

So You Want To Be A Missionary?
Seminar hosted by Living Word Missions
www.livingwordmissions.org
Life Preparation
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Life Preparation

Big Takeaway: *Preparation is essential for a missions career and you can begin preparing today!*

There is a high level of attrition among missionaries. Following are some of the requirements in qualifying for missionary service and to prevent premature departures from the foreign field. This checklist will set up the career missionary for success!

✓ Bible School Training

Systematic Bible training is absolutely essential in a missions career. Living Word Missions requires a minimum of 2 years of Bible training from a recognized Bible school or church Bible school program.

Systematic Bible courses on topics such as the authority of the Believer, righteousness, the work of the Holy Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit, the Ministry Gifts, faith, divine healing, demonology, eschatology, financial stewardship, the love walk, the fruit of the Spirit, and missions history are examples of foundational Bible truths necessary. (Josh. 1:8, 2 Tim. 2:15)

✓ Eliminate Debt

You cannot be free to answer God's call to a foreign land if you are tied by debt. Primarily a Western issue, debt...credit card debt, mortgage, student loans...needs to be dealt with before you pursue your missions career. (Romans 13:8)

A resource like Dave Ramsey's , *The Total Money Makeover* is a good place to start in developing a strategy to pay off debt.

✓ Family Stability

God calls singles, married couples, and families to missions service. Secure singles and stable families can be of great service on the mission field. Dysfunctional family situations will only become more dysfunctional with the stresses of living in a foreign culture. A family must be in order and in unity to be qualified for missions service. (1 Timothy 3:5 and 3:12)

✓ Consider Your Children's Education

Consideration and prayer must be given to how your children will be educated in a foreign nation. Homeschooling is a wonderful option. Quality education can be an option in some locations, but will be offered in the language of your service nation. Research options and begin preparing children for this life change.

✓ Language Training

Language learning must be a priority. This requires faith, commitment to the process, and a strategy. An aptitude for language helps tremendously. Denominational missionaries are usually required to attend formal language school as part of their pre-field training, which is a very good idea for career missionaries.

✓ Obtain a Marketable Expertise

In the missions realm, we call these missionaries, "tentmakers," as a reference to the Apostle Paul working to support his missionary journeys. (Acts 18:3) Some nations require an individual to have a marketable skill in order to obtain a visa. Some cultures are highly suspicious of foreigners and one way to gain an inroad is through a business or service occupation. This is especially true in nations closed to Christianity. If you sense a call to one of these nations, you should receive training in a marketable skill relevant to the culture to which you are called. This will create a genuine platform for relationships in your missions assignment, and provide a means to support yourself.

✓ Christian Character

This is one of the most important elements to longevity and success in a missions career. On-field problems commonly result from a lack of Christian maturity. Relational issues (with mission team members and target people group) and moral failures are the cause of most missionary departures. Your love walk, fruit of the Spirit, discipline, and other Christian virtues will make or break your missions career. (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 2:6-8)

✓ Spirit of Faith

You will need a spirit of faith to flourish on the mission field. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Feeding yourself on faith-filled teaching should become a daily discipline in your life now. Faith grows by use. Walking by faith should be your practice now. (1 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 11:6, 1 John 5:4)

✓ Accountability

You should be involved in Christian community, serving with and submitting to mature leaders. If you are not doing this now, you will likely fail on the mission field. A missions agency should not be required to evaluate your readiness for a missions career. Trusted leaders in your home church who know your character, gifting, maturity, skills, and family life should be evaluating your readiness for a missions career. This requires humility, which you will need a lot of on the mission field! (1 Timothy 3:10, 1 Peter 5:5)

✓ Give to Missions

Unless you are called to be a tentmaker, you will require the financial support of others to sustain your life on the mission field. Start sowing toward your future by investing in missions now. (Matthew 6:21, Galatians 6:7)

✓ General Health

What is the general state of your health? Do you have lifestyle-related health issues that need to be addressed? Do you need to receive healing to enable you to serve at an optimum level in your missions career? (3 John 1:2)

✓ Research Your Target People

Who are you called to serve? Where? These are specifics that you will need to pray out. As you receive direction from the Lord, begin researching that people group and/or location. Pray for and seek out people of that culture (or similar culture) in your current location. Expect divine appointments! Begin praying for that people group, opening your heart and allowing the Lord to share His love with you for those people.

✓ Begin a Cross-Cultural Lifestyle Now

Start living out and testing your call to cross-cultural ministry by developing friendships within the international community in your locality. Start learning cultural adaptation now, as it is one of the most important character-building processes of being a missionary. (Acts 17:22)

✓ Missionary Training

Living Word Missions will re-launch the Missionary Training School, Fall 2018. Many other good missions training programs exist, as well. In any secular profession, training, internships and apprenticeships are required or highly valued. Why do we think that such preparation is not necessary for the important assignment of fulfilling the Great Commission?

Recommended Resources:

Book: *Missionsmart, 15 critical questions to ask before launching overseas* by David L. Frazier

Messages on the LWM website: www.livingwordmissions.org, Free Resources Tab, [Missionary Training School](#)