



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION

LUKE 10 TRIPS

Leader Planning Guide #3 – Resources for During the Trip

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Luke 10 Exploration Trip Reporter	3
Luke 10 Trip CAN GO Report to EFM Format.....	4
During Trip Reflection & Training Guide	12
Team Leader Debriefing Guide	13
Questions When Considering a New Field.....	15
Discernment Resources	17
Steps for a Meeting of Clearness	26

Thank you for contributions for this guide to Matt Macy and the EFM Luke 10 Initiative by Sarah Amador, Molly de la Cerda, Lon Fendall, Sung Kim, Stan Leach, and Ron Stansell. Thank you to Sarah Amador for helping Matt with organizing and writing through all the EFM Luke 10 Trip guides, Molly De La Cerda for leadership with the writing team for Guide 3, and Kimberly Mer, Krista Alvarez, and the EFM office for leadership with graphic design, website, forms, and implementation.

LUKE 10 EXPLORATION TRIP REPORTER

EFM is asking that each team identify a team member who takes on the role of Trip Reporter.

- To collect and file best photos taken by team during the trip.
 - for sharing with prayer partners and with EFM office
 - for the team's use now and later
 - for historical value

- To record and/or collect notes taken by team
 - for the team's review/memory before, during, and after the trip
 - for the team's file and historical record
 - for reference as needed when Trip CAN GO Report is developed for EFM

- Here is a request from the EFM office, as EFM sends out updates about your Trip:
 - **3 Weeks Before Trip:** Please send a brief email message about who is going where, along with a list of 3 or 4 prayer requests for this trip to matt@friendsmission.com and krista@friendsmission.com. EFM may add a few words of introduction to then send out an announcement and call to prayer for each Luke 10 Trip to the full EFM email list.
 - **During and/or After Trip:** Please send to Krista at krista@friendsmission.com or 714-732-4999
 - 5-10 Photos with short (1-2 sentence) descriptions of what is happening in the photo. Please ensure these photos are in the best/highest quality possible. Look for photos that tell a story, not just posed pictures of people.
 - One or two team photos of everyone on the trip! (if one could be sent before they travel (at the airport) that would be helpful!)

LUKE 10 TRIP CAN GO REPORT TO EFM

EFM asks that each Luke 10 Exploration Trip team provide a written report summarizing what you are discerning for aligning with EFM's five criteria for starting a new mission field. EFM calls these criteria "EFM's CAN GO Criteria."

Each team's report will be provided to the EFM Luke 10 Think Tank and EFM Board as we all discern together what the next steps might look like for exploring new fields among the people and place you have visited. (<https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go/>)

1. The following pages serve as notes pages that can be printed off for each team member to make personal notes/observations, so far at this time, on each category before, during, and after the trip.
 - Team members are also welcomed to consider framing strategic observations and planning/ideas around the three phases of Preparation, Participation, and Promotion among Senders, Goers, and Recipients.
2. Please use the format below, along with the following seven pages of questions as a guide for the Luke 10 team to present one formal written report to EFM. It should be something like 2 to 6 pages total. The team leader is responsible to see that a report summarizing the consensus of the team is provided to EFM. This report can be downloaded [here](#).

Please start your team written report to EFM with a basic introduction including:

- Dates of trip and Luke 10 Trip main destination
- Name of main author/s of report and date submitted
- Names of each trip team member and where they are from along with their role in the church and maybe a short sentence about why they wanted to participate
- Very brief schedule description of main activities on Luke 10 Trip, including list of towns or communities (city/state/country) where you visited for exploration.
- Pertinent information that helps EFM understand your team's perspectives on:
 - C for Champions
 - A for Affirmation
 - N for Need
 - G for Gifting
 - O for Opportunity
 - Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?
 - Luke 10 Team recommendation to EFM

EFM asks that the 2022 trip reports be submitted no later than four weeks after the Luke 10 Trip. The EFM office will be extracting some basic information from these reports to work with trip leaders in providing a brief update to the EFM e-mail list about how the trip went. For those teams going in October, the written CAN GO report to EFM needs to be presented to the EFM National Think Tank on November 1 and 2, 2022. EFM hopes that at least one or two members of each team will be present at these Think Tank meetings to help present their report, and all team members are welcome!

Luke 10 Trip CAN GO Report to EFM

Team Member Name: _____

Trip Location: _____

Trip Dates: _____

C for Champions:

These are people who have a passion for a specific people and place. There is a strong sense that "We must go there!"

- *Who is God already using/calling to be a champion for this place? Churches? Individuals? Partners in other continents? Before the trip? During the trip? After the trip?*
- *Who is praying for this people or place? Will they pray for the team as they endeavor to dream and receive the vision?*
- *Who is God calling to give their lives to reaching this people group? What are their names?*

BEFORE	
DURING	
AFTER	

A for Affirmation:

This comes from the body of Christ at the local, national, and international levels.

- *Are there partners or ministries in place that we can learn from prior to us going there? In the greater region?*
- *How did the discernment impressions of senders and goers change before, during and after the trip? What discoveries or stories stand out in this process?*
- *Are there people with resolve willing to partner with and send missionaries to this people or place? Who are they?*

BEFORE	
DURING	
AFTER	

N for Need:

There is a compelling need for the gospel in this unreached or under-reached people/place.

- *What can you share about this people or place?*
- *Is there a ministry need that we can focus on?*
- *How would you summarize the most convincing evidence of need for the gospel and reason/s to start a mission there?*

BEFORE	
DURING	
AFTER	

G for Gifting:

There are persons available who have the gifts and character to do pioneering work.

- *Who is expressing interest or willingness to consider going as a missionary to this place?*
- *What sort of gifts or skills might be required for this work?*
- *How many people will it take to begin this pioneering work? What will it take to get started?*
- *See Ron Stansell’s article entitled “Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work.”*

BEFORE	
DURING	
AFTER	

O for Opportunity:

There is openness in this specific unreached or under-reached people, even a sense of invitation.

- *Is the soil ready for sowing seeds of the Good News? (Matthew 13:23: The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”)*
- *Who welcomed you or provided hospitality among believers and non-believers? Did you find a woman/man of peace? Did you receive an invitation to bring the Good News to an area that is not being reached?*
- *Share any opportunities that God may be presenting to us. How might we start? How will we engage with the people? Business? Development? Discipleship and Evangelism? Partnerships?*

BEFORE	
DURING	
AFTER	

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

- Please summarize how you see this potential new field most aligning with EFM's vision and mission statements. (<https://friendsmission.com/vision-and-mission/>)
 - EFM's Vision: Evangelical Friends of North America fully mobilized to send missionaries who plant groups of churches around the world that are faithful, sustainable, multiplying and mobilized to send missionaries themselves.
 - EFM's Mission: Our purpose and passion is to fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the kingdom of God, planting churches that live and die to carry out the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

- Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

- Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.

- What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field? (Including gathering people together to seek the mind of Christ and to discern God's call upon our churches to send missionaries to start a new field? (<https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go/>)

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

What is the general sense of the team, concerning a recommendation to EFM's Think Tank?

This is to be a brief summary describing potential next steps in exploration and discernment. Explore further? Pause exploration for now? Recommend that a new field be opened?

DURING TRIP TRAINING AND REFLECTION GUIDES

REQUIRED TRAINING & RESOURCES:

- The CAN GO report orientation and format pgs. 5-11
- The key discernment questions pg. 15 AND the team debriefing guide pg. 13
- Discernment articles below pgs. 17-25
- Steps for a Clearness meeting below pg. 26

RECOMMENDED TRAINING:

These are resources you as a leader can consider and decide whether or not to include in your training and prep of your team. They are not required, like the ones above, and are up to your discretion according to needs, time and team characteristics.

- Short Term Missions Handbook (Ch. 4-7 during trip)
- Cross-Cultural Connections (Section 3 and 4 during trip)
- Western Christians in Global Missions (Ch. 4, 6-9 during trip)
- Other discernment resources in this [document](#).

TEAM DEBRIEFING SUGGESTIONS FOR LEADERS

WRITTEN BY SARAH AMADOR

General recommendation:

Each day should contain time for individual and collective devotional reading and praying. Each team member should have time to consider the resources given, the experiences and observations of each day, and what God may want to speak to them. There should then also be times for pairs, small group and whole group discussions focused on the resources in this packet and the questions above. Your job as team leader is to facilitate and guide the discernment process through discussion, prayer, and conclusive listening. You are not required to read or answer every single thing provided; rather, our goal is to provide you with a plethora of ideas and resources to pull from as God leads you and based on what your team needs.

The following questions are meant to guide participants through the discussion and analysis of the resources shared, and their implications in the field being explored. Use them in conjunction with the key questions on pgs. 15-16 to stimulate and guide debriefing times.

1. What has impacted you or caught your attention today? What about it impacted you or drew your attention? What might God want us to discern from your observations? What, if any, information does it give us for our discernment process? Are there any Western/American culture slants to your conclusions that should be set aside?
 - a. *(This series of questions can be good to discuss in pairs each day, and then the agreed upon conclusions are shared with the whole group afterwards.)*
2. Based on conclusions shared in whole group time, ask:
 - a. What themes or conclusions repeat or are noticed by more than one person? Do these observations have an impact on one of our CAN GO criteria?
 - b. What other questions do we have or what clarifications do we need about this conclusion? Do we have all the information to include it in our discernment process, or should we seek to better understand it?
 - i. If the conclusions shared are common, have an impact on one of the CAN GO criteria and need more information, let this serve as a discernment flag to adjust schedules/plans to deepen the team's understanding of what has already been observed.
3. *Halfway or towards the end of the trip, discuss Ron Stansell's questions from page 22, copied below.*
 - a. What language learning will be short-range essential? What language learning will be highly beneficial over the long haul? +
 - b. What, if any, are the unique physical or technological demands for pioneering in this field? *[Keep in mind that different gifts and a willingness to mesh those gifts together will be beneficial.]* +
 - c. How are relationships built in this pioneer culture and what are the personality traits essential for relationships in this field? +

- d. What administrative (business and bureaucratic) skills are a part of ministry in this field?
+
 - e. What gifts and passion will be important to plant an indigenous and self-propagating ministry in this setting? [*i.e., evangelism, leadership development, cultural sensitivity, economic development skills, etc.*] +
 - f. What concerns for social injustice and peace, if any, will need to be addressed for the gospel message to best represent the love of Christ in this field? +
 - g. What pioneering approaches have been tried in this field and what can be learned from successes and failures? +
4. Consider the points shared on the heritage of colonialism as mentioned from "Partnering in Ministry". (*These discussions are good at the beginning and middle of a trip, to invite awareness and deeper reflection over the trip.*)
 - a. Where do you observe colonialism and control by westerners in the current environment?
 - b. What challenges might a North American missionary face when coming into this culture/environment due to colonialism? What should they be aware of?
 - c. In what ways has colonialism hampered or damaged openness to the Gospel, if at all? Or what sensitivities should be noted when sharing the Gospel?
 - d. What, if any, cultural blinders do you have that need to be adjusted to continue to pursue what God has planned for this field? Are we allowing Kingdom Culture to guide us or do we have American Culture blind spots?
 5. In what ways would a new field be self-governed, self-financed & self-propagated, as the Friends vision for church encourages? What barriers or difficulties do we see in this current environment for this vision?
 6. What opportunities do we have for building unity and collaboration with the local church, outside of the Friends tradition, in a potential future field here? What contacts, "people of peace", do we need to establish and strengthen as we leave this exploration trip?
 7. What social issues will need to be a part of any future pioneering work? What are the needs and causes of these issues? What precautions will need to be taken to avoid losing sight of the main thing, the Gospel, as the driving force of the new field?
 8. It can also be helpful to choose one of the resources mentioned on pages 16-18, read together and then discuss their responses/reflections as it relates to what they have observed and experienced that day.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR A POTENTIAL FIELD

WRITTEN BY SARAH AMADOR

These questions could be shared with the team and referred back to during debriefings throughout the trip. Ideally you would be able to answer most/all of these questions and include any relevant answers in your formal CAN GO report to EFM after the trip.

- Where, if at all, is there the presence of the local church?
- Is there a need for translation of the Bible into local heart languages?
- Are local Christians creating and singing worship songs in their heart language?
- Who are the closest believers to the new field, and what will be their role in supporting/participating in this new field? This is highly important so as to consider cultural and regional needs/realities.
- How/where can you see God already moving within this field? How do you believe he is inviting you/your team to participate in what he is already doing?
- What are the spiritual strongholds in the area?
- What are the key demographics of the new field, and how will you prepare for entering and gaining trust within this context?
 - Socioeconomic realities
 - Tribal/ethnic issues
 - Religious makeup & perspective on the gospel/openness to other beliefs
 - Cultural/National traditions within everyday life to consider
 - Roles of women & men, perspectives on different ages & their roles/authority
 - For each of the above, consider how a pioneering missionary team's make-up will conflict with or raise issues with the local context. Consider carefully what it will look like to deal with that & keep differences from restraining/impacting the sharing of the Gospel.
- Who is respected and followed within the community? Why? What aspects of this person/organization brings people to follow them? These answers will give you clues into the values, priorities and hierarchies to consider within the community.
- How would future missionaries incorporate into and partner with the local community?
- How should future missionaries protect their work from transactional practices with regard to the way the local community views transactions?
- Will future missionaries implement "tent-making" as part of this new field? What does that look like? What would any future missionary need to be properly skilled in for the possible "tent-making" ventures? How would we suggest future missionaries approach their "tent-making" so as to not put them in competition or conflict with the members of the new field?
- What are the amenities available in the new field and what contingencies need to be prepared for?
- What skills/preparation do future team members need to acquire to be able to settle into this new field?

- What resources does the sending mission need to have/prepare to support the missionaries on the new field?
- What are possible goals and vision for this new field? What does the strategic plan for entering, establishing and handing off leadership to local brothers and sisters look like? What is that timeline? How long will terms be for each of those phases?

DISCERNMENT RESOURCES

COMPILED BY MOLLY DE LA CERDA

Resources on good discernment practices as we listen and follow the Lord of the harvest

1. A list of Reliable Resources to Consider in Discernment

*Based on Duane and Lois Davis' Research

- Availability - Isaiah 6:8 "*Here am I; send me*"
- Prayer / Listening - Acts 1:4 "*Not leave Jerusalem, but wait...*"
- God's Word speaking to you & examples of others - II Timothy 3:15-17 "*training, adequate, equipped for every good work*"
- Time/Timing - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "*...a time for everything...*"
- Step by Step / Process - Acts 20:18-24 "*...from the first day...serving the Lord with all humility with tears and trials*"
- Looking at how God has worked in you and through you - Paul above, giving thanks
- Other people who have spoken into your life - Moses-Joshua; Paul to Timothy; Alan, Gordon, Mission Staff
- Gifts and talents - 1 Cor. 12:4-7 "*...to each one...manifestation... for the common good*"
- Think outside the box - 1 Samuel 17:45-49 David's audacious faith and courage
- God-sized dreams - 1 Kings 18:30-39 Elijah public, confident, daring, faith in God

2. Following Jesus (Discerning God's Voice/Will)

* Adapted from a paper written by Brad and Chelsea Carpenter

- Learn his voice:
 - Case studies in scripture where God's voice was heard
 - 1 Samuel 3:1-10
 - John 10:2-5, 14-16
 - Takeaways to learning his voice-
 - Be Obedient to follow God now!
 - Must get to know God to know his voice
- Know his Word
 - Knowing God's word convicts our own hearts of sin
 - Knowing God's word shows us the heart of God
 - Love God and love people
- Surrender to his spirit
 - The Holy Spirit will guide us and direct our ways (Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12: 1-2, Galatians 5:25, Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-10, 15)
 - Holy Spirit never contradicts the written Word of God (Rev. 5:7)
 - Ex: We would never be hearing God's voice to murder because that contradicts God's word.

- See his work
 - Look at your own life circumstances and see God at work
 - Pay attention to answered prayers, divine appointments, and unique circumstances. Open and closed doors?
 - Look back on a timeline of how God has lead you
- Listen to God's people
 - Listen to the wise. God has put you in a community of believers for a reason.
 - Seek clarity, wisdom from pastors, mentors, parents, and others who know you well
 - Is your calling corroborated by other spirit-led friends?
 - Consider a meeting for clearness
- Pay Attention for "An ever weightier conviction"
 - The feeling that you must do something
 - "I couldn't get it out of my head and out of my heart."
 - Like you are being compelled
- Pray for God's will
 - The prayer that God's will would increase, and your will would decrease
 - The prayer that you would know your way forward
- His peace in your heart
 - Look for the peace that comes with following Jesus
 - *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart..."* Colossians 3:15-17
 - God is full of grace and mercy. If you are really seeking him, He will not let you choose the wrong path...He will let you know to stop or change. (Psalm 37: 4-7, 23-24)
 - We are not always given one choice...there are often multiple choices that are all good choices. Sometimes our peace comes in knowing that we have the freedom to choose and that he won't allow us to choose incorrectly if we are in his spirit. (add on by M. DLC)

3. **Some Key Values of Friends that Guide Discernment**

*Adapted from a paper written by Brad Carpenter

- The Holy Spirit our Teacher and Guide
- The Bible- Our companion
- We are all ministers
- Faith, Courage, and Surrender
- Fellowship
- Peace Testimony
- Sanitation
- Humility
- Integrity

4. **Clearness Committee**

- A group of weighty friends that know you and are willing to submit to the spirit

- “The Clearness Committee Process” - A paper Adapted by Dave Williams from an Article by Scott Pierce
- “Guidelines for Facilitating Clearness Committees For Fuller Seminary IS500 Students” - A Paper modified by John C Bangs based on a book by Parker J. Palmer

5. Other Resources

- Parker Palmer- *Let Your Life Speak*.
- Dallas Willard- *Hearing God*.
- *Complied by Sarah Amador*:
 - <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/effective-prayers-for-discerning-gods-will.html>
 - <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/leadership-training/sending-your-team/discerning-gods-will.html>
 - <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/8-keys-to-knowing-god-s-will-for-your-life.html>
 - <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-56-discerning-will-god-acts-211-14>

Some other resources not directly related to discerning God's will but which influenced our calls:

- Website: <http://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats>
 - 95% of Christian workers working in Christian world & 60% of unreached people groups are closed to missionaries from North America
- [Book](#): *Eternity in their Hearts*, by Don Richardson
- Rich Church Poor World Podcast <https://podcasts.apple.com/podcast/id155038054>

DISCERNMENT REGARDING DECISIONS ABOUT NEW MISSION FIELD ENDEAVORS

Written by Lon Fendall

Submitted by Lon Fendall on February 24, 2022. Lon, of NWYM, served on the EFM board for many years. His thoughts in this article have been shaped by his participation as recording clerk in numerous meetings for clearness by the Shuar Luke 10 Trip planning team regarding the expected re-birth of the missions effort and EFM field in Ecuador.

Seeking unity regarding the many decisions to be made during the planning of the EFM Luke 10 Trips and Initiatives.

We might assume that the main objective of this initiative is to accomplish the numerical goals of the program-- 10 new missionary units going to 5 new fields in 5 years.

There is no doubt that the needs are great—there are about 7,400 unreached people groups in the world, made up of more than 3 billion people.

But clearly our goals will only be reached if there is unity and clarity among those who are doing the planning, those who are going to investigate the opportunities in the selected areas, and those who ultimately will respond to God’s call to be “pioneer missionaries” to the people groups that are selected.

The focal point of this entire process is to make Spirit-led decisions regarding the people groups to be reached, selecting those whom the Holy Spirit is calling to become the first missionaries to the selected people groups. Equally important is the quality and quantity of the support that will be forthcoming among those of us who will be the “senders.”

The process began with invitations being extended to small groups of men and women in all of our EFCNA yearly meetings to become a part of a “Luke 10 Trip Planning Group.”

In the past year these groups have been praying together and seeking unity about the various steps in the process-- first of all, selecting the specific people and territories where there are unreached people; then the planning of one or more trips to investigate the authenticity of the need in that area, particularly looking for people who are “unreached” with the Gospel of Jesus; then extending the challenge to men and women who might make up the team of those who will be sent to begin making contact with the unreached people; and finally developing strategies for outreach in those areas that are appropriately matched with the needs of those people.

In all of these planning processes, the key word is “discernment.” Some of those who have been part of one of the “Luke 10 Trip” planning groups may find themselves being drawn toward joining the first team of missionaries in that particular area. The Luke 10 Trip group which has been doing the planning will at this point work with EFM who will lead a decision-making process that involves whatever parts of the sending yearly meeting that are most appropriate-- the YM Mission Boards, the YM Superintendents, and the Luke 10 groups themselves.

It is exciting to think ahead to the moments when the first missionaries will board planes to become a part of teams to activate the work of evangelism and church-planting in that location.

Those who are part of the Friends churches which make up the Yearly Meetings will have many opportunities to become actively involved with the sending process.

To pray diligently and regularly with the Luke 10 Trip groups and the Yearly Meeting leaders with EFM as potential new missionaries are being selected to become the “pioneers” in each of the new fields.

At their best, Friends think of this as a “discernment” process. There will probably be no votes taken to decide who will be the first missionaries. The heart of the process will be “discernment,” not voting. Endless hours will be spent in prayer for the potential pioneer missionaries to respond to God’s call to join the first outreach teams to the selected people groups. At the heart of the process is listening-- discerning the authenticity of the call that is being heard by a few people who are ready to become the first missionaries to particular people groups.

No one becomes a missionary because of a good salary, or the excitement of being a pioneer in a new adventure. Rather, they are led to accept the challenge of being exactly where God wants them to be, getting to know people who have never heard about Jesus and inviting them to become part of a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Listening to the Holy Spirit will become the central task of the new missionaries. That will involve the challenge of learning the “heart languages” of the people to whom they are called to minister. Hopefully there will be those who can help with that language learning process, people who understand and support the central task of missions, leading people to accept Christ as their Savior.

Friends often use the word “clearness” to describe the process through which decisions are made as believers respond to God’s call into ministry. Sometimes we speak of “clearness meetings,” which focus on particular decisions being made by particular individuals and groups at particular times.

At the heart of this interesting terminology is the certainty that the issue at hand is of great importance. Another way of speaking about the decision is that it is “weighty.” A great deal is at stake and a great deal of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit must precede any conclusion or decision.

Weighty decisions can never be made in a hurry. If there is to be unity in the decisions in the very early stages of an outreach directed toward a particular people, there must be unity among those who do the initial planning.

Who is God calling to give their lives to reaching this people group? Who are the potential allies in the country where these people live? Who are the best prayer warriors back home and among the new friends one makes in the ministry point?

The EFM Luke 10 Initiatives have the potential of producing as much spiritual growth and strength among those of us who will become the “senders” in this process as among those who will have the amazing experience of sharing the Gospel of Jesus with someone for the very first time.

Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work
Written By Ron Stansell
February 2022

EFM is committed to the concept of ministry teams sometimes as close collegial relationships or sometimes as limited partnerships and often as both. A pioneer missionary does far better with a strong spiritual sending support base, but has eyes and ears to networking with others on his/her field, discovering local “persons of peace,” and partnering with early converts. From the beginning one seeks to work himself/herself out of a job and pass the baton to local Spirit-filled followers of Jesus. *[Questions with (*) indicate discernment of open doors. Questions with (+) relate to team building and giftedness for pioneers.]*

Questions for discernment:

1. Where and in what settings do we already see God at work in this location? *
2. What are the possible opportunities for friendly networking with other evangelicals, Christian or non-believing “persons of peace” or sympathizers in this location? *
3. What access doors are open or will need to be opened for expatriate workers to minister in this location? *
4. How important will it be for a two or three-unit expatriate team to commit for ministry together at the pioneering stage? (highly important? preferred but not essential? a one-unit team would be preferred?) +
5. What concrete elements of “team” do you see developing already? +

The best team will include wisdom gifts of the Spirit of broad vision and passion on the one hand, and practical Spirit-directed action and management on the other. By temperament, pioneers will do best when their identity in Christ is secure. Pioneers need to be self-starters, good observers and quick learners, and humbly accept flexibility as a virtue in life rather than a mere necessity!

6. What language learning will be short-range essential? What language learning will be highly beneficial over the long haul? +
7. What, if any, are the unique physical or technological demands for pioneering in this field? *[Keep in mind that different gifts and a willingness to mesh those gifts together will be beneficial.]* +
8. How are relationships built in this pioneer culture and what are the personality traits essential for relationships in this field? +
9. What administrative (business and bureaucratic) skills are a part of ministry in this field? +
10. What gifts and passion will be important to plant an indigenous and self-propagating ministry in this setting? *[i.e., evangelism, leadership development, cultural sensitivity, economic development skills, etc.]* +
11. What concerns for social injustice and peace, if any, will need to be addressed for the gospel message to best represent the love of Christ in this field? +
12. What pioneering approaches have been tried in this field and what can be learned from successes and failures? +

Summaries of selected chapters for Luke 10 Trip teams and/or prospective missionaries from Ron Stansell

Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Co., originally published in 1912 but reprinted frequently. Available used and in electronic form from Amazon.com.

This book was one of the early sparks for the indigenous church and church planting movements during the twentieth century. A classic for pioneers. Other writers of this kind of literature are Donald McGavran, Ralph Winter and Allen Tippett who stressed cultural sensitivity, homogenous people movements and the balance between conversion evangelism and Christian nurture.

Bush, Luis and Lutz, Lorry. *Partnering in Ministry.* Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1990. This book might possibly be found as used copies at Amazon.com.

This small book gives a survey of various kinds of “partnerships” where diverse people work together with a special awareness of people of various cultures collaborating in pioneer work.

- Ch. 2 traces biblical roots for the concept.

Partnership goes back a long way. The gifts of the Holy Spirit make it evident that **“lone ranger” Christians are handicapped.** Unity of the many bring glory to God. New Testament teams began with the disciples and Jesus and extended to the Pauline teams in Acts. Paul’s financial partnership with the Philippian church began in the very early years. In fact, his relationship with Philippian Christians is a model for us and included communication, deep expressions of love, shared joy, and shared strength. Each “partner” wants the other to grow, have opportunity to minister and a capacity to fulfill his/her calling. Throughout Philippians, Paul urges the special partnership of prayer to flow among team members in every direction.

- Ch. 3 sharpens the distinction between paternalism and partnership.

The heritage of colonialism and control by westerners has been hard to overcome. Any new field team must struggle with the disrespect, lack of cultural sensitivity, control and “looking down” upon the host culture that can be a default response. It will be important to do the following for a new field:

- Work through Western ethnocentricity.
- Avoid a donor mentality.
- While recognizing the essential value of self-organization, self-propagation and self-financing, **international partnerships look for ways to help one another fulfill their callings.**
- Look for interdenominational links and joint projects that can display the essential unity of the Body of Christ.
- Talk sincerely and openly about differences between westerners and non-western workers. It will clearly take all true Christians working together in unity to win the world for Christ.

- Other chapters may be found helpful while still others may seem dated.

Sinclair, Daniel. *Mission: Possible. Defining and Empowering Your Ministry Among the Unreached*. MOF Publishing, 2021. Available at Amazon.com in print and Kindle format.

- While especially written for the context of ministry with Muslims, some truths are clearly universal. I recommend the following:
- Ch. 1. “Apostleship Revisited” shows the **historic validity of pioneering** as thoroughly biblical. Pioneer “sent ones” may suffer greatly and even redeploy to new locations because of opposition, but faithfulness counts.
- Ch. 4. “Discipleship Making Movements for Dummies” gives strategic missiological principles of value for many fields. **Discipleship needs to be clearly understood.**
- Ch. 5. “Stewardship on the Field” focuses on self-care for a variety of personality types who find themselves in pioneer work. **The worker needs self-care.** Boundaries are essential for survival
- Appendix 7. The Story of Alma. A view of an “**insider**” **church planting** process. This appendix chronicles a ministry in the Muslim world where the woman convert to Christ maintains cultural identity with her Muslim neighbors but is leading people to Christ as Savior and to a life of biblical discipleship. **“Jesus is for everyone, not just for Christians.”** It’s a truth that might work in resistant animistic, Hindu or Buddhist cultures as well as among Muslims.

Stansell, Ron. *Missions by the Spirit: Learning from Quaker Examples*. Newberg, OR: Barclay Press, 2009. These four “Quaker examples” present four different pictures of pioneers and their policies and practices. The narrative shows a variety of gifts and how these pioneers worked with others. Available through Amazon.com or Barclay Press.

Chapter 18 Summary: The four persons featured in the book each have distinct personalities but there are some similarities including the following:

- Each taught with vigor and attention to biblical preparation.
- All had ecumenical ties outside of Friends circles.
- They loyally supported the Friends movement.
- They believed in Christian conversion as an encounter with Christ.
- They believed in moral transformation.
- They knew how to laugh and enjoy people.

In addition, these twelve principles are highlighted:

1. Pioneers must step into untested waters and work arduously.
2. Relationship with Jesus is at the heart, never to be eclipsed by social reform.
3. While public proclamation may or may not be prominent, the majority of conversions happen through converts sharing their new faith with others.
4. The social sciences (cultural anthropology, sociology, economics and political science) greatly benefit pioneers with cultural sensitivity, cultural values and worldview awareness.

5. Witness for the purpose of conversion of individuals and families must be integrated with compassion and concern for justice and peace. (Whole Life Discipleship)
6. Belief in human equality plays out with genuine attention to the poor and oppressed and the equality of ministry by both women and men in the missionary force.
7. Friends rely on extensive prayer and waiting for guidance for major steps. They rely on corporate spiritual discernment.
8. An attitude of simplicity engenders generous sharing by relatively affluent westerners in new cultures and works to break down cultural barriers.
9. The concept of Christian leadership includes teamwork and unity within the emerging church.
10. Friends pioneers have contributed efforts to benefit the broader evangelical movement through cooperative programs like literature, humanitarian relief, development, leadership education and evangelistic programs.
11. Friends have a vision for the church, guided by the Holy Spirit (not by foreigners), that is self-governed, self-financed and self-propagated.
12. Western missionaries will continue to “pass the baton” of pioneering to the daughter churches of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Westerners will have a more modest role in the future but will continue to work alongside or under the direction of non-western apostles.

STEPS FOR A MEETING FOR CLEARNESS

Before Meeting

1. Carefully choose between 6 and 12 participants to engage in this process. These people should know the person(s) well for whom the meeting is being held. They should demonstrate spiritual discernment, a willingness to ask good (if challenging) questions and express themselves truthfully yet graciously.
2. Name a facilitator, whose responsibility it will be to keep meeting on the subject, and, in the end, summarize the themes, conclusions and “next steps” that arise out of the group’s discussion.
3. Once the group is chosen, provide them a quick (written) overview of the issue they are being asked to help discern.
4. Challenge the group to prayer and spiritual preparation in the period before the meeting.
5. The idea is to find together the mind of Christ and this requires being vibrantly connected to the Vine.

During the Meeting

1. Provide a time of fellowship before the meeting, allowing participants to catch up and connect with one another. This might include a light meal.
2. Call the meeting to order. The facilitator welcomes the group and briefly reviews the meeting’s purpose and opens in prayer.
3. Tell the story. Allow the person to give a succinct recounting of the reasons they have asked for the meeting.
4. Worship together. The facilitator introduces this exercise, which may include scripture reading, singing and silence.
5. Pray specifically for specific leading and direction from the Lord regarding the issue at hand. The group will also quietly listen for leadings, ideas, concerns and promptings from the Lord.
6. Share impressions, concerns, questions and leadings as a group. The person can and should respond to any of these. A spirit of truth and grace seasons the conversation during this process.
7. This should be an unhurried time. When the facilitator senses the group is nearing agreement on the issue...
8. Ask participants to share any clear leadings they may have regarding God’s direction about the issue. Then, after all who want to have shared, the facilitator can...
9. Summarize the conversations into statements reflecting the group discernment process – statements the group can then affirm. If the group cannot agree on direction, schedule another meeting, making room for more prayer and thought.
10. Close the meeting by celebrating the work done in the life of the person. Pray for them.

After the Meeting

1. Continue to pray for the person and the follow through on the groups discernments
2. Support the decision through encouragement and accountability. Keep communication flowing.