



SEND ME

A GUIDE TO MISSIONARY SERVICE

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

SENDME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959

LISTEN: IS GOD CALLING ME?

4

Searching for clarity
Where the Church is not yet
The Nazarene missionary
The many faces of Nazarene Missions

GROW: HOW DO I PREPARE?


22

Preparation matters
12 core elements
Development worksheet
Resources to get you started

SERVE: HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

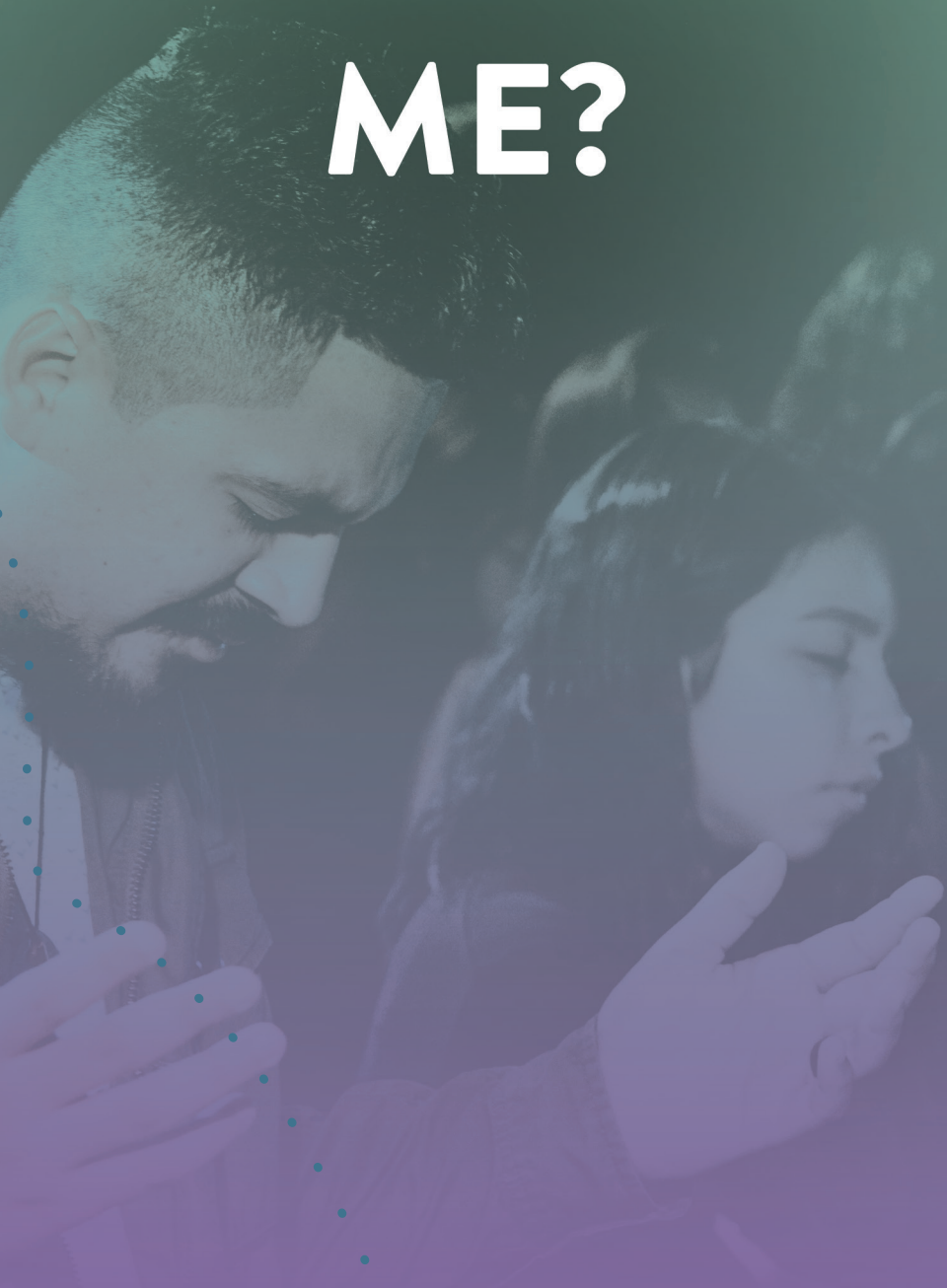
38

The deployment process
Deployment types
Support network
Frequently asked questions
Take the first step



LISTEN

IS GOD CALLING ME?





LISTEN: IS GOD CALLING ME?

AM I CALLED?

You have picked up this Send Me guide because you are asking the question: “Am I called to be a missionary?” This book is a resource for you to begin wrestling with the answer to that question. You’ve started in a great place!

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

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

PRAY

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

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

CONNECT

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

RESPOND

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



5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR CLARITY AS YOU CONSIDER MISSIONS SERVICE

1

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

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

GALATIANS 5:25

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

MATTHEW 6:33

2

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

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

MICAH 6:8

“But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.”

PSALM 13:5



3

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

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

ISAIAH 64:8

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

PSALM 139:23-24

4

GOD, GIVE ME WISDOM TO MAKE CHOICES THAT ARE PLEASING TO YOU.

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

JAMES 3:17

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

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25

5

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

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

ACTS 1:8

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

ROMANS 12:2



WHERE THE CHURCH IS NOT YET

There are millions of people who have never experienced the hope of the gospel or the transformational power of a growing relationship with Christ. In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe that God wants everyone to encounter the message of the gospel in order to live transformed lives of holiness. That is why our goal is to engage communities of faith in going where the Church is not yet so that no one is without a holiness witness. But what do we mean by “where the Church is not yet?”


In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells us, as His disciples, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” For many of us, the call to make disciples is lived out through encounters with our neighbors in our communities. Other times the call means making an impact on the country in which we find ourselves. As a people, we are also called to “the ends of the earth.”

In our church, God continues to call people to full-time service “to the ends of the earth.” These missionaries are Christlike disciples who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, prayerfully sent by the church, and affirmed by Nazarene Missions. They diligently carry out the missions work of our church to go where the Church is not yet by living among those who have not yet been engaged by the life-changing message of holiness.



HOW DOES NAZARENE MISSIONS “GO WHERE THE CHURCH IS NOT YET?”

Going to “the ends of the earth” is an overwhelming task, and as individuals we would be hopeless to do it alone. Together, as a part of Nazarene Missions, we are committed to going where the Church is not yet. We participate in this work by **PIONEERING**, **DEVELOPING**, and **RESOURCING** local, interdependent, and sustainable Nazarene churches.



1. WE PIONEER

Pioneering is joining God in His work. We acknowledge that God is already working in the hearts and lives of individuals everywhere we might go. As we follow the leading of His Spirit, we are going to places or people groups where there is little or no witness to the transforming message of holiness. This means that we not only go to see people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ but we continue to stay to disciple and see them through a journey into God's sanctifying grace.

We cannot always use the same methods wherever we go. We trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and people immersed in the local culture to guide the way the church is started in that place. Sometimes traditional missionaries do this work. Other times we need to be creative in our approach as we navigate local restrictions. Sometimes a church starts through a building and services. Other times—especially in parts of the world where the environment may not be conducive to Christian outreach and church development—it begins with people living intentionally to build relationships and engage their neighbors in new ways. The purpose of pioneering is to prepare the way for the church to be established and grow in that setting.

2. WE DEVELOP

Once the Church of the Nazarene has an established presence in a new place, missionaries and local church leaders focus on developing the church. We do this by helping churches and districts mature through the fostering of emerging local leaders, guiding the community to engage in missions, establishing organizational systems, and intentionally cultivating indigenous theological expression. We are committed to walking alongside people and new churches to ensure that every person and church grows to the full potential God has in store for them.

3. WE RESOURCE

After a new church or group of churches has become self-supporting and developed their own leaders, missionaries, and structures, we continue to assist them through resourcing. This involves logistical support, facilitation of church-to-church relationships, and development of educational materials, as well as connecting individuals and groups with one another to share experiences, ideas, and techniques. The purpose of this missional resourcing is to release the local church and provide the necessary preparations for that church to become fully engaged in the missions work of the Church of the Nazarene, both in their local setting and around the world.





SENDME


NAZARENE  MISSIONS

nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959



THE NAZARENE **MISSIONARY**

A CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLE SET APART BY
THE HOLY SPIRIT, PRAYERFULLY SENT
OUT BY THE CHURCH, AND AFFIRMED
BY NAZARENE MISSIONS TO CROSS
CULTURAL BARRIERS FOR THE PURPOSE
OF SPREADING SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS



NAZARENE MISSIONARIES ARE CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

They are sanctified wholly by His Spirit, set apart to do His work. They are called to go into the world and spread His transformative Gospel.

NAZARENE MISSIONARIES ARE PRAYERFULLY SENT OUT BY THE CHURCH

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

NAZARENE MISSIONARIES SPREAD SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

As the Holy Spirit prepares the way for transformational holiness, Nazarene Missions sends its missionaries in partnership with local communities to join in God's movement of restoration and peace in hearts and lives.





THE MANY FACES OF MISSIONS

Following the call is a unique process for everyone. Missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene come from many countries and backgrounds: some are single, some married; some have children, some do not. All have faced obstacles and doubts but have still responded to the call, “here I am Lord, send me.”

HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR STORIES.

When I was a student at European Nazarene College, I had a strong desire to be a pastor. So, when I served cross-culturally for the first time through internships required for my degree, I was surprised to find myself thinking, “this is something I could do long-term.” I had always felt that I would be a pastor, so when I sensed that God was leading me toward missions, I felt that God was asking me to let go of the dream I had to become a pastor. Letting go of that idea was difficult for me because it had been my ideal for so long. But I knew God was calling, and I was willing to go.

Now, my wife and I serve together in a former Soviet republic, and I am amazed that God continues to provide me with opportunities to serve in more pastoral capacities than I would have ever anticipated. It was a challenge for me to give up my dream to become a pastor, but now looking back, I see that God was asking me for obedience, regardless of what my role happened to look like.

Missionary life is a wonderful life. But it is not always easy. Being away from family is challenging and never fun. In spite of the challenges, we have seen God work miraculously around us.

— DAVIDE

As I was approaching the end of my three years in law school, the Lord put it on my heart to go on a Work & Witness trip to Peru. As I was on that trip, God called me to begin my work in missions by serving in Peru for six months as a volunteer. During my time preparing for and serving in Peru, I saw God move in marvelous ways, breaking down barriers and reassuring me as I moved forward in His calling.

I have lived with my grandparents for over 10 years, and they are steadily aging. This was something that worried me as I was preparing to serve. One day, I was so overwhelmed by the thought of leaving them that I just lowered my head in prayer. I begged God to give me some reassurance that they would be ok if I left. In that moment, God spoke and said, "I have been caring for them for longer than you've been alive and will keep caring for them when you leave." I have never in my life felt such a sense of peace. I knew that not only did God have my grandparents in His hand, but He was preparing the way for me to follow His call. As I said yes, He made the way and continues to do so as I continue to say yes to the calling He has placed on my life.

— CHAD



When I was fourteen, I remember I had a dream where God told me, “You have to go.” At that moment, I didn’t understand.

Some years later, I was invited by my pastor to participate in a missions orientation being offered by the church. When I was there, I heard a presentation about the percentages of Christian people in the world. I felt a burden. I saw many miracles in my family when I was growing up. God changed my story. God transformed my community. So, why do many people not know this amazing and loving God? That was when I decided to come to the altar and say, “I will go.”

Of course, I wasn’t a missionary the next day; it was a process. I started with short-term missions trips, and God confirmed in my heart that I needed to keep going. God didn’t force me but gently came to my ear with a sweet voice and said, “come.” The Lord keeps equipping me day by day to do this work.

— ERIKA



I felt God's calling to be a missionary when I was in grade school while reading the book "Susan N. Fitkin: The Girl Who Wanted to be a Missionary." I took my first step to follow that call when I enrolled at Visayan Nazarene Bible College, which thoroughly opened my eyes to the need to go and reach out to the nations. After my graduation, I enrolled at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary for my graduate studies. At APNTS, my calling was confirmed and was nurtured in many ways. Both institutions gave me the opportunities to live in a multicultural setting that allowed me to see the differences, challenges, and beauties in each culture.

My missionary journey started after my graduation from APNTS in 2016. I enrolled again for the Intercultural Studies program and took a two-month intercultural internship in Thailand, serving at the Maetang Tribal Children's Home and the School of Promise in Chiang Mai. It was during this internship that my calling to serve in missions on a long-term basis was confirmed.

— CHRISTINE



I first sensed a call to missions when I was 11 years old at a church camp. As a youth, the thought of serving on a mission field scared me. By the time I hit college, I was interested in doing something else. After graduating college, I started my life of marriage, family, work, hobbies, and church. My life was good and our family was happy. However, God was still at work. He was rekindling my call to missions and also my wife's calling.

This time around, I listened. We started with prayer and asked God to direct us and our family.

Being obedient is not always easy. Sometimes it feels like it costs comfort and familiarity, but God is faithful. He continues to answer prayers and sustain us in ways we cannot imagine for His work.

— KURT




My calling was not very direct. When I was young, I served for a while in Somaliland...then I chickened out. I said to myself, "How am I going to leave my family?" So I decided that I would support others in missions instead of going myself. I was committed to helping them, but not to going.

Soon after, I married. One day my husband, Evans, told me that he was called to missions. So, I went to the orientation workshops with him, but I still wasn't sure about leaving my family.

In 2016, while we were praying, I suddenly felt a peace from God and we began serving in Ghana. While it was difficult to leave family and friends behind in Kenya, God has provided. I have been so surprised by how a people we did not know accepted us so readily.

— NJERI





GROW

HOW DO I PREPARE?



GROW: HOW DO I PREPARE?

PREPARATION MATTERS

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

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

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

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



SENDME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959

THE EFFECTIVE MISSIONARY

Have you ever wondered what skills you will need to become an effective missionary? Nazarene pastors, missionaries, missiologists, and representatives from around the world wanted to create a tool that would help future missionaries to understand better how to prepare for the field. The resulting list is what we call the **Core Elements of Missionary Effectiveness**. We have repeatedly seen how these characteristics are key in the lives of faithful and effective missionaries. We encourage you to read each core element below and use the list on the corresponding page to keep track of your goals and practical ways you would like to grow in each area.

1 SPIRITUAL MATURITY

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

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

2 CLARITY OF CALL

A missionary should be able to articulate his or her call to serve in ministry and how it relates to missions. They should demonstrate a strong call to serve others. This articulation may present itself as a known plan for the future or as a desire to follow God's leading in the immediate future.

Do you remember when you first felt God was leading you to missions? What was that like? Write down your experience(s), noting all the details you remember. Having a solid and confident understanding of your call will help you to continue pressing forward when difficulties arise.

3 RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

A missionary should demonstrate the ability to maintain healthy relationships and effectively resolve both personal and professional conflict. It is important to possess good interpersonal skills to demonstrate Christlike character in all interactions.

Whether at home or in our ministry assignments, conflict always seems to arise. This does not have to be negative when we know how to appropriately respond and handle conflict. Think about the different relationships you will develop as a missionary (local people, other missionaries and leaders, extended family, sending church, etc.). What types of conflict might arise in these relationships? How can you be prepared when it does?

4 HOLISTIC WELLNESS

A missionary should be in good physical health to handle the strain of living in another culture. Maintaining strong psycho-social health is also important in effectively handling stress.

Improvement for you in this area could be as simple as eating healthy and exercising. It also could include intentionally seeking out people in your life with whom you can process life's challenges in a healthy way or intentionally practicing Sabbath.

For those with a chronic condition, such illnesses may not prevent you from service if the ministry assignment allows you to continue any medication or health regimen required for your wellbeing. However, there are some health concerns that could hinder you from serving as a missionary.

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

A missionary should possess a flexible spirit and a willingness to be adaptable, recognizing the differences you will face living within another culture. It is important to have experienced significant time within another culture to recognize the need for flexibility, adaptability, and the ability to appreciate and value aspects of other cultures. Development of language skills is also key in contextualizing yourself to another culture.

You don't have to wait until you become a missionary to practice cross-cultural adaptability. Are there people from other cultural groups with whom you might make friends? Perhaps you can join or volunteer in a multicultural ministry at your church. Participate in a Work & Witness trip to another country. The possibilities are endless!

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

A missionary candidate should be fully engaged in a local Church of the Nazarene. Having first-hand experience in understanding how the local church functions is important before working with churches in other world areas. It is also key in your development as a missionary to have ministry experience in the local church, in working with pastors, and in developing a heart for outreach through the local church.

Perhaps you are already involved in your local church. If not, a good place to start is with your pastor. He or she can connect you to a place where you can thrive. Be sure to express your passions and calling in ministry. They can help you grow in your call and possibly provide leadership opportunities that would give you experience.

7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A missionary should have practical experience in the career field in which they sense a call to serve. It is important for the candidate to have the necessary training and experience to bring professional expertise to the field.

As a missionary, there are so many avenues of service. Whatever your particular skill or experience, it is likely that God can use it as you serve. Continue to develop those skills and seek discernment and creativity for how God might use them.

8 EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

A missionary should have the necessary educational background to match the ministry in which he or she wants to serve. If a candidate is looking to serve in church development, it is also important to be ordained by the Church of the Nazarene. Likewise, you might research educational degrees or technical degrees corresponding to your call.

Educational preparation will look different for each missionary. Typically, educational preparation will include professional education as well as theological and missiological education. Your professional education will naturally correspond with your own skills and experience and desires for ministry. It should also include some theological and missiological training that will inform your service and broaden your worldview.

GROW



THEOLOGICAL COHERENCE

A missionary should be able to understand and articulate the biblical foundation of their Christian faith. They also should demonstrate an understanding and ability to live out and communicate the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene.

There are many resources to help you dive deeper into the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene. A great place to start is with *Nazarene Essentials*, available for free download at nazarene.org/essentials. Some other resources include *What is a Nazarene?* by Wes Tracy and Stan Ingersol and *Articles of Faith - a small group study: What Nazarenes Believe*, both of which are available at thefoundrypublishing.com.

MISSION-EVANGELISM FOUNDATION

A missionary should have a strong belief that every Christian has the responsibility to go and make disciples in the nations. This should be evident in the believer's current ministry and a natural part of every aspect of their lives.

Pray that God would renew your vision to see opportunities to share Christ with those around you. This disposition will become more and more your habit as you practice living a life of incarnational ministry and witness to those without Christ.



1 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

A missionary should have experiences in their lives that enable them to have a global perspective to contextualize what they see, hear, say, and do. They should be able to recognize the pitfalls of ethnocentrism and to balance the reality of their own biases within the culture where they serve.

Practice this perspective shift by reaching out to Christians you know around the world. Have conversations with them on a regular basis about what they believe are the greatest issues facing our church today and how we might approach them. Keep an open mind and remember to ask questions. Another exercise might be to explore options in your community for cross-cultural interactions. You would be surprised at the opportunities available once you start looking.

2 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A missionary should demonstrate a practical ability to handle finances responsibly. It should be evident in their personal finances, as well as any business or ministry experience that involves handling money or budgets.

A great way to start practicing this is with a personal budget. There are many resources available to help you learn more about money management. Practice keeping track of where your money goes and saving instead of immediately spending. Another place to start is by engaging in the spiritual practice of tithing. If you have debts, try to pay them off as much as possible to be a good steward of God's resources.



DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

Now that you are familiar with some of the aspects of healthy service, it is time for you to create an action plan to further develop in some of these areas. Take time to reflect on each area and write down whatever comes to mind. Be as concrete as you can.

1 SPIRITUAL MATURITY

2 CLARITY OF CALL

3 RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

HOLISTIC WELLNESS

4

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

5

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

6



7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

8 EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

9 THEOLOGICAL COHERENCE

10

MISSION-EVANGELISM FOUNDATION

11

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

12

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GROW

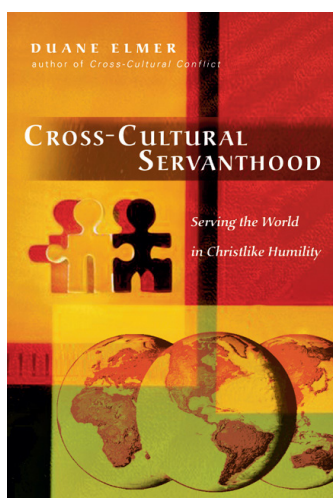
RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED

Sometimes it is difficult to know where to begin when exploring your call. We have created a list of some of our favorite books to get you started. Check them out!

Cross-Cultural Servanthood:

Serving the World in Christlike Humility

by Duane Elmer

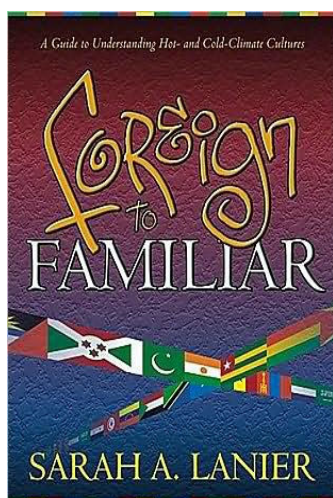


Cross-Cultural Servanthood explores humility and how it can differ in expression from culture to culture. Humility and teachability are essential for anyone working in and among cultures other than their own. We recommend this book as an excellent starting place as you begin your journey in cross-cultural service.

Foreign to Familiar:

A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures

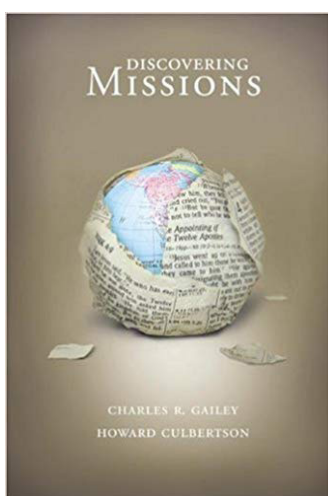
by Sarah A. Lanier



Foreign to Familiar is a wonderful introductory resource to the complex issue of culture. Spanning from communication to hospitality practices, Lanier dives into the diversity found within hot and cold cultures and how best to navigate them.

Discovering Missions

by Charles R. Gailey and Howard Culbertson



Discovering Missions is a survey of missions as a whole, making it a great starting place. Gailey and Culbertson explore many missiological topics that introduce the reader to the issues found in the theology and practice of missions.

GROW



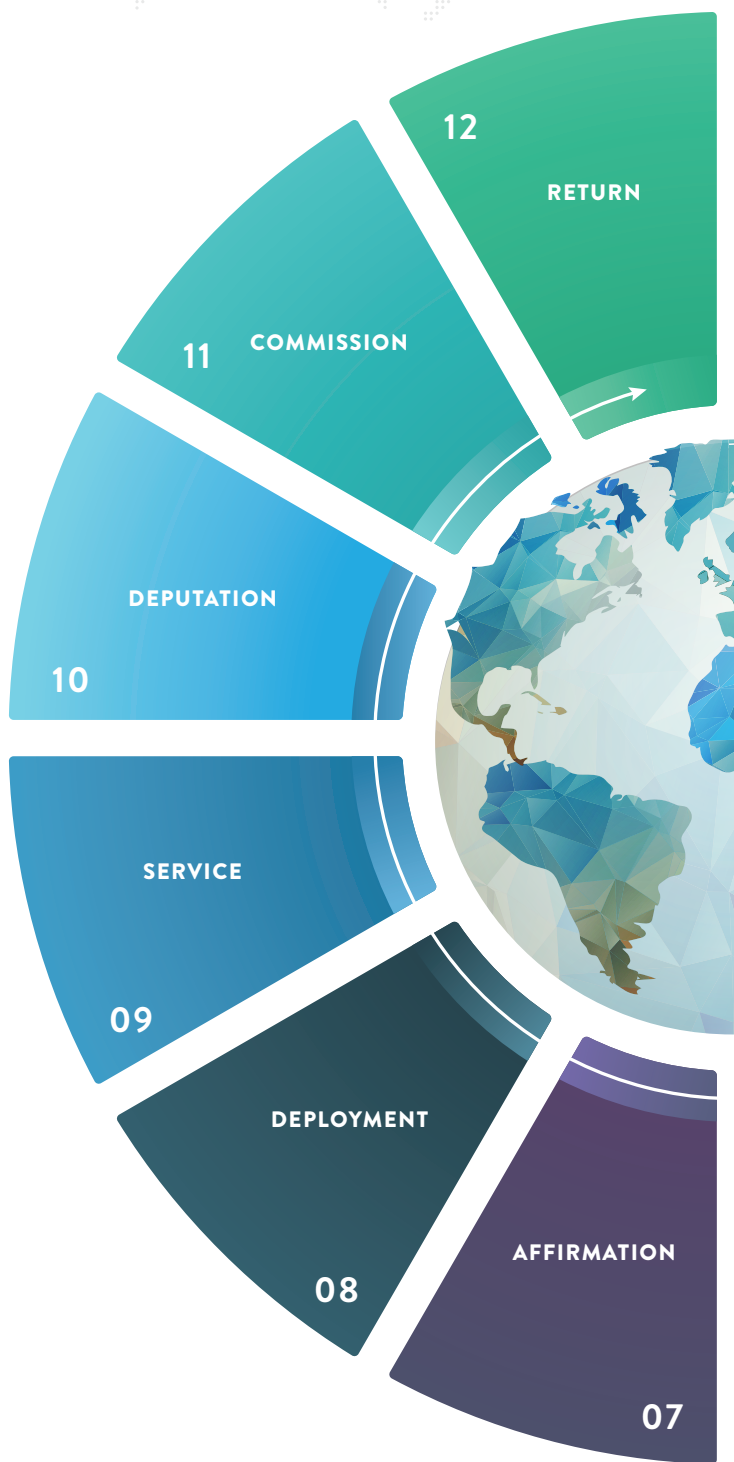
SERVIVE

HOW BLOOM

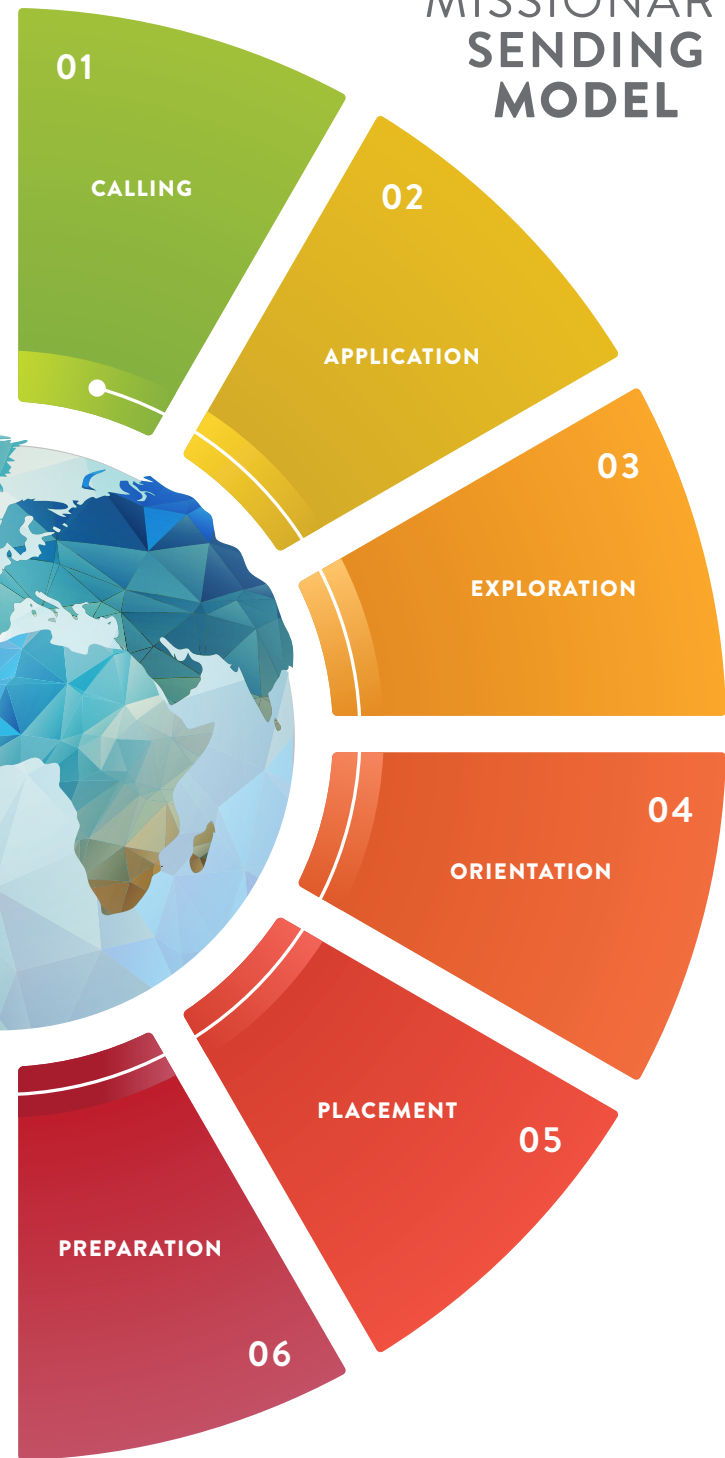
A vertical image with a teal-to-green gradient overlay. In the background, a person's hand is visible, holding a white, textured fabric. A string of small, warm-toned lights is visible in the lower-left corner. The text "HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

HOW
DOES THE
PROCESS
WORK?

SERVE: HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?



MISSIONARY SENDING MODEL



SERVE

01 CALLING

The church and district provide opportunities to inspire, foster, and nurture the call to serve in Nazarene Missions. This not only includes the participation of the local pastor but also the local NMI president to engage early and guide the candidate through the sending process.

02 APPLICATION

The candidate engages with their pastor and local church board, including the local NMI president, to communicate and establish their interest in missionary service. The candidate will formally request a local church board recommendation, after which they will receive official application forms from Nazarene Missions.

03 EXPLORATION

The local church, guided by the NMI president, walks beside the candidate to help him or her discern a call, prepare for service, and develop needed skills. Nazarene Missions will provide tools and resources to support the local church in this process.

04 ORIENTATION

The candidate attends an Explore (Nazarene Missions orientation) event. After the event, the candidate, pastor, and local and district NMI presidents are notified of next steps, which may include further assessment and development.

05 PLACEMENT

Nazarene Missions notifies the candidate, local pastor, local and district NMI presidents, and the district superintendent of the candidate's placement.

06 PREPARATION

Nazarene Missions provides training to prepare the missionary for effective service.

The local and district NMI presidents encourage the local church and district to support the missionary throughout his or her time in missionary service.

07 AFFIRMATION

The local and district NMI presidents prepare a sending service to affirm the missionary in the local church and on the district. Each local church and district will receive an affirmation service liturgy developed by the Board of General Superintendents.

08 DEPLOYMENT

Nazarene Missions works with field leaders to ensure the missionary completes field training and successfully begins his or her assignment.

Field training includes but is not limited to team bonding, cultural awareness, discipleship training, language acquisition, security, and field-specific training.

09 SERVICE

As determined by a missionary's assignment, Nazarene Missions provides contractual support: funding, insurance, and missionary care.

The local church and local and district NMI presidents keep the relationship strong between the missionary, the district, and local churches through prayer and connection.



SERVE



10 DEPUTATION

Missionaries serving through a global deployment are equipped with resources to prepare them for deputation services.

Missionaries serving through a sponsored deployment, although not sent on deputation by Nazarene Missions, are connected to their local churches for financial support throughout their assignment.

All missionaries participate in home assignment, a time intentionally set aside to build, develop, and renew relationships with churches and districts in order to engage in missions and encourage World Evangelism giving.

The local and district NMI presidents help prepare the sending community to welcome, support, and encourage missionaries during their time of home assignment.

11 COMMISSION

Nazarene Missions notifies the local sending community, including the local pastor, local and district NMI presidents, and district, of the commissioning service led by the Board of General Superintendents.

Note: A commissioned missionary is not a category of service, rather a recognition of a person called to a lifetime of missionary service and a willingness to serve wherever sent.

12 RETURN

Nazarene Missions helps prepare the church, local and district NMI presidents, and district to welcome, support, and encourage returning missionaries, including retiring missionaries.



SENDME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959

TWO DEPLOYMENT TYPES

Prior to the placement of a missionary candidate, assignments are established as globally funded (global) or locally funded (sponsored).

SPONSORED DEPLOYMENT



A missionary serving through sponsored deployment is primarily funded by the local community and will serve a localized need in the field. Affirmed by the local church, district, and the Church of the Nazarene, he or she will serve a maximum of four years in the field with no previous ministry experience required.

GLOBAL DEPLOYMENT



A missionary serving through global deployment is primarily funded by the global efforts of World Evangelism giving and will serve a full career in the field. Affirmed by the Church of the Nazarene, he or she must have prior ministry experience and will strategically serve in a global assignment wherever they are needed in the world.

SERVE

YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK

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

As a Nazarene missionary, your support network consists of four primary groups.

LOCAL CHURCH

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

A local church that sends a missionary is sending out one of their very own for the sake of the Kingdom. They want to partner with that missionary in any way they can. This includes helping the missionary prepare for the field mentally, spiritually, financially, and emotionally. It means supporting the missionary on the field through prayer, finances, encouragement, and love. It means engaging in the ministry of the missionary by supporting projects, serving through Work & Witness, and contributing to our missions foundation through World Evangelism giving.



HOME DISTRICT

We are all the Body of Christ. Your home district is a beautiful example of the network of churches that we benefit from as Nazarenes. The district is a multiplication of your local church support as churches from across your district are also excited to support you and engage in ministry with you. Just as you can expand your ministry by partnering with your district, churches across your district are multiplying their ministry through you.

PEOPLE ON THE FIELD

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

GLOBAL CHURCH

The global Church of the Nazarene is thrilled to partner with your local church and district to send and support you as you serve. Not only do we have the experience of serving hundreds of missionaries annually, but like you, we are passionate about bringing the gospel to those places where the Church is not yet. Throughout your time of service, we welcome questions, concerns, and feedback on any topic that arises in your missionary service. In addition to providing you with resources and tools that will help, we also want to connect you with missionaries and global leaders around the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG DOES THE SENDING PROCESS TAKE?

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

IS THERE TRAINING TO BETTER EQUIP ME TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?

Nazarene Missions equips each missionary according to his or her specific needs. Training varies based on your desired length of service and given assignment. We require all missionaries, regardless of length of service, to attend an Explore event. This event provides you with cross-cultural insights, as well as an opportunity to meet our staff. Additional role-specific training will be provided once you are placed in an assignment and before you are deployed.

CAN I SERVE IF I HAVE DEBT?

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

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?

While a Nazarene missionary must be 18 years of age to serve in their own assignment, there are many opportunities for service before that time, including Work & Witness and other group experiences.

CAN I SERVE WITH MY DEPENDENT CHILDREN?

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

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

DO I NEED A COLLEGE DEGREE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?

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

I HAVE SOME HEALTH CONCERNS. CAN I STILL BECOME A MISSIONARY?

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

WHAT IF MY SENDING CHURCH IS NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD EVANGELISM FUND?

Nazarene Missions is made possible through the collective efforts of Nazarenes around the world. Local churches are invited to participate fully, which includes World Evangelism giving. If a local church desires to send a new missionary but is not fully participating in WEF, Nazarene Missions will encourage their participation to enable them to send missionaries through our global network.



TAKING THE FIRST STEP

We hope this resource has proven helpful as you begin your journey. If you are still wondering how to move forward, there are several things we would encourage you to do.

KEEP PRAYING

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

FIND A MENTOR

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

KEEP SERVING

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

FILL OUT A NAZARENE MISSIONS INQUIRY FORM

You can connect with Nazarene Missions today by filling out an inquiry form. This will give us the basic information we need to begin reaching out to you and journeying with you. Find the Nazarene Missions inquiry form at nazarene.org/sendme. It will only take a few minutes to complete.

MEET WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BOARD

We want you to begin developing a strong relationship with your local church now. Express your sense of missionary calling to your pastor and local NMI president. Nazarene Missions will give your church board the resources they need to recommend you formally as a missionary candidate. When your church recommends you as a missions candidate, you will be invited to an orientation event.

If you have additional questions that were not answered in this booklet, we encourage you to reach out to us at

(913) 577-2959 or
sendme@nazarene.org.

We are here to help.



SERVE



SEND ME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959



PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE WORLD continue to search for hope, and yet their communities are without a beacon. Entire cities are bustling with busyness but have no one proclaiming the message of holiness.

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

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

LISTEN

Is God calling me?
Am I called?

GROW

How do I prepare?
Why prepare?

SERVE

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

**START YOUR
JOURNEY TODAY**
nazarene.org/sendme
sendme@nazarene.org
(913) 577-2959