we take an intentional role through our efforts on and off the field, including wellness support and debrief initiatives.

/////// Do I need a college degree to become a missionary?

The skills needed for missionary service vary greatly based on context and length of service, but Global Partners commonly encourages either trade or educational development in order to increase a missionary's effectiveness.



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/////// I have some health concerns. Can I still become a missionary?

Throughout our application process, we assess health history and have a medical professional whose goal is to make sure you could be effective and cared for appropriately. However, there are health concerns that could hinder someone from serving as a missionary.

/////// What is the Resourcing Fee?

We are compelled by a huge vision—**global transformation**. Collectively, we embrace financial resourcing as an essential component to see this vision realized. The Resourcing Fee provides many services, including training and wellness support for missionaries throughout their journey with Global Partners. The Resourcing Fee also covers logistical needs, such as providing functional financial management systems. And, it accomplishes big picture goals of mobilizing new missionaries and supporting international church development.

TAKING THE

FIRST STEP

WE HOPE THIS RESOURCE HAS PROVEN HELPFUL AS YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY. IF YOU ARE STILL WONDERING HOW TO MOVE FORWARD, THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO. ///

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/////// Keep Praying

Just like we said at the beginning, continue to seek God's calling for your life. Continue to grow in your relationship with Jesus. Remember, your relationship with our Savior and the conviction that God has called you to serve as a missionary is what will keep you on the field through tough times.

/////// Find a Mentor

If you do not already have a trusted mentor, ask someone you admire and would aspire to be more like if they would meet with you on a regular basis to share life as you discern what God has for you. Our journey with God is not one that we travel alone. We travel together with other believers in community. Someone with a bit more experience and maturity will not only be able to affirm you in what you are discerning, but they will also be able to point out things that you might otherwise miss.

/////// Keep Serving

You are forming habits now that you will carry with you onto the field. Keep serving faithfully where God has put you. In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about how those servants who are faithful with a little will be given more to manage. You can serve today in your local church or wherever God has placed you.



/////// Start the Conversation

If you're feeling like God may be calling you to something more, let's talk about it. Sometimes obedience starts with an action as simple as completing a form. Go to our site and fill out an inquiry form: **gponline.org/go**. It will only take a few minutes to complete.

/////// Meet with your local church pastor

We want you to begin developing a strong relationship with your local church now. Express your sense of missionary calling to your pastor. The mission of Global Partners is amplifying local church mission for global transformation. We desire to partner with your sending church in helping process, train, equip, and launch you into missionary service.

We are standing by to answer your questions and encourage you to reach out to us at:

317.774.7950 mobilization@gponline.org

We are here to help.

In this guide you will find encouragement, inspiration, and valuable information about Global Partners and how you can answer God's call for His service.

START YOUR JOURNEY TODAY



gponline.org/go

mobilization@gponline.org

317.774.7950