

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

How those called to serve
in a cross-cultural ministry are trained

SCOTT A. ARMSTRONG



The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Cross-Cultural Missions Course

Church of the Nazarene

Mesoamerica Region

Scott Armstrong



The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary
A book in the School of Leadership series.
A Cross-Cultural Missions Course

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Table of Contents

Lesson 1	The Call to Cross-Cultural Ministry	9
Lesson 2	Spiritual Formation of the Missionary	17
Lesson 3	Twelve Essential Traits (Part 1)	25
Lesson 4	Twelve Essential Traits (Part 2)	33
Lesson 5	Profile of a Nazarene Missionary	41
Lesson 6	How Do I Become a Missionary?	49
Lesson 7	Training and Preparing for the Mission Field	57
Lesson 8	Mission Corps	65

Introduction

The School of Leadership book series is designed to provide a tool for the church to train and educate its members so they can actively participate in Christian service according to the gifts and calling (vocation) they have received from their Lord.

Each book provides study materials for a course of the School of Leadership program that is offered by the Theological Institutions of the Mesoamerica Region of the Church of the Nazarene. These are: AIBN serving Guatemala North; ASTN serving El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; SENAMEX North serving Central and South Mexico; and SENDAS serving Costa Rica and Panama. The leaders and the schools (presidents, directors, academic vice presidents and directors of decentralized academic studies) actively participated in the program design.

The School of Leadership has five core courses common to all ministries and six specialized courses for each individual ministry. After completing the series, the respective Theological Institution gives the student a certificate (or diploma) in Specialized Ministry.

The general objective of the School of Leadership is “to work with the local church in equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, giving them solid, theological, Biblical knowledge and developing them through the exercise of their gifts for service in their local congregation and in society.” The specific objectives of this program are threefold:

- Develop the ministerial gifts of the local congregation.
- Multiply service ministries in the church and community.
- Raise awareness of the vocation of professional ministry in its diverse forms.

This series entitled *Cross-Cultural Missions* has the objective of helping churches to be aware of the reality of the world today without Christ. The purpose is to involve the church in the preparation and support of those called to cross-cultural missions. We want to thank Ruben and Monica Fernandez, Benjamin Cruz, Ana Crocker, Maddai Gonzalez, Erika Hasenauer, David Campos, Claudia Cruz, Esther Quezada, Marlen de Soria, David Cooper, Charles Gailey, Ulises Solis, Sara de Diaz, German and Patricia Picavea, Samuel Aparicio and Shelley Webb who all contributed to this project.

A special thanks to Dr. Monica Mastronardi de Fernandez for her dedication as General Editor of the project, to the Regional Ministry Coordinators, and to the team of writers and designers who collaborated to publish these books. An additional thanks to the teachers who will share these materials. They will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout the Mesoamerica Region.

Finally, I give thanks to Rev. Edwin Martinez and his team in Mesoamerica Regional Literature for the publication and distribution of these materials, and to Dr. L. Carlos Saenz, Mesoamerica Regional Director, for his continued support in this task, which is the result of his conviction of the important need for the church to be comprehensively trained.

I pray for God’s blessing for all the disciples whose lives and Christian service will be enriched by these books.

Scott Armstrong
Coordinator of Global Mission
Mesoamerica Region

What Is the School of Leadership?

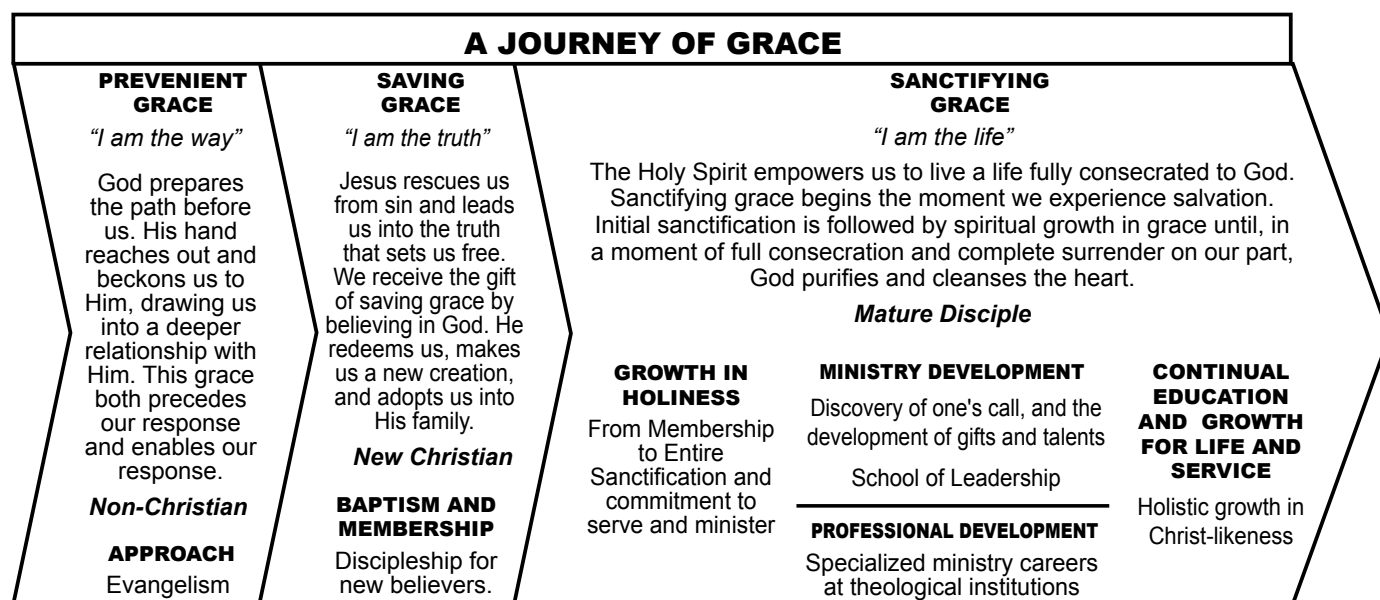
The **School of Leadership** is an educational program for lay ministry in different specialties to engage in the mission of the local church. This program is administered by the Theological Institutions of the Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica Region and taught both at these institutions and in the local churches enrolled in the program.

Who Can Benefit from the School of Leadership?

It is for all the members of the Church of the Nazarene who have participated in Levels Saving Grace and Sanctifying Grace - Growth in Holiness of the discipleship program A Journey of Grace, and who, with all their heart, wish to discover their gifts and serve God in His work.

The Plan - A Journey of Grace

In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe that making disciples in the image of Christ in the nations is the foundation of the missionary work of the church and the responsibility of its leadership (Ephesians 4:7-16). For this, at all levels of the church, the implementation of progressive discipleship is promoted as “A Journey of Grace” (John 14: 6), a lifestyle of discipleship. The School of Leadership is part of the “Sanctifying Grace - Ministry Development” section, and is designed for those who have gone through the “Prevenient Grace” and “Saving Grace” sections of the discipleship path.



The work of discipleship is continuous and dynamic; therefore, the disciple never stops growing in the likeness of his Lord. This growth, when healthy, occurs in all dimensions: the individual dimension (spiritual growth), the corporate dimension (joining the congregation), the holiness in life dimension (progressive transformation of our being and doing according to the model of Jesus Christ) and the service dimension (investing our lives in ministry).

Dr. Monica Mastronardi de Fernandez
Managing Editor, The School of Leadership Book Series



How Do I Use This Book?

This book contains eight lessons of the School of Leadership program, along with activities and final evaluation of the course.

How are the contents of this book organized?

Each of the eight lessons of this book contains the following:

- ▶ **Objectives:** These are the learning objectives the student is expected to understand at the end of the lesson.
- ▶ **Main Ideas:** A summary of the key teachings of the lesson.
- ▶ **Development of Lesson:** This is the largest section because it is the development of the contents of the lesson. The lessons have been written so that the book can be the teacher, and for that reason the contents have been written in a dynamic form and in simple language with contemporary ideas.
- ▶ **Notes and Comments:** The information in the margins is intended to clarify terms and provide notes that complement or extend the content of the lesson.
- ▶ **Questions:** Sometimes questions are included in the margin that the teacher can use to introduce or reinforce a lesson topic.
- ▶ **What did we learn?:** The box at the end of the lesson development section provides a brief summary of the lesson.
- ▶ **Activities:** This is a page at the end of each lesson that contains learning activities, for individuals or groups, on the subject studied. The estimated time for implementation in class is 20 minutes.
- ▶ **Final evaluation of the course:** This is the last page of the book and once completed the student must remove it from the book and hand it in to a course instructor. The final evaluation should take about 15 minutes.

How long is each course?

The courses are designed for 12 hours of class over 8 ninety-minute sessions. Each institution and each church or local theological study center will coordinate days and times of the classes. Within this hour and a half the teacher or the teachers should include time for the activities contained in the book.

What is the role of the student?

The student is responsible for the following:

1. Enroll on time for the course.
2. Buy the book and study each lesson before class time.
3. Arrive for class on time.
4. Participate in class activities.
5. Participate in practical ministry in the local church outside of class.
6. Complete and submit the final evaluation to the teacher.

What is the role of the teacher of the course?

The professors and teachers for the School of Leadership courses are pastors and laity committed to the mission and ministry of the church and preferably have experience in the ministry they teach. The Director and/or the School of Leadership at the local church (or theological institution) invites their participation and their functions are the following:

1. Be well prepared by studying the book's content and scheduling the use of class time. When studying the lesson, you should have on hand the Bible and a dictionary. Although the lessons are written using simple language, it is recommended that you "translate" what you consider difficult in order to help the students understand. In other words, use terms that they can better understand.
2. Ensure that the students are studying the material in the book and achieving the learning objectives.
3. Plan and accompany students in the activities of ministerial practice. The local pastor and the director of the respective ministry must schedule these activities. These activities should not take away from class time.
4. Take daily attendance and grades in the class report form. The final average will be the result demonstrated by the student in the following activities:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Participation in ministerial practice outside of class
 - c. Final evaluation
5. At the end of the course, collect the evaluation sheets and hand them in with the form "Class Report" to the local School of Leadership director. Do this after totaling the averages and verifying that all data is complete on the form.
6. Professors and teachers should not add tasks or reading assignments apart from the contents of the book. They should be creative in the design of the learning activities and in planning ministry activities outside the classroom according to the reality of their local church and its context.

How do I teach a class?

We recommend using a 90-minute class session as follows:

- **5 minutes:** Review the topic of the previous lesson and pray together.
- **30 minutes:** Review and discuss the lesson. We recommend using an outline, chalkboard, cardboard or other available materials, using dynamic learning activities and visual media such as graphics, drawings, objects, pictures, questions, assigning students to submit parts of the lesson, and so on. We do not recommend lecturing or having the teacher reread the lesson content.
- **5 minutes:** Break either in the middle of class or when it is convenient.
- **20 minutes:** Work on activities in the book. This can be done at the beginning,

middle or end of the review, or you can complete the activities as you proceed in accordance with the issues as it relates to them.

- **20 minutes:** Discussion about the students' ministry practice that they currently do and that they will do. At the beginning of the course you will need to present the schedule to the students so that they can make arrangements to attend the ministry practice. In the classes when the students discuss their ministry practice, the conversation should be focused on what they learned, including their successes and their errors, as well as the difficulties they encountered.
- **10 minutes:** Prayer for the issues arising from the practice (challenges, people, problems, goals, gratitude for the results, among others).

How do I implement the final course evaluation?

Allocate 15 minutes of time during the last class meeting for the course evaluation. If necessary, students may consult their books and Bibles. Final evaluations are designed to be an activity to reinforce what was learned in class and not a repetition of the contents of the book. The purpose of this assessment is to measure the understanding and evaluation of the student concerning the class topics, their spiritual growth, their progress in the commitment to the mission of the church and their progress in ministerial experience.

Ministerial Practice Activities

The following are suggested activities for ministerial practice outside of class. The list below includes several ideas to help teachers, pastors, directors of local School of Leadership groups and local ministry directors. From the list you can choose the practice most suited to the contextual situation and the local church ministry, or others can replace these according to the needs and possibilities of your context.

We recommend having at least three ministerial activities per course. You can put the whole class to work on a project or assign group tasks according to interests, gifts and abilities. It is advisable to involve students in a variety of new ministry experiences.

Suggested Ministry Activities for the Course: The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

1. Organize a weekend activity with an emphasis on the call to cross-cultural missions.
2. Organize a weekend retreat to learn about and practice different spiritual disciplines.
3. Contact Global Mission MAR to find out about missionary training events in your field or district and promote them to recruit teens and young adults with a call to missions.
4. Hold a movie night and show movies about the call to missions. Include time for answering questions, discussion, and prayer for those who are interested in missions.
5. Invite people who have experience as volunteer missionaries to speak to your group so you can learn their stories and hear their advice about missionary preparation.
6. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation about the profile of a Nazarene missionary with the goal of having the church commit to a time of prayer for those who sense a calling.
7. Learn about the Genesis project through their webpage: www.mesoamericagenesis.com. Share this information during an NYI meeting and encourage the youth to learn more and become involved.
8. Invite a representative from a Nazarene seminary or Bible institute and organize a service with the purpose of increasing awareness about the call every Christian has to prepare for ministry.
9. Research the theological education programs on your region. Promote these programs in your church.



LESSON 1

The Call to Cross-Cultural Ministry

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To define the words service, call, and cross-cultural ministry.
- To identify myths and doubts in relation to the call.

Main Ideas

- God chooses and calls people for His service. He prepares, equips, and sends through the church.
- Cross-cultural ministry requires crossing mental, geographic, and cultural borders (among others).
- Those who are called must place all their trust in God.

Introduction

The author of the first two lessons of this book is Erika Ríos Hasenauer. She shares her testimony and personal experiences of confronting the myths concerning God's call to cross-cultural ministry. Erika was born in Oaxaca, Mexico. She is a medical doctor, specializing in Public Health and AIDS, as well as an Ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene.

"I resisted God's call in different ways. As a teenager I struggled to surrender my plans for my life; as a missionary I struggled to surrender the ministry God had given me. Over time, and thanks to the Lord's infinite patience, I was able to understand that the call required me to fully surrender to God's will" (Erika Ríos Hasenauer).

Beginning in 2000, she served as a medical missionary in Equatorial Guinea (Africa). She received her educational preparation in Barcelona, Spain and in San Jose, Costa Rica at the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas (SENDAS). There she graduated from the Master's Program in Church Missions (2005-2007). Erika says that was a difficult time of "intense emotional restoration and personal connection with God." She served for several years in the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries global office as AIDS Coordinator, and since 2008 she and her husband Brian have been planting a multicultural church in Bernalillo, New Mexico (USA), where she also serves in compassionate ministries.

Erika tells about her struggle to accept the call: *"When I was 16 years old, God called me to study medicine so I could help the poor. It took me some time to understand how damaging stereotypes can be and that I would have to fight against them. In 1997 I went on a mission trip to La Habana, Cuba. There God confronted me with a call to full time missionary service. Early one morning as I knelt, I felt the strong presence of God. That was the right time and place to make a commitment which would change my life, a commitment to serve God full-time with all of my life. I could not stop crying. My heart was sensitive and willing, but in my mind I was fighting with God. Later I would come to understand that the call required me to give God one hundred percent of my life in full surrender."*

Stereotype:
a representation or idea accepted by a group of people about the characteristics, character, or conduct of another group of people.

"One of the myths I had come to believe was that all missionaries had to be from the United States, white-skinned, blue-eyed, adult, and either be pastors or have a theology degree," says Erika. "I told myself that I did not meet any of the requirements so I must be wrong about God's call. But gradually God revealed to me that I was mistaken. God taught me that He is not elitist, and I should obey Him. He reminded me who it was who was calling me through

John 15:16. *‘You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.’*

“Another myth I had to face had to do with being single. It was not easy to say to the Lord, ‘Yes, I will follow you wherever you send me.’ God showed me I had to wait and trust that my future husband was in His plans, and even if that was not the case, that He would be all I needed. Thanks to God I came to the place where I could say, ‘Lord, you are everything to me,’ and He answered me. It was years later that God gave me a husband,” tells Erika.

“It is incredible to know that God is willing to use ordinary people, like you and me, to accomplish great things. This is because He is the ‘extraordinary’ One! In Latin America, God is raising up and using unassuming, anointed, and humble leaders who have such a great potential; their heart and calling is in missions.”

Defining the Call

“You did not choose me, but I chose you.”



In order to better understand what constitutes a calling to cross-cultural missions, first one must know what a call to ministry entails. For this we must begin with what the Bible teaches about the role of God, the church, and the person being called.

How can we know when a person is feeling a call to full-time ministry? One sure sign is when someone is feeling restless because of God’s call and is not satisfied living a “regular” life. Going to church on Sunday mornings, having a good job or profession, and a good income are not enough for this person. As long as they are not where God wants them, they will find it difficult to go through life. They will not find satisfaction in what they do, not even with the fruits of their labors.

It is possible that God has already confirmed His call on your life that He intends to use you full-time to extend His kingdom. However, it is still necessary to go through the process of being molded by the Holy Spirit and to be willing to obey Him completely.

Finally, the person usually grows tired of fighting God, themselves, and those who are discouraging them, and they give themselves over to the Lord’s will. Later they come to be surprised at how God opens doors, big doors to His service. By that time the person’s attitude has changed and they are willing to follow God anywhere. They know if they do not give their lives to ministry they might as well be dead! The calling beats stronger and stronger in their being, like a fire which is impossible to resist (Jeremiah 20:9).

People with a call to ministry dream of being used by God to change the world. They dream of being His hands to the one who is sick and dying in

Blessed be our God for He does not give up on us easily!

Those servants of God who carry out effective ministries at any level stand out wherever they go. They do not conform; they are visionaries.

complete loneliness, or they see themselves smiling at and hugging orphans who have no one else who will smile at them. They dream about taking a word of hope to the one who is dying inside. They know they are going against the current, but they do not give up easily because their call and gifts will not let them.

In summary, a call to ministry involves a passion to serve our God and our neighbor with everything we have, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the rest of our lives. Those who serve according to their calling also give thanks to God for the privilege they have been given, as the apostle Paul affirms in 1 Timothy 1:12, *“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.”*

What Does a “Cross-Cultural Calling” Involve?

Why is the call to serve in other cultures different?



Tentmakers
This name is given to the work the apostle Paul and his companions Aquila and Priscilla did in order to support themselves. This type of service takes missionaries to hard-to-access countries. They serve as professors, nurses, musicians, businesspeople, among other professions, holding a job while they also plant churches for the Church of the Nazarene.

Cross-cultural ministry involves crossing borders (with a purpose that is far removed from tourism) to serve the Lord and further God’s kingdom and His church. The call can be general or specific, short or long term. Some are “tent makers” who God uses while they earn a living working in a separate trade or profession. Other missionaries are supported by the church and serve God’s people full-time with their gifts and talents.

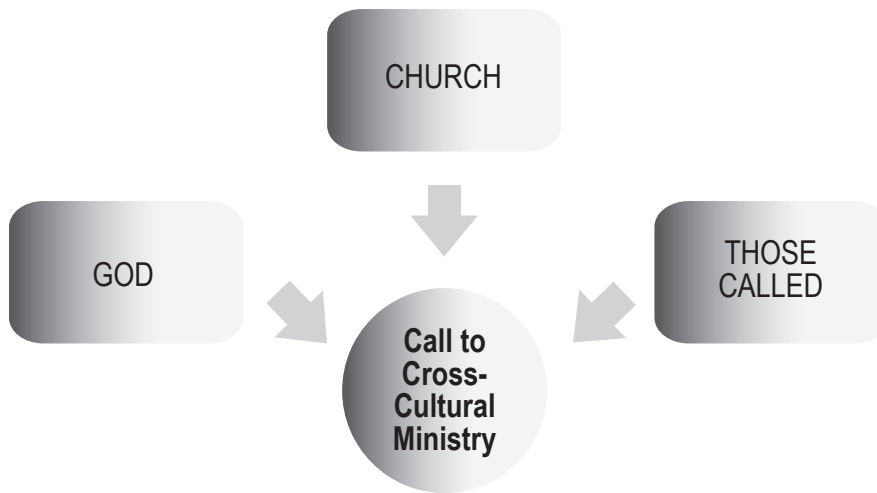
Imagine God has called you. You have accepted the call and others have confirmed it, but there are still barriers. There are issues in your own mind, as well as issues concerning family, church, community, culture, country, and even continent. The first five barriers occur with all calls. It is up to God to extend the call farther than the limits of your country.

What does the Bible say about this call? In the Old and New Testaments we see the missionary nature in God’s mission. God sends Israel to be a light in the world.

Abraham, who was called “a friend of God,” was faithful, with a noble and committed heart. Abraham knew God had called him (Genesis 12:1-4). He would have been ready for any divine assignment, but it was probably not easy for him to leave his comfort zone, his family, his home, and his people in order to travel to a place he did not know. Abraham did not know where he was going, if he would have to learn a new language or use a different currency. He did not know what foods he would eat or what his neighbors would be like. But Abraham obeyed, and God blessed him.

Later, God sent His prophets to Israel to call them to repentance and to renew their faith in Him. The prophet Isaiah had to be ready to take this message of hope to a hopeless nation. But God always helped His messengers (Isaiah 41:8-10; 49:14-15; 60:1-3). God’s mission today, as it was during Old Testament times, is to call His people to repent with all of their heart and return to God.

There are three important players which work together in the call to cross-cultural ministry:



First there is God, the One who calls. He is a missionary God who loves people of all cultures, countries, and language groups. The Lord does not see borders. And God is faithful, more than we could ever imagine, to help those He calls (Ephesians 3:20). Second, there is the Church, called to be missional; training, sending, and supporting those who are called. Last, there are those who are called to cross-cultural missions. There are God’s agents and ambassadors of peace and love in the world. We are included in this group, and it is our job to embrace this challenge.

Clarifying Doubts

How do I know if I am being called?



How do I know if I am truly being called? This is a very important question, and everyone, no matter their age, wants to find the answer. God calls people who have a genuine commitment to His mission: people who seek to serve wherever they are, at home, at work, in the street, in their schools, and in the local church.

For leaders and pastors it is easy to identify those who are being called since they are always willing to serve and work as a team. Those who are called are also distinguished by their consistent participation when service, compassion, and missions opportunities present themselves. They are usually first in line to volunteer!

In spite of the external evidence, those who are called have to overcome internal barriers which come from myths or misunderstandings about what it means to be called. The truth is there are many people who are confused and have to struggle for years. Otherwise there would be many more missionaries in the world.

Did you know that the main barriers missionaries face are internal, not external?

“God... set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace” (Galatians 1:15).

These internal barriers are found in the mind and the heart. Mental barriers include thoughts such as these: “I cannot do it...Who am I to do this? This is impossible...this is crazy.” These negative thoughts prevent many from obeying God’s call to serve as missionaries.

Here are some common myths and excuses about God’s call to missions:

1. There are plenty of missionaries already.
2. We have done enough evangelism.
3. There are more needs here than there.
4. I am not being called, since God would not choose someone like me.
5. I am too young.
6. I am a woman.
7. I am Latino.
8. I am poor.
9. I am single.
10. I am married.
11. I can’t see myself living in another country.
12. I am too busy. (God only calls busy people!)
13. The lost from other cultures are not my problem.
14. I cannot leave my family.
15. There is nothing I can give to God.
16. I am not educated enough.
17. I am shy/introverted.
18. I do not like traveling by plane!

“God’s call is like a stake which does not move, giving us the assurance we are following God’s will when moments of conflict, discouragement, and rejection come. The assurance of being in the center of God’s will produces a joy which is contagious to those around us”
(Scott Armstrong).

The list could go on and on. The truth is God is bigger than our limitations. His power can work through our weaknesses, imperfections, backgrounds, or difficulties.

A pastor once said in a sermon, “When God’s hand is moving us, we have the guarantee of His support. There is no reason why we should allow our apprehensions or fears to rob us of God’s blessings. You and I must seek the greater things!” Do you believe this?

It is true that following God’s call is not easy. The book of Acts outlines the afflictions and persecution that the Apostle Paul had to endure in his ministry. But God, the One who called him, never abandoned him. A person who is called to serve in cross-cultural missions will have to decide if they are willing to pay the price that this kind of service demands.

Paul encouraged Timothy with these words, “But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5). At the end of their time in ministry, all who are called want to be able to repeat Paul’s words, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

Our Challenge

God wants to use us for great things!

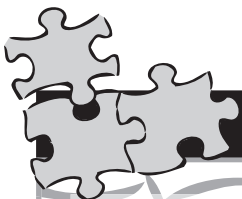


We need to know that God loves us unconditionally and respects our decisions and dreams. But when He calls His children to cross-cultural ministry He is hoping we will respond, "Here am I. Use me. I surrender myself to Your will. I want to give all that I am, my strength and my gifts, to do Your work." Only then will we see God do great things! This only happens when we jump in with faith, taking the first step of obediently going where He is sending us (1 Timothy 4:13-16).

God has big plans for the people in our region, and even beyond, and wants us to be a part of it. This is the great challenge of our generation! Will you be among the brave ones who rise up to go to the ends of the earth in the name of the Lord?

"Jesus calls us not only to come to him, but also to go for him"
(Rick Warren).

"We do not need to go far to find needs, broken people, children crying out for love more than food, confused teens, marriages on the brink of divorce, etc. God puts us in the place where He wants to use us"
(Erika Ríos Hasenauer).



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

God is calling His children to serve Him among people of other cultures. This call involves crossing geographic borders and leaving many things behind. This call involves God's calling, the church's assistance, and the courageousness of those who are called who must overcome fears and doubts, putting their trust fully in God.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. How important is it to understand the mission call before going to the mission field?

2. What risks are missionaries and the church taking when workers are sent who are not sure of their call to cross-cultural missions?

3. Working in pairs, discuss Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 9:15-16 and answer the following: What does the apostle's declaration mean that he was a "prisoner" to his call? How can we apply this teaching to discern when a call is genuine?

4. Divide the class into three groups. Using logical arguments, each group will defend six of the myths or excuses about the call to missions found in the lesson. An opposing group will then have an opportunity to respond by presenting what a Christian's response would be for each myth/excuse. For example, a group might say, "Single women need to wait until they are married to become missionaries because they need someone to go with them when they are in a foreign country. It is too dangerous for them to go alone." The second group could then respond, "God calls both women and men. Many single women are and have been excellent missionaries and God is the one who cares for and goes with them."

- Group 1: Defend myths 1 through 6. Respond to Group 2.
- Group 2: Defend myths 7 through 12. Respond to Group 3.
- Group 3: Defend myths 13 through 18. Respond to Group 1.



LESSON 2

Spiritual Formation of the Missionary

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To come to understand how spiritual growth happens.
- To learn how to apply spiritual disciplines.
- To describe the fruits of consistent spiritual formation.

Main Ideas

- Spiritual formation comes before, during, and after one receives the call.
- Spiritual growth begins in a repentant and consecrated heart. It requires a disciplined, holy, and humble life.
- A missionary who is serving needs the fruits of the Spirit in his or her life.

Introduction

Jesus asked his disciples to remain awake and pray with Him. Later he found a place away from them, as was his habit, in order to be in intimate communion with His Father (Luke 22:39-46). In the quiet stillness of the night and the agony of His prayer, Jesus probably wondered whether His disciples had truly understood the importance of His request to them.

It was the night before He would be arrested and have to suffer on the cross. Maybe Jesus said to himself, "If only I had more time to teach them." He had been with them every day for more than three years. He had taught them by word and by example what it meant to serve the Father. He taught them the foundation for effective ministry. But in the depths of His heart, Jesus knew there was much more the Spirit would need to do in their lives.

Jesus' dream was that His disciples would see the world as He did, through His eyes, focusing on what was important and loving others unconditionally as He did.

God has always looked for women and men with genuine commitment, those full of compassion who have a close relationship with Him. Throughout time, these people challenged their contemporaries and changed the course of history by having an impact on their families, communities, and nations! Each understood they were serving a Holy God who is glorified by servants who give Him their best, and by His grace, become the best they can be. These servants gave themselves completely and allowed the Spirit to mold their lives according to the model of holiness Jesus gave us!

Erika Ríos Hasenauer accepted the Lord as her Savior when she was ten years old in a Vacation Bible School. She received the infilling of the Holy Spirit in a youth camp and from then on was involved in every type of ministry in her local church.

The Need for Spiritual Formation in the Life of the Missionary

A genuine relationship with God must come before the call.



God wants to send His children to the mission field, but only after they have learned the lessons of daily submission, surrender, and dependence on the Lord at home. Let us explore some principles about the spiritual formation of missionaries:

1. Missionaries are servants of God, but they are also children of God. Children of God must learn from the Father, living in communion and obedience to the Lord.
2. Once on the mission field, the missionary will be on the frontlines. He or she needs to be equipped with the power and authority of the Spirit to face the powers of evil which enslave people through sin and darkness. This is why it is necessary to have times alone with the Father.
3. A missionary must be in continuous training. They must understand that the Lord will be perfecting them all of their lives. They must see themselves as students before they see themselves as teachers.
4. Missionaries serve as models of a strong spiritual life for many people. Their spiritual lives must be solid, because if they fail they will be putting the spiritual lives of others at risk.
5. Missionaries need prayer partners: brothers and sisters in Christ who will be interceding for them.

For an athlete, disciplined and constant training is the key to a good performance. No sports enthusiast participates in a contest without first having strenuously prepared. The same applies to servants of God who are going out into the mission field (1 Corinthians 10:23 and 9:24-27).

Before You Begin...

Where does spiritual growth begin?



Every seed must grow roots before it can grow. The same is true for the Christian life. It all starts when we encounter God!

A good example of a true encounter with God can be seen in the prophet Isaiah. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8).

For many, the idea of a missionary "adventure" might sound attractive and interesting. But in the call to missions what truly matters is commitment. It is not enough to be a "religious" person, that is, someone who simply performs the things which are expected of a good Christian. Sadly, many who "sign up to go" have not experienced true repentance of heart and mind; they have not experienced the sanctifying presence of the living God in their lives.

Why is spiritual formation so important in the life of a missionary?

When Isaiah was able to see his nation through the eyes of a holy God, he saw the reality of sin in his people and felt the Father's heart. Isaiah cried out with a true and repentant heart, "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty" (Isaiah 6:5).

Undoubtedly, Isaiah's experience teaches us that when we come near the Father with all of our hearts there is a change, a miracle, a transformation in our lives. This is why the author of Hebrews urges us to "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

The apostle Paul wrote, "My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19).

The revival we are so desperate for will only come when the church seeks the Lord under these conditions. Then we will not have to go and look for missionaries; they will come to us. We will not have to beg the church to do her job; she will already be doing it. We will not have a shortage of pastors; they will be ready to answer God's call.

The Ingredients of Spiritual Growth

God sends people who have His grace, power and holiness.



When someone tries to minister in the church without having had the experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit, there will be much suffering, disappointment and frustration among all involved (the minister, those who sent him/her, those who received him/her). The only way of pleasing God through our lives and ministry is with a heart which has the following characteristics:



Resources for Spiritual Growth

Prayer, reading Scripture, worship, journaling...



Spiritual growth is a process that demands effort and discipline; it does not happen by itself! Thanks to God, we have many tools which help us need to develop our spiritual muscles and maintain an active spiritual life.

Prayer and Scripture

It takes a lifetime to forge a life of prayer and of study of Scripture. Amy Carmichael, Mother Theresa, and other great missionaries learned that prayer had to be the foundation of their ministries. Their victories came from constant seeking and absolute dependence on the Lord.

The prophet Nehemiah prayed when he needed to make the right decision and when he was in the middle of times of crisis, criticism and doubt. He prayed for the right words and the right attitude. He was a man who spent much time in Scripture and prayer. Scripture is our best defense against the attacks of the enemy and the best manual for our lives. Without a doubt, the quality of a Christian leader's private prayer life is directly related to the usefulness of his or her public ministry.

Praise and Worship

Praise and worship have to become part of a Christian's lifestyle. God pays attention to our attitudes and hearts more than our words.

Contemplation

When we stop and pay attention to God's creation, it draws us closer to God. God speaks to us through His creation: in the rainbow, a bird, the rain, a butterfly, the mountains, etc. Before such beauty and majesty, our hearts are filled with worship and gratitude toward our Creator.

A Spiritual Journal

Erika, a former missionary, says this about her experience with keeping a journal:

"I did not understand the benefits of keeping a personal journal, where I could write down not only my daily but also my spiritual experiences, until I went through an experience that brought me to constant prayer. I took notes of the promises God gave me during this time. Sometime later I wanted to encourage a friend who was going through similar circumstances. I went to my journal to remember how God helped me and was able to share these things with my friend, which helped her greatly.

When God called me when I was in La Havana, I felt a great urgency to write down everything I was living through. I poured out my testimony, dreams, experiences, lessons learned, and struggles onto those pages. I felt so

*Amy Wilson Carmichael
(1867-1951);
Missionary to India and
founder of the Dohnavur
Fellowship, a society
dedicated to saving
abandoned and lost
children.*

*Music influences our
emotional and spiritual
state. Let's begin our days
by singing or listening to
songs of praise, joy, or
reflection.*

inspired that I also wrote poems. Many years later these experiences became a book which was sent to all the Hispanic churches in the USA and Canada. We have no way of knowing what God will do in the future, but we can read about what He has done in the past and learn how He has ministered to us in our own life.”

Learning to Listen to God

The only way of knowing God’s will for us is to listen to His voice. This could be accomplished through a half hour in prayer a day, without an agenda, being immersed in God’s presence. Any place can become our personal sanctuary: a car, a classroom, a kitchen, even a bathroom!

For many, the best time for concentrated prayer is in the morning. A daily, intentional time with the Father that goes beyond the “required prayers” makes a difference for an empowered life of effective ministry.

We need to seek God away from all the distractions of the world. We need to get away from noise, work, television, the Internet, cellphones, family, and anything that might divert our attention.

God can use many things to show us His will. Sometimes God will speak directly through the Bible. Other times God will use things such as books, music, teachers, sermons, stories, movies, etc.

We serve a God whose very essence is holy and does not tolerate even an ounce of corruption, sin, or darkness. Even so, God loves the sinner.

The Fruits of Spiritual Formation

Spiritual growth produces fruit.



As we seek the Lord, we get to know Him through a closer relationship. Gradually, the Master’s hands transform us, and His presence in our lives becomes more evident through the fruits of the Spirit. Some of the fruits of spiritual growth that are evident in the lives of believers, especially in the lives of those who are called to the mission field, include these:

- A new vision of ourselves, the God we serve, His Church, and the reality of a world in need of God.
- An increase in spiritual power and authority to minister to others.
- Growth in the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Multiplication of disciples, since spiritual growth creates a passion for evangelism.
- Personal and church-wide revival.
- Growth in spiritual power and authority to minister to others.

The Example of Abraham

"...be blameless."



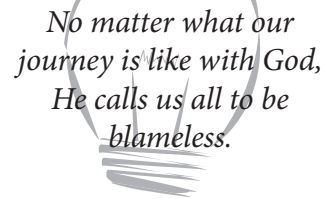
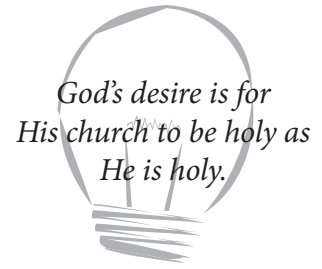
God called Abraham to be a light to many nations and peoples (Genesis 17:1-6). God reaffirmed His call and promise to bless His servant Abraham when he was almost 100 years old. On that occasion God only asked him for one thing: *"Walk before me faithfully and be blameless."*

Abraham had been walking with God for many years, so much so that he was definitely not a "beginner" missionary. He knew God and had experienced God's divine intervention in his life many times.

But God still desired for Abraham to understand first and foremost that he was to be blameless before God. What does "being blameless" mean? It means to be clean, pure, holy, truthful, and humble of heart. In other words, it means living a life that will please God. Abraham had to perfect his walk before God and give God his best every single day.

God is worthy of the absolute, unconditional, and consistent daily surrender on the part of His servants. That is when God blesses their lives and ministries. Abraham was not only blessed with riches; God used his life as an instrument to bless all of the people of the earth, even until today.

It is never too late to seek God. We are all called to seek more of the Lord and be continually perfected in His presence. God is always looking for cross-cultural missionaries who will seek to live blameless lives before Him and be His instruments to bless the nations.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The spiritual formation of missionaries must begin before they are called and continue long after. The local church plays a key role in the spiritual formation and training of future missionaries.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write a short essay about the following story narrated by a missionary. Which fruits of the Spirit did she need to cultivate?

One day I felt God was dealing with my pride and lack of submission and patience... I was helping a little kid in a school in Equatorial Guinea, Africa, who had a horrible, sickening infection in one of his feet. I was kneeling as I cleaned the foot, but the smell was hard to tolerate. A rebellious thought crossed my mind as I asked myself, "What am I doing here? Who sent me to do this – I am not a doctor or a nurse? Why me?"

At that instant I felt the Holy Spirit speaking to me, "I want to teach you to serve and love like me." That is my daily prayer, to be willing to always serve and give my best since that is what God and His people deserve.

2. How would you rate your intimacy with God at this time in your life?

3. Put an "x" by the activities on the list which are useful for cultivating a relationship with God and for spiritual growth.

Listen to worship music

Play sports

Prayer vigils

Going out for a nature walk

Buying an audio book of the New Testament to listen to during trips

Buying a Bible translation which is easier to understand, such as the New International Version, New Living Translation, etc.

Planning a family retreat

Attending a retreat for women, men, teens, or children

Getting up earlier

Recording your pastor's sermons and listening to them during the week

Reading Christian literature

Decrease how many hours you watch TV or use social media

Find a quiet place to study in your home

Start a devotional time for your marriage or family

4. What is your favorite time of day? (Many missionaries say their favorite time is the morning when they have their devotional time.)



LESSON 3

Twelve Essential Traits (Part 1)

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To describe six essential characteristics of a missionary.
- To propose ideas to aid in the preparation of those who are called.
- To understand some common reasons that missionaries abandon the call.

Main Ideas

- It is a mistake to send missionaries to the field who are spiritually immature and do not have a clear call.
- Potential missionaries should gain ministry experience in their local church and with other cultures.
- Missionaries must be healthy, know how to manage relationships, be flexible, and adaptable.

A missionary candidate should have Paul's mindset, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me" (Philippians 3:12).

Introduction

When God gives us the desire to serve Him on the mission field, He also builds our faith to prepare us for this life of ministry. The missionary call moves us in new directions – it is a call to prepare. When someone changes professions, they are usually not completely prepared to fulfill their new responsibilities. They normally have to invest time in preparation and planning for this new direction.

This preparation process is different for everyone since it depends on prior experience, life history, education, age, profession, etc. However, for those called to the mission field, the goal of this formational process is the same since the church is looking for specific qualities in potential missionaries. In this process, being in contact with the Regional Coordinator of Youth Mobilization in the Mesoamerica Regional Office is very important to ensure the candidate is on the right path.

Those who are called to serve in long-term missionary service in the Church of the Nazarene must possess twelve essential traits. This list was developed to help missionary candidates determine whether they are a good fit for cross-cultural service. These characteristics allow leaders to identify areas where the candidates have more experience and to prepare them according to their individual needs.

This lesson will go over the first six essential characteristics for missionary service.

1. Spiritual Maturity

A strong relationship with the Lord comes before the call.



As we saw in the last lesson, a Christian has many opportunities to grow spiritually. In Colossians 1:9-10, the apostle Paul writes, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life

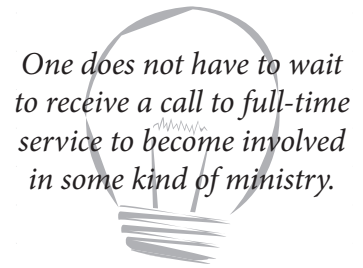
worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...”

Paul is talking about having an active spiritual life, growing in our relationships with others, and growing in knowledge and understanding of God’s will for us. Paul’s words teach us the importance of having a strong relationship with the Lord before we are able to live a life worthy of His calling.

Spiritual maturity is displayed through our character and our actions toward others. The way in which we feel and react in different situations should reflect the image of Christ more and more as we grow in our relationship with God. This maturity of character is cultivated through our relationships with family, co-workers, the church, and friends.

This process of achieving a level of maturity in our Christian life takes several years. Missionary life is not recommended for new believers since a missionary will experience many pressures which could cause them to question or lose their faith. A missionary candidate must possess a spiritual maturity that has been demonstrated by a considerable time of service in a local church.

Christians who grow spiritually will naturally experience a desire to serve and will look for opportunities for the Spirit to use them to build up others. When a believer dedicates his or her life to the work of the Lord, the desire to serve and give time to ministry will be a natural result.



2. A Clear Call

The call involves a desire to go and serve wherever God leads.



In Acts 13:1-3 we read these words: “*The Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’*” This is a wonderful example of a clear message from God to send Barnabas and Saul as missionaries.

There are moments when God speaks to people in a clear voice. There are other times when His call is not as clear. Sometimes it manifests itself as a burden in our heart to share the gospel with people in other cultures.

When people speak of their call, they must use the context of their daily relationship with God to reflect on what they are feeling and how they are experiencing God’s call for their lives. The call can come as a plan to serve sometime in the future or a desire to follow God’s call much sooner. A missionary candidate must have the ability and willingness to prepare to serve in ministry, become involved in missions, and demonstrate their call to serve others.

After coming back from short-term mission trips, many people express a newfound compassion and they feel a desire to help people of other cultures. Participating in a mission trip can provide motivation and allow us to evaluate if God desires to use us as missionaries.

*“I have but one passion:
It is He, it is He alone.
The world is the field and
the field is the world; and
henceforth that country
shall be my home where
I can be most used in
winning souls
for Christ”
(Nicolaus Ludwig von
Zinzendorf).*

“You are not here in the world for yourself. You have been sent here for others. The world is waiting for you!”
(Catherine Booth).

It is important to use times such as those provided by short-term mission trips to explore new ways of serving in and beyond our local church. These times also provide opportunities to renew our relationship with God. It is a time to offer ourselves to the Lord and allow Him to guide our steps.

The only way of truly knowing what God is asking of us as we commit to serving as full-time missionaries is to speak to Him all the time, to involve ourselves in ministry, and to seek the counsel of other men and women of God. These people can serve as mentors to help us understand how the Lord is working in us.

Even as the call is confirmed, God will continue to present opportunities to connect with other cultures. It is important to find opportunities to become involved in cross-cultural opportunities so the Lord can confirm His will for your life, whether this experience is in your own country or in a foreign land.

3. Holistic Health

The difficulties of missionary work require good health.



Candidates to missionary service must conduct themselves well in the midst of physical, emotional, mental, and socially stressful situations. Living in another culture creates great stress and can add great pressure. Having good physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual health will make a difference when difficulties come.

It is important to evaluate the psychological demands of a task and consider the physical limitations of a missionary candidate. For example, it would not make sense to send someone who has a hard time walking and getting around to a country where roads are difficult to access, especially if that assignment requires them to travel. Because of this, candidates must go through a complete medical exam in order to identify and correct any hindrance to their future service.

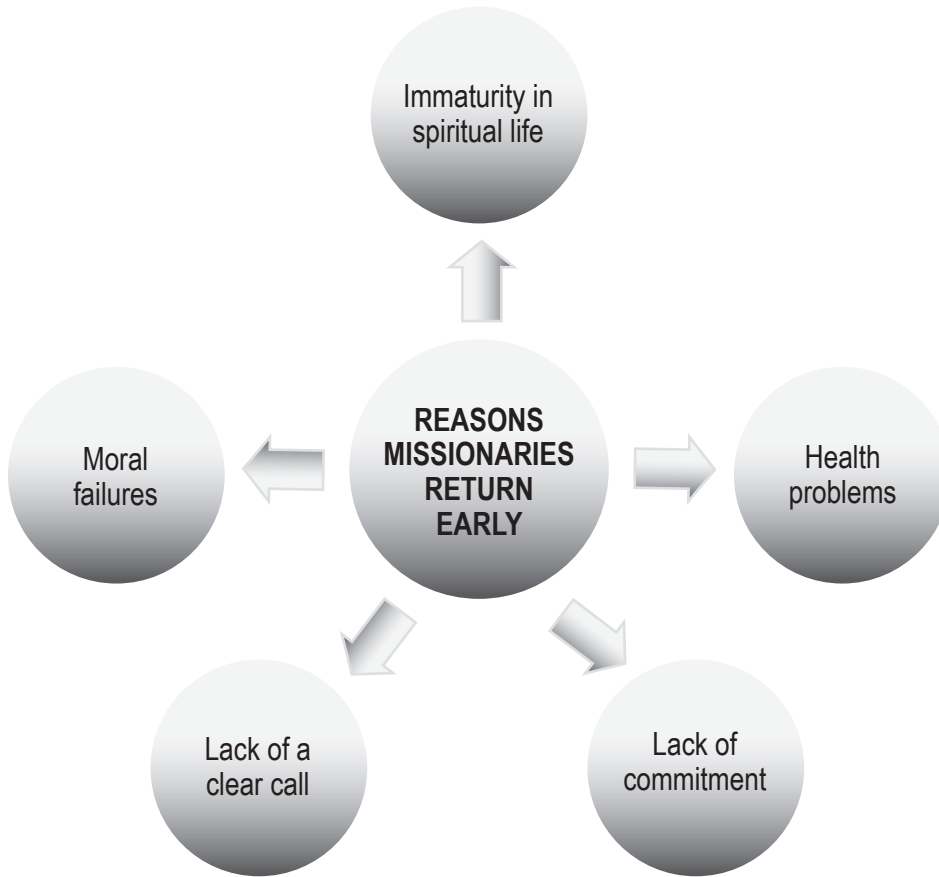
Holistic Health:

Balance between a person's physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and social wellbeing, which allows them to grow and develop appropriately in all aspects of life.

It is more difficult to evaluate someone's emotional strength and psychosocial skills. However, a candidate's personal history will show their ability to deal with the daily stress of life. This is a very important component because, when they face problems, a missionary's life experiences will either help or hinder them in dealing with those situations. While all people react differently to similar situations, it is very important to be able to adapt to any difficulty with integrity and wisdom. The Church of the Nazarene cares for every person serving around the world. This is why every aspect of a person's health history is evaluated before they are sent on missionary assignment.

According to statistics provided by the Assemblies of God, failure in the three traits mentioned so far are among the five most common reasons missionaries return early from assignment in all evangelical denominations. The following graphic shows these five causes:

Common reasons missionaries return from the field early



4. Ability to Manage Relationships

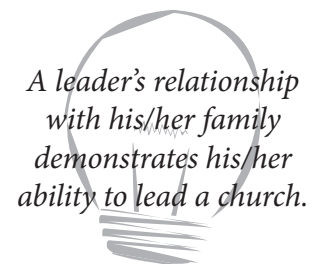
Having good relationships makes it possible to work as a team.



An important characteristic in the life of a missionary is the ability to balance their family life, ministry, and friendships. Without a doubt, all of these relationships are somehow connected to ministry and work. The problem is that conflicts arise when there is a failure to manage the time and attention given to these relationships. Unfortunately, these conflicts are the reason many missionaries go home early.

One of the areas where Christian leaders face the most problems is in their family life. No matter the assignment, as a local pastor or missionary in another culture, it is hard to leave work behind in order to concentrate on one's family. Paul made it abundantly clear in 1 Timothy 3 that family should not be ignored in favor of ministry. Good family habits, healthy communication, setting boundaries, and other aspects of family life should be in place before someone commits to serving on the mission field.

When a person or a family prepares to serve as missionaries, it is crucial that they develop abilities that will allow them to face difficult situations together, especially those which involve ministry. It is not enough to be



committed and be filled with the Spirit. Family members need to pay attention to be able to determine when one of their own is going through a painful time.

Overworking is a common problem among Christian leaders. Missionaries have to be careful when working long hours because fatigue can set in and cause some to react impulsively, use coarse language, or forget important events. When we are under stress and react without thinking, feelings can be hurt and little by little relationships can begin to deteriorate.

These things can be avoided by having a balanced workload, promoting healthy communication within the family, and being involved and engaged with each other. It takes time and experience to develop these skills.

“Good interpersonal and communication skills are key to a fruitful missionary service.”

Having a healthy attitude towards those in leadership is another key for any missionary candidate. Most missionaries work under two levels of authority. One level involves the global church and regional office, the other level involves the national leadership (the district and local churches). Great damage can be done to the development of the church if the ability to bridge these two levels of authority is lacking. Wisdom, patience, and flexibility are needed to work under these two levels of leadership.

A missionary’s life is difficult to keep in balance! It is better to prevent and avoid personal conflicts instead of trying to resolve them, but when a conflict presents itself it must be handled with wisdom and love. It is essential to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit and to follow the “Golden Rule,” as the Lord taught us to do in Matthew 7:12. *“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”*

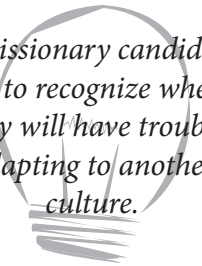
Good interpersonal and communication skills are key to fruitful missionary service.

5. Cross-Cultural Experience and Adaptability

A missionary needs to have previous cross-cultural experience.



A missionary candidate needs to recognize whether they will have trouble adapting to another culture.



Are you the type of person who looks for opportunities to experience other cultures? Having an adventurous spirit and lots of flexibility are big helps in the cross-cultural field. How can we determine if someone possesses these characteristics? The only way of knowing this is through personal experiences in other countries or cultures. Today the Church is looking for people who have found ways of crossing cultural boundaries and who have firsthand knowledge of what it means to be in the minority, facing the challenge of trying to understand a group of people different from you.

Developing language skills is one of the keys to adapting to a different culture. Unfortunately, for many this is a difficult bridge to cross, even when they have a great desire to learn. Persistence is the best friend of those who are learning a new language. It is a process which can take many years and can only be achieved by not giving up. Learning a culture’s spoken language provides the bridge to being able to share our faith with others.

We are living at a time when the world is shrinking and international trips are more and more common. A missionary candidate's vision is widened when they seek out these opportunities and gain experiences which cannot be learned in the classroom. Without cross-cultural experience, it is less likely that a missionary candidate will be ready to serve.

6. Participation in the Local Church

A missionary candidate must be fully involved in the local church.



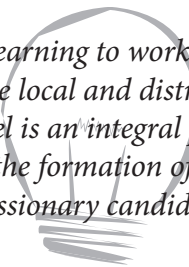
When a Christian is involved in the ministry of the local church, he/she will gain the leadership skills needed to lead others. A missionary candidate must gain these kind of skills by being actively involved in the local church. Firsthand knowledge in how the church functions at the local level is important for working with the church at the district, regional, and global levels, as well as on the mission field.

Working with local pastors is valuable for a missionary's formation. Local congregations make up the heart of the Church, so gaining ministry experience and knowledge as an active participant in a congregation is a prerequisite for any missionary candidate. It is in the ministry of a local church that a heart for reaching the lost is developed.

Pastors serve as references for missionary candidates regarding their Christian conduct and witness, their contributions to the local church, and their fruitful participation in the ministries of the church. A pastor who has worked closely with a candidate will be able to give a better recommendation of their readiness for missionary work.

Being a leader in a local church does not mean having a visible role in the church. In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul explains the concept of the servant leader which Jesus taught. Though He was the Son of God, Jesus did not cling to His rights but took on the nature of a servant. A spiritual leader must first find a place to serve and allow God to decide how He will use his or her gifts. We are responsible for making ourselves available and looking for opportunities to meet the needs of the church and the community.

Learning to work at the local and district level is an integral part in the formation of the missionary candidate.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Missionary candidates in the Church of the Nazarene must possess twelve essential traits. The first six are spiritual maturity, a clear call, good health, ability to manage relationships, adaptability and cross-cultural experience, and participation in the local church.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete the following table according to what was learned about the first six essential characteristics for a missionary candidate. In the right-hand column write down ideas of how the local church can help missionary candidates develop these characteristics.

Characteristic	Description	Development

2. What are some of the problems the church could face if missionaries are sent out who do not possess these six traits?

3. Divide the class into two groups. Each will think of examples for each of the five most common causes for missionaries returning early from the mission field. Each group will share their answers with the rest of the class.

1. Immaturity in spiritual life
2. Health problems
3. Lack of commitment
4. Lack of a clear call
5. Moral failure



LESSON 4

Twelve Essential Traits (Part 2)

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

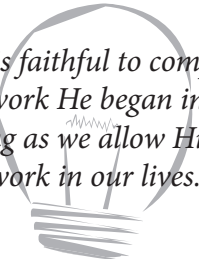
Objectives

- To describe the final six essential characteristics of a missionary.
- To be able to assist candidates preparing for missionary service.
- To evaluate whether someone possesses these twelve traits.

Main Ideas

- Academic preparation in theology and other areas is essential for a missionary.
- Knowledge of the Church of the Nazarene's polity, as well as skills in evangelism and discipleship are necessary.
- Missionaries must be wise stewards of their finances.

God is faithful to complete the work He began in us, as long as we allow Him to work in our lives.



Introduction

The previous lesson described six of the twelve essential characteristics that the Church of the Nazarene looks for in those seeking to serve as missionaries. This lesson will continue with the remaining six characteristics.

We should remember that this list was developed to help missionary candidates determine whether they are a good fit for cross-cultural service and to identify areas where they need additional preparation.

7. Work Experience

Is it important to have experience in more than one profession?



During job interviews, employers often ask the potential employees about their work experience. These questions are used to learn a candidate's professional development to help in hiring the most qualified person for the position who will produce the desired outcomes.

Church leaders in our denomination do the same thing when they are looking for candidates qualified for specific ministry needs. Even though it is not a requirement for a missionary candidate to hold an academic degree, those with more experience and education will be more likely to be qualified to fill vacancies on the mission field.

The question is this: How should someone prepare to serve God in the future? This is a common question among young adults who want to prepare themselves to serve. Prayer is always the best way to seek God's guidance. In Mark 11:24 we read, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." The Holy Spirit will guide us, even when we are unsure of the best way to prepare.

Many careers require a specific degree, credential, or certification. As is the case with any job, it is good to have experience in some field of study whenever that is possible. Often one can find work while studying in order to gain practical knowledge while earning the appropriate certification or degree.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

One last thing to take into account is the importance of serving in multiple ways. In addition to professional education, God has given each person certain abilities that will help them in ministry. Most missionaries are involved in more than one ministry at a time. On the mission field, it is very helpful for missionaries to have experience in more than one ministry area. This will give them additional tools in developing national leaders.

In creative access countries, a professional title or degree can open doors to gain residency, create opportunities to make friends and share the gospel, and even provide financial support for the missionary.

8. Academic Preparation

How important is academic preparation?



A misconception about missionary work is that all missionaries have to get the same training, academic formation, and credentials. On the contrary, missionary candidates must possess the academic preparation that will enable them to serve in the ministry to which they have been called. For example, if a candidate is interested in planting churches, it is important for them to have theological training and to be an ordained pastor in the Church of the Nazarene. Similarly, if a candidate is interested in working in communications, he or she should possess training in that area.

To be ordained in the denomination, one must begin by obtaining a local minister's license. After holding a local license for one year, one can apply for a district license. At the same time, a candidate must complete the ministerial course of study that the Church of the Nazarene requires of all ordained pastors. These courses must be from an approved theological education institution. When these requirements have been met, the minister or missionary candidate can continue with the ordination process. For more information about the ordination process visit www.nazedu.org.

Many missionaries serve as church planters, and often times being ordained is not emphasized due to a lack of training at the local level. Still, a minister's license and being ordained are prerequisites for anyone wanting to be a church planter. Without these, one would not have the authority needed to lead and guide others who are being asked to go through the same process. Ordination is a necessary component for those who want to mentor church leaders around the world.

Having theological training is indispensable for missionary candidates. As representatives of the Church of the Nazarene, missionaries are expected to have understanding of the denomination and its doctrines, as well as knowledge about other faiths and religions.

Once they have been evaluated, candidates who do not possess the required level of theological education should be willing to seek the

God gives each of us certain gifts to be developed, with the goal being that we will gain experience in order to help others.

necessary training to become competent for their ministry. In certain cases, after being evaluated, some candidates might be told that their experience, abilities, and education make them a perfect fit for a different service opportunity on the mission field, even though this might be different than the one they had in mind.

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...”
(1 Peter 3:15).*

Why should missionaries know the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene?

The objective of any ministry of the church is to make disciples and equip them to serve in the ministry to which they have been called.

9. Theological Training

Theological studies are a tool for service.



All missionary candidates must have good knowledge of Scripture. It is important to understand the foundational role the Bible provides for our faith and how the Bible’s teachings are our guide to living as Jesus taught us to live.

Without exception, candidates must know and be able to share the plan of salvation. A missionary should know the Bible and the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene to be able to disciple others, teach Bible studies, preach, and participate in conversations with those who are seeking answers. They should also demonstrate, by word and deed, the Biblical doctrine of holiness, of our call to be “like Christ.” It is important they be able to guide others through the experience of entire sanctification as taught by the Church of the Nazarene.

Lastly, it is essential that candidates know the governance and polity of the denomination and be able to use the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.

10. Training in Evangelism and Missions

We are seeking candidates committed to evangelism and discipleship.



These are exciting days where we can see God’s hand at work around the world. The church continues to grow faster than the world’s population. God is moving in every continent and the Spirit is being poured out like never before. The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to take the gospel to all the nations in order to make disciples. That is the focus and strategy of the Church of the Nazarene.

A missionary candidate should firmly believe that all Christians have a responsibility to make disciples in the nations. Even if someone wants to serve in the areas of construction, compassion, or communications, they should know that the goal of any ministry is to reach the lost. Evangelism and discipleship are the heartbeat of missionary work; all activities and decisions should connect back to these two emphases.

The local church is responsible for training and involving all missionary candidates in evangelism and discipleship. Many Christians think evangelization is a gift and feel uncomfortable sharing God's plan of salvation with others. However, all limitations can be overcome with good, practical training. All Christians, especially those who are missionaries, should know how to evangelize.

If a local church does not have the resources to develop these abilities, a missionary candidate should look for a mentor, someone with experience in these areas who can share their knowledge and experience. Evangelization and discipleship begin with a willing heart, and through prayer God can transform our hearts. The Spirit helps us to see people with compassion and leads us to those who are living in sin and are looking for a way out. As we gain experience with people, we learn to better discern their needs and how to lead them to the feet of the Lord, the One who can meet all of their needs.

All missionary candidates must be ready to share their faith and guide others to salvation and a life of holiness through the process of discipleship. This skill is strengthened through time and experience. For some, sharing God's message of salvation becomes as natural as breathing.

11. A Global Worldview

What does it mean to have a global worldview?

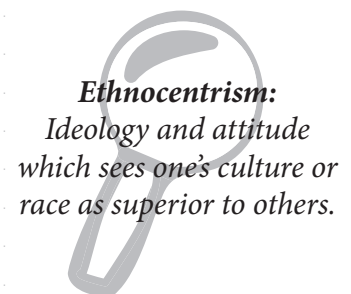


All missionary candidates must develop a global worldview, keeping up to date on what is happening in the world outside the borders of their own country or even their continent. This can be done by listening to the news, reading books, searching the Internet, or speaking with people who work in or travel to other parts of the world.

It is extremely important for candidates to have first-hand experience with people and issues that are global in nature; this will help them to develop an appropriate view of the world. Our perspective of the world begins with those things most familiar to us and grows from there by adding new knowledge and life experiences gained in diverse places and cultures.

As we have mentioned, it is necessary for the candidate to find opportunities to live for a few months in other cultures, and also to serve in short-term mission trips (like Work and Witness, Maximum Mission, etc.). A person can grow and mature when they immerse themselves in the lives of others and seek to understand their joy and sadness, their dreams and needs. Living in another culture is the best way to grow and renew global vision.

Global perspective is not only based on travel experience or the amount of information read, but it is also based in how one responds to this new information. There are people who have traveled much, but still lack a healthy global worldview!



As such, it is important to be able to detect the trap of ethnocentrism and to gain a balance between the truth of the world and our own prejudices toward other cultures. In order to have a healthy view of the world, we have to be able to contextualize what we see, hear, say, and do, as we try to understand the culture in which we live.

In summary, it is important for missionary candidates to have a well-rounded knowledge of other cultures and to recognize their own worldview. This will be useful in knowing how to respond to certain situations that could arise on the mission field.

12. Financial Responsibility

Candidates must be good administrators of their personal finances.



Tithe:
Ten percent of all personal income which is given to support the ministries of the local church. It is a custom which God's people have followed from the days of Abraham.

Missionaries are not only called to give their time and talents, but also to make wise decisions about their money. However, when we come to understand that all we possess is a gift from God, we can better put things into perspective. Our time, our talent, and our money are gifts from God that must be used for His glory. Candidates must learn to live like this even as they prepare to serve as missionaries.

Indebtedness is one area which hinders people from going to the mission field as quickly as they would like. Candidates should avoid debt as much as possible, and if they have debts they need to have a plan to pay them off and avoid adding to them. No matter how small of a monthly payment one can make, it will make a big difference in the long run.

Tithing should be a standard practice for all Christians, and it is one of the commitments people make when they become members of the Church of the Nazarene. Missionaries need to continue to send their tithe to the church that holds their membership.

Being able to manage well one's personal finances allows one to set money aside to give to those in need when the opportunity arises. Spending all that we earn adds to our stress and negatively affects our relationships.

A personal/family budget should include one's tithe, payments toward cancelling debt, funds for savings, as well as monthly expenses. While it is true that the love of money is the root of all evil, money is a necessary tool for living and serving in our world. All missionary candidates should learn to manage their money and become financially responsible Christians, always remembering that everything they have is a gift from God.

The following diagram sums up everything we studied in lessons 3 and 4:

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete the following table according to what was learned in this lesson about traits seven through twelve for a missionary candidate. In the right-hand column write down ideas for how the local church can help missionary candidates develop these characteristics.

Characteristic	Description	Development

2. What are some of the problems the church could face if missionaries are sent out who do not possess these six characteristics?

3. Those in the class who have a call to missionary service will be the main participants in the following activity. Number twelve pieces of paper 1 through 12 for each of the essential characteristics. Pass the papers around the class and have each student write down one question about that trait on the piece of paper. Once the teacher has received the papers back, he/she will ask the questions one at a time to those who have a call to missions. Have the class evaluate the responses using the scale, "None, Partial, Complete" according to how much each candidate meets each trait. End the class with a time of prayer for those who have a call to missions, praying they will commit to growing in each area in which they need to grow.



LESSON 5

Profile of a Nazarene Missionary

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To describe the profile of a Nazarene missionary.
- To learn from the story of John in order to guide others in the process.

Main Ideas

- Missionary candidates must possess the ability to develop healthy relationships with their work team, their family, and the church.
- A holistic preparation involves spiritual formation, professional preparation, ministerial practice, commitment to the denomination, and willingness to teach and learn.

Why is it important to develop a profile for missionaries?

Every person called by God into missionary service must possess certain traits which make up the profile for a missionary in the Church of the Nazarene. A missionary needs to put these traits to work and improve them every day as they train for missionary service. Some characteristics will be more important to have when one arrives on the field, while others will be developed over time.

This lesson will expand on the previous two lessons which talked about the twelve essential traits of a missionary. The profile of a Nazarene missionary includes all these elements, but some of them are highlighted and expanded in this lesson.

We must take into account that the traits of a missionary are traits all Christians should possess since we all have the responsibility of ministering to others. We all have been chosen and commissioned by our Father.

This lesson will focus on five of the essential elements in a Nazarene missionary's profile: spiritual formation, the ability to develop good relationships, professional development, knowledge of the denomination, and of course cross-cultural experience. We will also discuss a few other valuable traits that are necessary for a missionary in our denomination.

The Holy Spirit fills us with power to proclaim Jesus Christ. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and later began to spread the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

When the Spirit is living in us, it is obvious.

Cultivating a daily relationship with God will always be the most important area in the life of a missionary. As evidence of salvation, God will always be first in the missionary's life.

If we have received this salvation, this awesome and undeserved gift, the least we can do is share it. One way of thanking God for what He does in our lives is to share the good news of salvation with others. In other words, it

Introduction

Spiritual Formation

does not matter your assignment or area of service: as children of God, every missionary works to the same end, which is bringing people to Christ.

Nazarene missionaries must also have experienced the work of entire sanctification. The Church of the Nazarene professes the doctrine of sanctification and infilling by the Holy Spirit. Once we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God empowers us to serve within the body of Christ with power and authority. When the Spirit is living in us, the results are visible (Galatians 5:16-26).

In order to be faithful to the Lord, it is essential to practice spiritual disciplines which keep us in direct and constant communication with God. These disciplines, which must be shaped even before being assigned to missionary service, include prayer, fasting, reflecting on Scripture, and times of silence and mediation. This is how God forges His image in His children.

Anyone with a call to missions should also have a burning desire to know our Lord Jesus and to spread the gospel. A missionary's biggest satisfaction is to see God change lives and hearts as a result of their effort and sacrifice.

Cultivating Good Relationships

On the mission field, there can be no "Lone Rangers."



Teamwork is an essential part of missionary service; therefore, developing good relationships with co-workers is very important. In order to accomplish this we must remember what 1 Corinthians 12 teaches. The different parts of the body are all necessary in order for the whole organism to work well. Unfortunately, many missionaries have left the mission field because they did not learn how to work well with other missionaries or with the people in the country they were serving.

Family also provides one of the major support systems for missionaries going to the field. Having a healthy family relationship provides an important witness of one's ministry. If you do not think family relationships have anything to do with missionary service, remember the instructions Paul wrote to Timothy regarding ministers and the way they manage their own households (1 Timothy 3:1-13).

It is also important to note that missionaries leave their family, friends, favorite foods, and other things behind when going to the field, all of which involves sacrifice. In some cases, God calls couples who have already started a family, which can be an advantage sometimes, but not always. This is why it is important to carefully think and pray about the call before making plans to go to the mission field, since it will involve the whole family.

Have you ever mentioned how your brothers and sisters in Christ from your local church are like a second family? The relationship between a local, sending church and the missionary is also important. If a particular church

"The worst testimony a Christian can give is to try to tell others about God without taking the time to know Him personally"
(Joy Dawson).

Being flexible in work situations is another characteristic of a missionary. It is expected that they will maintain an open and positive outlook in the process of adapting and serving.

is sending and supporting a missionary, it means they have witnessed their good testimony and commitment to service.

Professional Development

Education is foundational for growing in all areas.



All candidates are advised to receive an education related to the work they plan on doing. This will help them to have available a variety of good tools for service. This can include studying theology, missiology, or even following other technical careers or professions. No matter the kind of work or the location, being academically prepared is necessary and useful.

*“Essentially, the church has many responsibilities but only one mission, and that is the evangelization and discipling of all nations”
(Daniel Bacon).*

Every missionary needs to put their gifts to work as soon as they arrive. This is why one aspect of a missionary’s profile includes their experience in local church ministry. This was true for the first missionaries, Paul and Barnabas, who served at the church in Antioch for some time before leaving on their missionary journeys.

Missionaries should also have the willingness to improve in their area of service and continue learning. Missionaries engaged in ministry will soon discover what areas they need to strengthen and then can learn how to improve their ministry by taking advantage of the resources at their disposal.

Though not all missionaries have teaching as one of their main gifts, it is important for them to always improve as teachers since they will be responsible for the formation of other disciples and leaders. Education is fundamental in the personal life of a Christian and for the church. Healthy and balanced growth comes from good teaching.

Commitment to the Denomination

Respect, live out, and teach the doctrine.



Missionaries should be loyal to their sending denomination. Being committed to the church will demonstrate their good ethics and morals. Missionaries are expected to be in accord with the doctrines and polity of the denomination as they live out and teach these to those they are training. These doctrines unite the Church of the Nazarene even in the midst of so much diversity.

Faithfulness:
From the Latin word fidelitas. Loyalty, punctuality, keeping promises, and being loyal over time and in different circumstances.

Acknowledging that all authority comes from God, missionaries are expected to do everything they can to work in harmony with denominational leaders at all levels, keeping channels of communication open even when troubles arise in these relationships.

Finally, missionaries receive support from their sending regions in the denomination. The missionary serves and works in a team, never alone or

isolated from other people. These are the conditions they work under, so they must strive to do everything possible to maintain good communication and relationships with everyone.

Ministry Experiences

Being attentive to needs.



When a missionary has had ministry experience and the opportunity to use their gifts for the church, they develop something important: personal initiative. On the mission field, there are so many things that need to be done that sometimes there are not enough missionaries to meet the needs. Missionaries are expected to be willing to go the extra mile, utilizing their own initiative. This means being willing to work with others when there is a need, even when they have their own assigned work to do.

Becoming involved with all people and loving them as Christ loves them is a foundational part of missionary service. This means loving everyone, from babies to the elderly, the poor and the rich, the dirty and the clean, those who are sick or healthy... everyone! A person with a call to missions must ask for God's help to love and understand all people.

*“A viable strategy to reach the unreached is for every congregation to send two mature and anointed Christians as was done in Acts 13... The mission field will be blessed and new leaders will then emerge from the local church”
(Jorge Verwer).*

Planning and Setting Goals

God also designs work goals and plans.



God is a God of order who has objectives and goals for this world, and God wants to share His work plans with missionaries. Things such as establishing short, medium, and long term goals, or planning how to help people who are in need of food, must all be well organized and based on Biblical grounds. The Bible contains many examples to help us create and plan activities. Still, we must not forget the role of prayer in seeking God's approval and blessing.

*“The world can be divided into three parts: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who don't know what's happening”
(Bill Bright)*

John's Story

How do we identify those who are being called?



The story of “John,” narrated below, serves as an illustration of how church leaders can identify and guide those who have a call to missions.

John was born in a Christian home and started attending church when he was young. At this early age he began to participate and get involved in all the ministries he could.

Are there children or youth in your congregation who need to be supported and guided in their call like John?

Around the time he turned nine years old, John went to his pastor and told him he was feeling that God was calling him to serve as a missionary. Others did not know what to tell him, but his pastor knew what to do. He told John to get involved with NMI and to contact the Global Mission MAR coordinators. He also said the children in the church would be studying the book "Missionary Adventure."

John left happy because he had finally received an answer and a mentor. He immediately contacted his Global Mission MAR coordinators, who in turn told him to become involved in everything he could at church. That is what John did.

When he was 13, John began to study other cultures, learned other languages, and became more involved in his local church and NMI. However, he knew there was more to do and learn. He not only got involved in his local church, he also got involved at the zone and district levels.

John became a frequent participant in the Global Mission blog, reading and writing entries. His contact with the coordinators increased, and his call was confirmed more and more. At age 19, John was already a Sunday School teacher and Maximum Mission coordinator in his district. Still, he was looking for more.

So he called the Global Mission Coordinator for the region to get information about other missionary activities. The coordinator was very happy to see his enthusiasm and told him they would be holding a Cross-Cultural Orientation (CCO) in his country.

John attended the CCO, where God gave him confirmation of his call. During one of the services, he was the first to go forward when those with a call to missions were invited for prayer. When the event ended, he had several ministry practice options, and he did not know which one to choose.

As he was deciding which to choose, John spoke with his pastor and church board to let them know he wanted to participate in a one of Global Mission's projects. The board agreed to help him in prayer as well as financially, so John was able to serve in another country for two months with "Youth in Mission."

John made many mistakes in his first experience, but God continued to confirm the call. During this experience, he became aware of his great need of theological training. Once he returned to his own country, he studied and eventually graduated. This was how he started the process of receiving first a local and then a district minister's license.

While maintaining in contact with Global Mission, John began to serve in a local church and find opportunities to be involved in missions. After some time, he met and married Joanna, who also had a call to missions.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The class will participate as a group in this activity. Cut out or draw on a board the silhouette of a person, or choose a member of the group who will serve as the “mannequin.” Write each trait of a Nazarene missionary on a piece of paper. Then go through the trait and as a group decide which part of the body represents each one.



2. Study John's story. Write down three things you learned from this illustration.



LESSON 6

How Do I Become a Missionary?

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To understand the missionary call as a process.
- To become familiar with the process of Global Mission Mesoamerica.

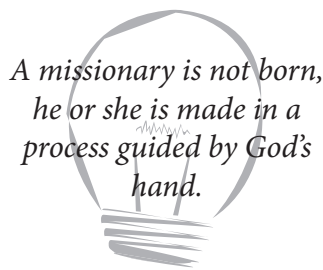
Main Ideas

- There are three parts in the call of a missionary: support from a local church, guidance from the Global Mission office, and the missionary candidate's own initiative.
- Being confident of God's call is what allows missionaries to remain and persevere in the ministry despite difficulties.

Introduction

The question we probably hear most often in Global Mission is this: How do I become a missionary in the Church of the Nazarene? It seems like a simple question, but really it is the beginning of a longer process. This process has been designed to develop candidates not only in their call to missions, but also in the growth as well-rounded Christians. This process is not a "check-list" to complete- that would be the wrong way of seeing it. Neither is it a process to follow in order to receive the "title" of missionary. This is a dynamic and God-led process which God uses to form the candidate as He opens certain "doors" in His way and in His time.

In this lesson we will learn about some of the steps in the process of becoming a missionary with Global Mission. We will also learn from Paul's example and call.



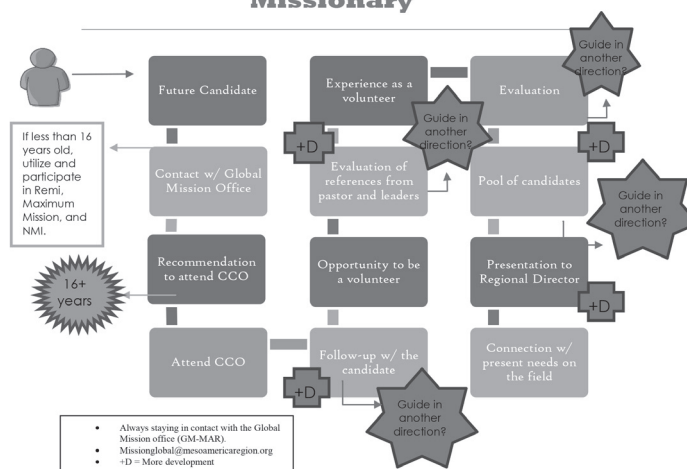
The Path to Follow

What is the process for becoming a missionary in our region?



Study the diagram on the following page that illustrates the various steps to missionary development.

Process of Becoming a Missionary



Four elements of the diagram require additional explanation and will be discussed on the following page below the diagram.

1. Responsibilities of the candidate
2. Responsibilities of the Global Mission office
3. More development is necessary
4. Guide in a different direction

Responsibilities of the candidate

Every step in the process begins with the candidate's initiative. Even as children, those who feel a call to missions can become involved in the ministries of the local church, learn more about God, and be part of NMI (Nazarene Missions International) and/or Maximum Mission projects. The most important thing for the candidate to do is to always keep in touch with the Global Mission MAR office (GM-MAR). With just one call or email a year, the office can keep up-to-date information of a candidate's ministry experiences, their growth in their relationship with God, and in their progress in developing leadership skills.

Responsibilities of the Global Mission office

GM-MAR's responsibility is to work with the District Superintendent to guide candidates in their personal growth and inform them of opportunities that arise to be involved in missions.

The two main opportunities created to help a missionary candidate in their growth are Cross-Cultural Orientations (CCOs) and Mission Corps (sometimes called Nazarenes in Volunteer Service). These two elements are required for all missionary candidates. There are several opportunities every year to participate in both of them, which will be further outlined in future lessons.

More development is necessary

The way to tell whether a candidate needs more preparation or development is by evaluating them as they participate in missionary experiences. Participation in missionary events has two purposes: to provide candidates an opportunity to live out their calling, and to provide GM an opportunity to evaluate the candidate in a missionary environment. Through this evaluation, GM can suggest specific trainings or experiences to help the candidate grow. For example, this could mean receiving more theological education or planting churches in their district.

Guide in a different direction

The evaluation process allows leaders to identify candidates who do not possess the gifts or talents for missionary work. However, this does not mean they do not have a call to missions. For these candidates, GM will work with the District Superintendent to find a more appropriate ministry for them.

*“Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love”
(Roland Allen).*



How did Paul become a missionary?

The apostle Paul's life confirms that the call to missions is a process which involves learning, patience, and spiritual growth. Before thinking about going to the mission field, one must work on being formed by the Lord along the path God has prepared for each individual.

Receiving the call

Paul's conversion and calling by God is told in the book of Acts. Jesus appeared to Paul while the apostle was headed to Damascus to arrest and jail Christians. Paul realized it was Jesus talking to him and acknowledged Him as Lord and Savior.

After his conversion, Paul received his call from Jesus through these words, *"Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them"* (Acts 26:16-17). What a clear calling! It could not have been any clearer.

Before taking on the mission he was entrusted with, Paul had to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that his inner being could be made ready to respond to God's high call. Ananias was chosen to pray for Paul so he could receive his sight and also the Holy Spirit. This teaches us the importance of being ministered to and prepared by others.

This experience impacted the rest of Paul's life, something which he testified to in many of his letters. Many years later Paul continued to tell of this event which radically changed the direction of his life, affirming that God called him and set him apart to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. This message is easily seen in the first chapters of Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans, as well as Ephesians and Colossians.

It is important to remember that we are not being called by a missionary agency; God is the One who calls and sets us apart for ministry. We must learn that God has called us to face struggles, tests, and afflictions. We have to remember that we will live through times when we must suffer for His name (Acts 9:16).

When someone is not called to the ministry by God, the separation, rejection, and persecution of ministry life will disappoint them. They will not have any hope, let alone victory, when facing these struggles. It is important to understand that the main requirement for becoming a missionary is to be called by God. This is the first and most important step in the process.

Most Christians respect and appreciate their pastors and missionaries.

Don't forget who called you.

Never forget the moment God called you to do something for His honor and glory. In that moment of surrender, you traded your personal dreams, plans, and longings for God's.

There are parents who consider it a blessing to their family to have sons and daughters who become pastors or missionaries. Sometimes, when parents have not able to achieve a professional career, their children may feel pressure to go to a seminary to study. Those who are thinking of becoming a pastor or missionary should ask themselves this question: Has the Lord called me to this special work?

The Parable of the Good Shepherd

Principles to recognize in my call.



The parable of the good shepherd in John 10:1-19 contains certain principles regarding God's calling. The rest of this section will expand on each of these.

A. A shepherd gives his life for the sheep

The parable states that the shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep, something which a hired hand would never do since the sheep do not belong to him. When danger comes, the hired hand abandons the sheep and flees. God's calling involves ministering to people, rescuing others from sin, caring for and guiding people to a life of holiness, and setting them on a path to become disciples who then raise up more disciples.

This is the first principle: a person who has received a call from God will lay down his or her life to accomplish God's mission. Laying down one's life can involve rejection, sickness, and even persecution.

B. Hired hands run away

Those serving in ministry without a strong calling will become hired hands. They will only get done what they are asked to do, and no more. When difficulties arise, it will be easy for them to leave the flock. Even when they stay, they will lack the effort to care, feed, and guide others.

On the other hand, those who are sure of their call are aware that God is in charge and that it is necessary to obey Him. In most cases this means working overtime, being trained for specific tasks and difficult situations. However, these ministers will have joy in the midst of it all, which is the key to remaining in service to the Lord.

Pastors sometimes lose their joy in ministry, maybe because no fruit is being produced in their congregation or because there is a lack of collaboration. Missionaries without a call from God will have more problems in adapting to a new culture, and they will have difficulty working on a team with other missionaries. The first two years are the hardest for a missionary family, and confidence in the call is what will help them keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, reminding themselves that they are serving by His will and grace.

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”
(Romans 10:14-15).*

C. Confidence in the call during struggles

In some cases there are people who take some time to discover they have a call, and because it grows and becomes stronger, over time they eventually accept and respond to it. When God's call is clear, the minister will have no doubts about their decision, and they will not regret or need to repent for the decisions they make. They know they are on the right path and that this call is God's plans for their life.

The results are very different when a call comes from a desire to be admired/appreciated by others, travel around the world, or occupy a position of leadership.

Pastors frequently have to go through trials, such as being rejected by their families, having confrontations with people in their place of ministry, or being paid a meager salary. Missionaries also face trials, such as having to adapt to new cultures, learning a new language, having to make do with low pay, facing times of loneliness, and being separated from their family. If a pastor or a missionary is not sure of their call, when faced with trials and conflicts, they will take the easy way out and return to their previous life.

D. Priorities

Many people in the church think that pastors and missionaries possess high spiritual maturity and are immune to sin and thus perfect. This is often believed not only of the pastor, but also of their family. This way of thinking produces pain and frustration.

The minister has two main priorities: to present the gospel and reach the lost, as well as teaching new Christians as they guide and equip leaders. The life of a pastor or a missionary is not that much different from that of a believer who desires to obey Jesus. The most important thing is that they have good role models of life and ministry.

Paul's Preparation and Sending

How is your relationship with God? Don't allow the busyness of life to rob you of those special moments with God. Remember what Jesus says in John 15:5, "... apart from me you can do nothing."

Paul was trained before being sent.



After his conversion, call, and infilling with the Holy Spirit, Paul went to preach at Damascus. Still, he knew there was more he needed to know about Jesus' words. In Galatians 1:17-21 we read, "I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas.... Then I went to Syria and Cilicia."

Paul went to diverse places where he learned how to share Jesus Christ with Gentiles, as well as how to minister and preach effectively. It is believed Paul was trained and prepared for between eight and twelve years, during which time he matured in his faith in Jesus Christ and was always willing to help the pastors in the church of Antioch.

However, Paul did not begin his ministry on these trips. His previous training was key. In other words, he began to work and serve in a local

church. This is the example he gave to all who are being called. It is as if his voice is still speaking to us today reminding us to prepare, be involved in ministry, and reach lost souls for Christ.

Together with Barnabas, Paul worked on several ministries which put him in direct contact with people. Besides teaching, he was also chosen to take an offering for the Christians in Judea who were going through difficult times. He did all of this before he began his missionary journeys.

Those who feel God is calling them to be missionaries should study Bible and theology in a Nazarene seminary. Even if God is calling to serve through a secular job and/or professional career, studying theology is a necessity. Paul went through a time of preparation even though he was one of the most educated Jews of his time. He left us a clear example for today's missionaries to follow.

Being sent

The local church sent Paul. God instructed Paul to whom he was to preach; Paul had a deep conviction that God was sending him to reach the Gentiles. However, Paul waited for God's timing before going on this mission. After years of preparation and active ministry in Antioch, the Holy Spirit sent Paul together with Barnabas to minister to other places.

After praying and fasting, the leaders of the church in Antioch received direction from the Holy Spirit, and after laying hands on Paul and Barnabas, they sent them to begin their first missionary journey. Paul's call was confirmed through the church which sent him.

We are sent by God and by the church, which gives confirmation and approval that we are ready to obey God's call. The missionary is called and prepared, and then needs to continue to be trained throughout his or her lifetime.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not an option; it is a requirement for all Christians. Do not forget you need to be filled with the Spirit every day.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Paul's example allows us to understand that the call is a process which is initiated by God and nurtured through preparation in the local church and missionary experiences. GM-MAR and the local church guide the candidate through this process, but the candidate's full effort is necessary to be well prepared in the areas where development is needed.

Activities

Time



20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete the following table about differences and similarities between pastoral ministry and missionary ministry:

Unique for Pastor	Same for Both	Unique for Missionary

2. Divide the class in two groups. Each one is to prepare a skit on the theme of “assurance of the call in difficult times.”

3. Using the diagram on “Process of Becoming a Missionary,” reflect and respond to the following questions.

A. How do you feel knowing that a process exists for you and others who are called to become missionaries in our denomination?

B. The diagram contains many descriptions and possibilities for each step. Why are those needed? Is it better to have a fluid and dynamic process OR a 10-step list for becoming a missionary? What are the advantages of having multiple options?

C. According to the diagram, no one becomes a paid missionary without first serving as a volunteer missionary. What problems can the church and candidates avoid with this requirement?



LESSON 7

Training and Preparing for the Mission Field

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To appreciate missionary training by looking at Biblical examples.
- To learn about the various opportunities people have to minister as they begin the missionary preparation process.

Main Ideas

- Training is an essential component of ministerial preparation.
- Those called to missions should seek out projects and activities that will help them develop their gifts and confirm their call.
 - The Church of the Nazarene offers many opportunities to receive training and participate in missions.

Introduction

Before choosing a profession, many people take a vocational orientation class where they receive guidance to help them define which career most closely matches their personality, abilities, interests, attitudes, etc. This helps many to make better choices regarding their future.

Similarly, the call to missions includes a commitment to seeking confirmation of the call. There are three things missionary candidates need to do: discern God's will for their life, receive training to acquire the ministry tools they will need, and take advantage of the opportunities available to them to serve in missions.

The author of this lesson is Claudia Cruz Martinez. She was born in 1984 in Oaxaca, Mexico. When Claudia turned 20 years old, she committed her life to serving the Lord, helping in the ministries of her church and participating in many Maximum Mission projects on her district.

In 2006 she graduated with a degree in Administration and participated in the "One Heart, Many Hands" week in Tuxtla Gutiérrez (Mexico), which was her first experience serving alongside people of other cultures. She then participated with Youth in Mission in 2008, serving in Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica. This was a time of learning and confirmation of God's call for her life. Later she was a part of "Project Paul" in three towns of the northern mountains of Oaxaca. At the end of 2009, she quit her job to begin theological studies. Most recently she has served as NYI District President, Project Paul coordinator in Pochutla (Oaxaca), Global Mission coordinator for her district, and youth pastor as a licensed minister. She is hoping to graduate in 2013 with a degree in Pastoral Theology from the Seminario Nazareno Mexicano (SENAMEX).

What Does the Bible Say about Ministerial Preparation?

Abraham, Moses, and Joshua all had to go through a time of preparation.



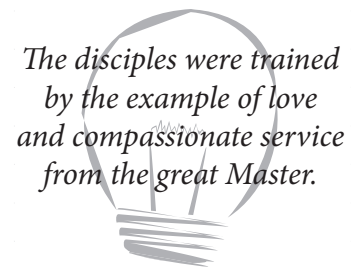
Ministry training is an essential part of the development of good ministers. It allows them to learn how to accomplish the tasks given to them, and above all to fulfill the Great Commission. In the Old Testament we find many people who were called by God for a specific task, and most of them had to go through some preparation. For example, Abraham was a shepherd, and Moses, although he received the best education of his time, also started out shepherding sheep. A great example is Joshua, who was trained under the leadership of Moses.

Exodus 33:11 tells us Joshua was always at Moses' side since he was his assistant. On one occasion, Joshua was sent with eleven others to explore the land and inhabitants of Canaan (Numbers 13). Upon their return, only Joshua and Caleb were motivated to go and conquer the land. The rest were afraid because of the size of the inhabitants; to them the task seemed impossible.

During the preparation process, many candidates begin to fear they are not up to the task of missionary work. It is possible that Joshua and Caleb also felt fear, but they continued with the process of preparation until the day came when they were ready to conquer the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 3:28).

There are also examples in the New Testament of people being trained and prepared in the early days of the Church. A few examples include the disciples, who were trained by Jesus, and Timothy who was mentored by Paul.

In the three years of Jesus' ministry here on earth, He called twelve disciples to be at his side to minister with Him (Mark 3:13-19). The first thing Jesus did was to spend time with his disciples. He knew he had limited time to prepare them for the mission. We should remember that the disciples were fishermen, just ordinary people. Still, in their daily walk with Jesus and with the infilling of the Holy Spirit, they were gradually transformed. The disciples eventually were able to carry out many ministries as teachers, evangelists, preachers, disciple-makers, etc., serving many people along the way.



Tools for Missionary Training: Opportunities and Ministries

The beginning of a great missionary adventure!



*“Unless the whole church is mobilized, the whole world is not likely to be reached”
(John Stott).*

In the last section we briefly analyzed Biblical examples of people who were trained for missions. We are thankful to God for the many opportunities and ministries the Church of the Nazarene offers to train those who are called into missions. In Mesoamerica we have the ministry of Global Mission MAR, which develops trainings designed specifically to provide step-by-step help to candidates in their preparation to fulfill the Great Commission.

The Ministries of NYI, NMI, and SDMI at the local and district levels

All who are called by God can find their first opportunity to be trained and prepared within their local church by serving in their local NMI, NYI, SDMI, or other ministries as president, treasurer, Sunday School teacher (for any age group), prayer coordinator, LINKS coordinator, and Work and Witness coordinator, among many others. God is calling workers who have a willingness to serve.

Being involved in a ministry of the local church is important. Through these service opportunities, God forms our character, we learn to be responsible, our gifts and talents are honed, and it provides an excellent recommendation letter to continue in the process.

“Tranforma el Mundo” Blog (“Transform the World” Blog)

This blog (available in Spanish at www.transformaelmundo.com) is a webpage which Global Mission makes available to all who want to be informed and learn about missionary service in an informal way. The blog provides a global perspective on missions and is an excellent tool to begin a feedback process where the candidate can express their viewpoints and read those of people in other contexts. It is a space to share testimonies, opinions, and experiences while going through this time of preparation. The blog also features devotionals on Scripture written by leaders in the region, as well as valuable information about mission in the larger Church of the Nazarene.

While an English missions blog is being developed on the Mesoamerica Region, Global Mission and NMI leaders recommend accessing excellent articles and reflections at Southern Nazarene University’s missions website: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/>”

Maximum Mission

Maximum Mission is a mission-trip program at the local, district, field, and regional levels which organizes and mobilizes people with a desire to serve God with their gifts and talents. The program originated from the

You can sign-up for the blog “Transforma el Mundo” at www.transformaelmundo.wordpress.com

command our Lord gave us in Matthew 28:19, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

The theme for Maximum Mission is “Love and Service to the Maximum.” This program strives to involve those who have heard and accepted God’s call for their lives. One of the goals is to contribute to the formation of new leaders by providing a holistic view of missions. These projects make significant contributions to satisfying the needs of communities through Christian service and witness.

The best part of Maximum Mission is that everyone can participate since it encompasses all age groups and ministries of the church. Maximum Mission combines the efforts of various ministries, such as compassion, evangelism, discipleship, Vacation Bible School, Work and Witness, etc. People who are serving for the first time can begin by doing simple chores such as painting and cleaning.

CCO (Cross-Cultural Orientation)

A Cross-Cultural Orientation is a three to four day retreat where missions is the focus. It is a special event with the goal of helping participants define how they can be actively involved in missions.

During the event, participants are challenged to have meaningful experiences as they go through immersive activities which simulate being in another country and discovering the barriers which missionaries face to sharing the message of salvation in other cultures.

These orientations are excellent opportunities for teens, NYI leaders, NMI leaders, and pastors to learn how to get involved in missions and to guide others through the preparation process. Through this event, God has called many to take giant steps of faith and make the commitment to serve as volunteer missionaries.

Mission Corps (formerly called “Nazarenes in Volunteer Service”)

The best way of being trained for cross-cultural service is to go and live in another culture. This is the kind of experience one can gain by participating in Mission Corps.

Serving in another culture through an immersion experience helps one to discover gifts and talents, and it provides an opportunity to leave one’s comfort zone. During their time of service, the candidate will come face-to-face with people in need, which will help them to grow in compassion, as well as teach them to be thankful for everything God provides.

The voyage begins the moment the candidate responds to the call and says to God, “Yes, I will go to the nations,” even when they do not yet have

In Matthew 28:16-20, the Great Commission is, “a call to an integral mission, a summons to participate in the formation of citizens of God’s kingdom who are willing to obey him in everything, so that the Church relies on the constant presence of the Spirit (“the other Jesus”) “to the ends of the earth” (René Padilla, Discipleship and Mission, 1997:21).

How can you serve in your local church, and what is the purpose of having a variety of ministries according to Ephesians 4:11-12?

“When God calls, He gives, and when He gives, He calls.”

the financial resources. One of the wonderful things candidates learn in this process is to rely on the Lord to strengthen their faith for each new step.

Theological Education

Theological training is a requirement for all missionary candidates. There are many ways to be trained, be it residentially, through face-to-face classes, online courses, video conferencing, and other methods. The Church of the Nazarene relies on its seminaries and Bible institutes throughout the Region, which offer a variety of programs with different specializations in ministerial studies.

For those with a professional degree, there is also a Master's program through the Seminario Nazareno de las Américas (Nazarene Seminary of the Americas - SENDAS), which offers different concentrations, including a Master's degree in Cross-Cultural Studies. This is a Spanish residential program offered in San Jose, Costa Rica and at other sites in strategic places throughout Latin America.

It should also be noted that at the time of the printing of this material, the first ever bilingual Center of Missionary Formation was being prepared for launch in 2016-2017, with its headquarters online and in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

*Webpages for Theological
Education in the Church of
the Nazarene*
www.nazarenovirtual.net
www.edunaz.org
www.seminarionazareno.net



My Personal Testimony

Claudia Cruz Martínez' Experiences.



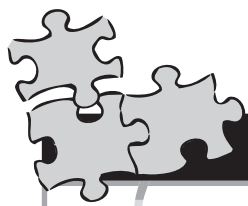
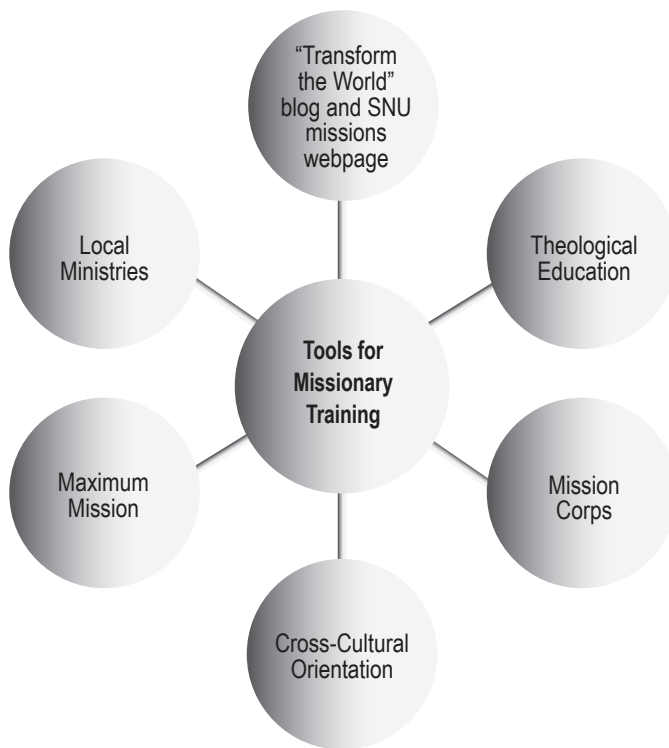
"I went through the preparation process, and it was an adventure. My passion for bringing people to the feet of Jesus through the message of salvation grows day by day. Currently I am serving the Lord in my district as mission coordinator. I am also furthering my theological training and my goal is to obtain the highest preparation possible. It is my prayer that this theological training will transform me every day more and more in the image of Jesus Christ. I know the Lord will accomplish his purposes and work in me.

During my training years the experiences I received on the mission field taught me that God is calling everyone to be His disciples, and this kingdom work is not limited to the pastor, church board, or missionary. God's call is for everyone, for me and for you; God wants us to serve as His instruments, which is why He has given us gifts and talents. The only thing I desire is more of God and to enjoy walking hand in hand with Him.

If I had to describe God in just one word it would be Faithful. God's faithfulness and love goes beyond any circumstance, occasion, or place. My prayer to God is that He would continue to perfect His servants so we will be in the right place at the right time according to His will. The God who called you is faithful, and He will sustain you."

God desires to give this kind of passion to all of His children. We live in a time where there are many tools that Global Mission can offer us so we can be prepared for service.

MISSIONARY TRAINING TOOLS



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The Church of the Nazarene offers a variety of options for training cross-cultural ministers such as: local church ministries, the SNU Missions webpage, Maximum Mission, Cross-Cultural Orientation, Mission Corps, and various educational programs for theological and ministerial formation.

What can you learn from 1 Timothy 4:13 and 2 Timothy 1:13-14, 3:14-17 regarding theological education of pastors?

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the following Bible passages and answer the question, "Who trained whom?"

Mark 3:13-19 _____

2 Timothy 1:1-14 _____

1 Samuel 3:1-9 _____

Numbers 27:18-23 and 31:7-8 _____

2. Class activity. This activity consists of identifying your classmates' preferences and talents. Everyone will be asking these questions one at a time to others in the class and try to fill every box with a name (everyone will be doing it at the same time). For example, when I find a friend who likes to sing I write their name down in the appropriate box (only one name per box). Then you ask another question and keep going like this. You have five minutes to gather all the names you can. The winner is the one who has the most boxes filled with a name.

1. Can sing	11. Likes to clean	21. Likes to sell things
2. Plays an instrument	12. Watched "The Jesus Film"	22. Involved in a ministry in church
3. Participates in dramas or plays	13. Sunday School teacher	23. Owns work boots
4. Can work with puppets	14. Likes working with children	24. Is younger than you
5. Has participated in a mime	15. Likes sports	25. Brought their Bible
6. Likes to stay up late	16. Likes to wash dishes	26. Knows how to paint houses/buildings
7. Memorized Matthew 28:19-20	17. Works and studies	27. Is older than you
8. Worked in construction	18. Participated in Maximum Mission	28. Wears t-shirts with Christian messages
9. Is a treasurer	19. Can draw	29. Is a leader
10. Is a teacher	20. Can evangelize	30. Can disciple

3. Talk about a custom or tradition you saw another family or group of people participate in that you thought was different or strange. Share it with the rest of the class.



LESSON 8

Mission Corps

The Formation of the Nazarene Missionary

Objectives

- To understand the role of a volunteer missionary.
- To learn about opportunities for volunteer service.
- To consider ways to promote these volunteer ministries.

Main Ideas

- The needs in the world are great. Many of these can be met through volunteers who are called by God to serve in short and long term work.
- Participating as a volunteer missionary includes responsibilities and requirements.
- There are many ways to participate as a volunteer in the Church of the Nazarene.

Introduction

In our region, Mission Corps (formerly known as Nazarenes in Volunteer Service or NIVS) is a program for volunteer missionaries. The program requires commitment on the side of the church and of the candidate, since both are called to meet needs on the mission field. The Great Commission was given to all of the church to, “Go and make disciples of all nations,” (Matt. 28:19) and this is fulfilled when it is joined with the individual call to “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you” (Gen. 12:1).

The Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica Region has incredible human potential at its disposal to respond to this call and meet the needs of the world today. The Mission Corps program provides an excellent opportunity for churches and missionary candidates to respond to the Lord’s calling.

The Volunteer Missionary

What is a volunteer missionary?



When talking about a volunteer missionary, we are referring servants who possesses three important characteristics:

1. They have a call from God and a strong commitment to obey that calling.
2. They serve in a ministry in another culture and/or country.
3. They are endorsed and supported by their home church.

The word “volunteer” refers to the way in which the missionary is sustained during their time in service: volunteer missionaries use their own financial resources to cover their needs (and their family’s needs when applicable). These resources can be provided from the candidate’s personal funds and/or from the funds from their local church, district, family, friends, or other givers.

Global Mission MAR is a ministry which seeks to discover, develop, and deploy missional leaders to various world areas.

In 2007 the MAR Region sent eight young adults as volunteer missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene to Europe and the Middle East.

The Ministerial Contributions of Volunteers

What ministries do volunteer missionaries carry out?



Volunteer missionaries can do many things depending on the gifts God has given them, their education, and their ministry, work, and professional experiences. These are all important factors for determining their area of service.

In general, volunteer missionaries serve in teaching, training, administrating, and coordinating mission trip groups from Maximum Mission or Work and Witness. However, the possibilities are as vast as the needs of the mission field. We can sum it up by saying that volunteer missionaries have the ministry of service.

Participating in Mission Corps is an excellent way of confirming whether God is calling you to full-time service in another culture, which is a very unique calling.

- Mission Corps has three objectives:
1. Promote the fulfillment of the Great Commission among Nazarenes in the MAR Region who have a missionary call by exposing them to a specific mission field.
 2. Encourage all levels of the Church to become involved and participate in the sending and support of volunteer missionaries.
 3. Promote alternative solutions to existing ministry needs through the use of missionaries.

Who Can Work as Volunteer Missionaries?

In this section we will look at the characteristics of volunteers.



Anyone who wants to participate in the Mission Corps program of the Church of the Nazarene must meet the following requirements:

- Be an adult, 18 years or older, and an active member of a Church of the Nazarene.
- Contact and receive an invitation from the Global Mission office of your region.
- Turn in letters of recommendation from your pastor, District Superintendent, and Field Strategy Coordinator for final approval by the Regional Director.
- Complete the written application.
- Commit to serve on the mission field when invited without requiring special accommodations for your stay or special conditions for your ministry service.
- Have the support of your local church, which means the church will pray for the volunteer missionary in the areas of spiritual growth and emotional wellbeing.
- Have the funds necessary to cover the expenses of moving to and living on the mission field, such as these: paperwork and fees, travel, taxes, personal expenses, food, housing, and medical insurance. These funds should cover the duration of the time you intend to serve as a volunteer missionary.

Ways to Serve in Mission Corps

How can I become involved?

The Mission Corps program offers various options according to each person's availability for service. The service chosen will depend on the profile and willingness of each candidate. These are the service options:

Work and Witness Teams

Work and Witness groups involve people of all ages. Most of the time a team is comprised of people from a local church or district. The group is responsible for raising funds for their expenses and the project. The time of service on the field is one or two weeks. They typically work on construction projects or evangelism. These trips provide great experiences which have helped many to confirm their call to missions, and for others to determine that missions is not their calling.

Extreme Nazarene

The mission of Extreme Nazarene, known simply as "Extreme," is to provide resources for projects which have complex needs in any part of the world. Extreme mobilizes available human and material resources from Nazarene churches globally. The purpose of Extreme is, *"to seek and deploy people into an extreme global expansion of God's Kingdom by prayerfully and thoughtfully engaging the specific talents, skills, experience and resources God gave them and to further develop them into permanent full-time constructors of the Kingdom."*

Since 2005 the Extreme program has sent out more than 1,000 volunteers to Europe and South America to serve in high impact, short-term projects. Through these projects more than \$3 million dollars have been received, which have been invested in compassion, discipleship, and evangelism ministries, in building eleven churches (80,000 square meters of buildings which serve to expand the kingdom of God), in planting micro-enterprises, and in training dozens of leaders.

Project Abraham

Project Abraham consists of teams of people with different ministries who collaborate with local churches in planting new churches. Project Abraham volunteers work on compassion projects, evangelism, community service, and Bible schools. The work each team does differs according to the setting and the needs of the community.

Project Genesis

In the past, God opened doors to youth from Latin America in Europe and the Middle East through the Isaiah and Caleb projects. Since 2010, Global Mission MAR has been coordinating a new project called "Genesis Mesoamerica."



The goal of Project Genesis is to reach the most populated cities of the Mesoamerica Region to plant new churches from 2012-2020. The project covers 28 fields and countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and the northwest of South America. Four of these are islands with no Nazarene work and 24 are large, metropolitan cities where the Church of the Nazarene has little Nazarene presence.

This project is comprised of young people called to missions who have been trained and equipped. They will be sent out in teams of four to six volunteers to serve for a minimum of two years. There will also be opportunities for short-term volunteers to support them.

The name Genesis was chosen because of the meaning of the word: the act of making or giving birth to something; the process of originating, producing, or forming.

The theme was taken from Genesis 28:14-15, *“Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

Tentmakers

This strategy gets its name from the work the apostle Paul and his companions Aquila and Priscilla did in order to support themselves. Missionaries who are tentmakers have secular jobs and look for opportunities to witness about Jesus Christ in the country where they live. They serve as professors, nurses, musicians, business people, and many other professions and specialties.

These missionaries serve in creative access countries, places which have closed their doors to traditional missionaries. For this reason, missionaries who enter these countries do so with professional or work-related visas and must be very careful about how they evangelize and disciple others.

Youth Involvement

Project Paul, Youth in Mission, and other similar programs provide excellent opportunities for youth to participate in volunteer missions. The purpose of these programs is to involve youth in diverse ministries during their school vacation times or in short-term trips. It is similar to other programs in that these projects require volunteers to pay for their own expenses.

In Mesoamerica there are many cities with more than one million inhabitants but no church or significant presence (relative to the population size) of the Church of the Nazarene. God is calling us to take the message of salvation and holiness to these millions of people.

Important Information

What every volunteer missionary needs to know.



Here is some important information all volunteer missionary candidates need to know.

1. Medical insurance: Everyone involved in the Mission Corps program needs to have medical insurance for their time of service. The Global Mission office will guide candidates in finding insurance since they do not have the budget to provide medical coverage to volunteer missionaries.

2. Cross-cultural trainings: All Mission Corps candidates must be trained and prepared through Cross-Cultural Orientation and other training opportunities depending on where they will be serving.

3. The volunteer missionary's conduct: There are certain rules of conduct that a Mission Corps volunteer must know and follow while serving on the field. The following table outlines these rules, which describe the expected conduct for missionaries, who must always be mindful of their witness and spiritual life.

Let us pray for and support those who God has called and who are preparing to serve as missionaries. Let us give generously so they will have the opportunity to obey the Lord's calling.

Rules
1. Respect the laws and authorities of the field where serving.
2. Do not participate in political activities of the local government.
3. Do not participate in unusual activities which could result in being hurt or injured.
4. Help, support, and attend a local Church of the Nazarene.
5. Be careful about language and behavior so as not to cause confusion. Remember you will be living in a country with different customs from your own.
6. Do not in any way offend the people living in your place of service.
7. Be careful to eat healthy.
8. Keep the place where you are living clean and orderly.
9. Be mindful of how you dress.
10. In your home or office, do not be by yourself in the company of a person of the opposite sex.
11. Schedule personal activities outside of missionary work hours.
12. Do not be outside of your home late at night.
13. The monetary funds you have are to be used for the ministry you are doing and your basic needs (lodging, food, medical insurance, etc.)
14. Ask permission from your leader for your family and/or friends to visit you on the mission field. They are required to pay their personal expenses and to have the medical insurance for the time they will be on the field.

Other Possibilities

Everyone can serve as a volunteer!



The need is great, and there are also many opportunities to help. Professional laypersons can offer their services in places where official missionaries might not be able to access, or laypersons can work alongside established missionaries on the field according to their specialization.

For example, administrators can dedicate their time to helping in a regional or field office, health professionals can serve as volunteers in hospitals in need of staff, farmers can share their knowledge with other farmers, and professors can teach in a local university.

These volunteers have an easier time entering and working in certain countries. While there, they can let others know about Christ and disciple new believers. They can share the gospel with coworkers and/or students as they develop friendships with them.

Sometimes youth or retirees volunteer in “white fields,” or fields where there are no missionaries. But there are still many needs and opportunities for service in places where missionaries are assigned, such as regional and field offices, Nazarene seminaries, and hospitals. Volunteers can help as assistants in any ministry, as teachers for missionary kids, and in many other roles to help extend God’s kingdom.

Volunteer Missionaries in the Bible

Phillip, Aquila, and Priscilla are examples.



In the New Testament, several disciples of the Lord are mentioned who served in similar ministries as those of volunteer missionaries today. We will briefly look at the lives of Phillip, Aquila, and Priscilla.

Phillip: Before serving as a “volunteer missionary,” Phillip was chosen to wait on tables, and it seems like he did a good job (Acts 6:3-6). Sometime later he went to a city in Samaria, where thousands were converted and there was a great revival thanks to his ministry. Phillip was obedient and took the gospel to a people that had been despised by the Israelites (Acts 8:4-25). Later, the Holy Spirit took him to meet an Ethiopian who, after his conversion, took Christianity to his African nation (Acts 8:26-39). Phillip continued on his way preaching the gospel in many cities all the way to Caesarea (Acts 8:40).

Aquila and Priscilla: Aquila and Priscilla were converted to Christianity in Rome, but they had to escape the city because of Emperor Claudius’ persecution against Christian Jews. This is why they settled in Corinth

and met Paul. They offered the apostle lodging in their home, shared their resources, and collaborated in his mission.

The three of them worked together making tents. This is how they paid for their needs while exalting Christ above everything else. They planted house churches together, and years later they went with Paul on his voyage to Ephesus and along with Apollos they formed the missionary team that started the church in that city (Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-28).

A Missionary Church

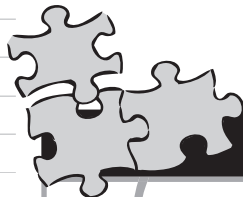
How do we develop volunteer missionaries in the church?



Before ending this lesson, we will include some ideas to help encourage the church to become involved as volunteer missionaries:

1. Encourage the church or district to participate in a Maximum Mission or Compassionate ministries project in order to respond to needs in the community.
2. Organize a Maximum Mission or Work and Witness group with people from the local church or district to help a church in or outside of your district. It does not have to be a construction project. It can involve developing leaders, providing different kinds of trainings, helping in evangelism programs, among other things.
3. Support tentmakers who are planting churches in new countries or fields.
4. Serve as volunteer missionaries in pastoral, district, or seminary offices, according to the needs and the abilities of the volunteer.

Those who desire to serve as volunteers must pay attention to the needs that arise in the ministries of the church in order to offer their services to meet them with the help and direction of God. They should ask God to show them the needs as He sees them and to give them His passion for the lost. It is also important to plan time to participate in these volunteer opportunities. Everyone needs to be able to answer as the prophet Isaiah did, *“Here am I. Send me!”*



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The Church of the Nazarene provides various opportunities for everyone in the local church to serve on the mission field. Some people have a special call to serve as long-term missionaries, but anyone can help as a short-term volunteer.

Activities

Time



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write down some of the advantages of serving as a short-term volunteer missionary.

2. Which of the Mission Corps opportunities discussed in this lesson might be of interest to you?

3. Have the whole class come up with ideas and strategies to encourage the local church's participation in volunteer missionary ministries. You can send these ideas to Global Mission through the website www.movilizaci3njuvenil.org.

4. Group activity for the class. In the following page you will find the list of cities for Project Genesis 2012-2020. Make a prayer list for these sites and assign each of these cities to a different member of your church.



Mission: To plant Nazarene Churches in the largest cities of Mesoamerica through Mission Corps teams sent and supported by MAR between 2012 and 2020. (Genesis 28:14-15)

MESOAMERICA REGION

*** LARGE CITIES**
*** UNREACHED CITIES**
*** CITIES where PRESENCE of the CHURCH is not SIGNIFICANT.**

#	CITY	COUNTRY	FIELD	POPULATION
1	Veracruz, Ver.	Mexico	Mexico	512.000
2	Guadalajara, Jalisco.	Mexico	Mexico	05 '000,000
3	Toluca, Mex.	Mexico	Mexico	02 '000,000
4	Monterrey, N.L.	Mexico	Mexico	03 '000,000
5	Mexico City	Mexico	Mexico	20 '000,000
6	Tijuana, BCN.	Mexico	Mexico	01 '532,000
7	Puebla, Puebla	Mexico	Mexico	01 '500,000
8	Queretaro, Qro.	Mexico	Mexico	730.000
9	Ciudad Juarez, Chih.	Mexico	Mexico	01 '100,000
10	San Pedro Sula	Honduras	North Central	800.000
11	San Salvador	El Salvador	North Central	01 '566,000
12	Tegucigalpa	Honduras	North Central	01 '250,000
13	Managua	Nicaragua	North Central	02 '600,000
14	Guatemala, Guatemala	Guatemala	North Central	03 '110,000
15	Santo Domingo	Dominican Repub.	Central	03 '000,000
16	Santiago	Dominican Repub.	Central	507.000
17	Panama	Panama	Central	01 '206,000
18	San José	Costa Rica, CA.	Central	01 '000,000
19	Habana	Cuba	Central	02 '200,000
20	San Juan	Puerto Rico	Central	434.47
21	Port au Prince	Haiti	Haiti	01 '083,000
22	Turks and Caicos	Turks and Caicos	Caribbean	36.605
23	Grenada	Grenada	Caribbean	93.000
24	Curacao	Curacao	Caribbean	142.000
25	Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands	Caribbean	52.830
26	Bonaire	Bonaire	Caribbean	15.000
27	Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean	600.000
28	Kingston	Jamaica	Caribbean	577.000

Final evaluation

Time



COURSE: THE FORMATION OF THE NAZARENE MISSIONARY

Name of Student: _____
Church or Study Center: _____
District: _____
Instructor: _____
Date of this evaluation: _____

1. *In your own words, define the call to cross-cultural ministry.*

2. *What are some of the characteristics in the profile of a Nazarene missionary?*

3. *What are some of the steps to becoming a missionary?*

4. *What did you learn from the ministry practice activities in this course?*

5. *In your opinion, how could this course be improved?*

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About this book

Formation of the Nazarene Missionary examines areas of development and the requirements for those who are called to cross-cultural missions. From the confirmation of the call to the final training, this book details the different options that the Church of the Nazarene offers for those who are called to serve in other cultural contexts. It also describes the role of those who participate in the recruitment, training, and process of being sent.



The editor

Rev. Scott Armstrong has served as a missionary on the Mesoamerica Region for 19 years and has lived in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. Scott is the regional coordinator of Global Missions and Genesis. Global Missions seeks to discover, develop, and deploy missionaries. Genesis is an initiative to make disciples and start new churches in the cities of Mesoamerica. Scott enjoys ministering to children and youth. He and his wife, Emily, have two children Elijah and Sydney.

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