

Preparing for Missionary Service
Future Missionary Cohort
April 2022

- Get involved in ministry in your local church and community!
- Find a mentor-coach.
- Study missionary service and life.
- Serve on mission fields.
- Spend time with missionaries or retired missionaries, people with ministry experience and people with cross-cultural experience.

- Learn healthy spiritual and life habits and Bible study.
- Read missionary biographies and missions books.
- Take the Perspectives Course.
- Learn how to work well with people, eat new foods and appreciate different languages and cultures.
- Become a life-long learner
- Nearly every skill set has usefulness on the mission field. Some general universal skills include teaching (and teaching ESL, English as a second language) and business

Training and Preparation

The needs of missionary personnel vary according to specific ministries and length of service. The recommended level of education for career service is graduation from a recognized school with the equivalent of a bachelor's degree. EFM is concerned that all missionaries have competence in a) interpreting the Word of God, and b) relating empathetically with people in their cultural context. First priority is placed on training in Bible, but training is also necessary in cross-cultural communications and relationships. Study in a school for missionary training or Christian service is desirable.

In some cases, training is valuable or even necessary in a particular profession or vocation. Follow your interests and counsel from mentors on what vocational skills to prepare for. Many vocational skills can be implemented on the mission field for relationships and service in equipping disciple-makers.

EFM provides missionary training through Missionary Training International and other sources, after an applicant is accepted. EFM may recommend and assist a missionary candidate in obtaining additional informal or formal training as needed.

Bible/Professional Training

While life experiences and prior training will always color any additional training EFM may suggest, career missionaries should have training in a seminary or Bible institute or at least one year of academic Bible study in addition to advanced professional training.

Culture Training

All missionary personnel need exposure to the cultural dimensions of cross-cultural communication and relationships. For career personnel, this includes a thorough training in the local language and culture, and exposure to the basic concepts of the social sciences together with their applications for missions. Those in short-term programs and special ministries should at least be exposed to the concepts of culture and cultural differences, and the implications these have for communications and relationships.

Language Training

Aptitude to acquire a foreign language is necessary. The amount of language study required may vary according to the fields and particular ministries as well as the length of their terms. Every applicant should be prepared to take a language acquisition course and participate in on-the-field language and immersion experiences.

Practical Experience

At least two years of successful work in practical Christian service is desirable. Many times competence in a trade or profession is valuable, requiring experience in that particular vocational or professional emphasis. Some experience in secular employment may also be valuable preparation.