

Appendix C: Next Steps to Develop a Mission-Focused Life

People respond to the teaching and to testimony about God's mission with a desire to join. What are some of the ways they can act on the prompting of their hearts?

Missions is not about an airplane ticket – it's a furnace that starts burning right now, wherever you are. Each one of these things can lead to new paths, new people, new places by the Holy Spirit's leading. Here are 26 ways you can nurture a call of God on your heart, growing and discerning along the way on your own and in community:

- 1) Dedicate yourself totally to an unflagging commitment to walk with Jesus daily. Another teacher says, "You worry about putting your roots down deep into Christ, and trust Him with broadening of your influence among others."
- 2) Root yourself in a local church, getting engaged and involved where the Spirit leads, in humble service.
- 3) Find out what ministries in your church are 'outreach' oriented that you could join to develop skills and discern gifting in reaching out to those far from God.
- 4) Practice and develop ministry skills; we all need depth in Christ, and we have gifts, but we grow competent by practice.
- 5) Empower others in an area that you have strength in. Missions usually features multiplication – can you raise up others to join you, to carry things on, to go on to have success themselves.
- 6) Become comfortable in sharing the core truths of the Gospel in ways that will make sense to non-churched friends or people in the community. Pray for opportunities and make the most of them.
- 7) Find cross-cultural neglected peoples near home. Pray for them, meet them, love them, serve them...join or start a ministry that is dedicated to crossing that boundary for Christ's sake.
- 8) Join a team where you must work together to see ministry accomplished. Can you work well with others? Can you support and bless a team leader?
- 9) Lead a team. Can you lead with a servant heart? Can you lead a team or serve well in a team? Can you help a board, or a committee achieve its goals? Bring in fresh ideas? Listen well to experience? Become a Kairos facilitator to fire up others for missions.
- 10) Offer yourself as an intern to a local ministry that's mission-focused. A time period and someone to learn from is all you need! Full-time or part-time. Go for it.
- 11) Try new spiritual disciplines. Fasting. Prayer. Giving. Accountability in confession. Retreat. Serving the poor. Build something new in your calendar, let these practices increase your imagination, your attention span for God, your love for others.
- 12) Ask someone who exhibits Christ-like qualities to mentor you for one year.
- 13) Mentor someone else to grow in Christ-likeness for one year.
- 14) Pay attention to whole person growth: character undermines our calling if we don't address our weaknesses, and we all have them! Don't be afraid of counseling, get free from bondage. Exercise and take care of your body.

- 15) Take the needed steps to be well-equipped to serve in mission-focused work, whatever learning may be necessary. Excellent training can begin with the Kairos or Perspectives course.
- 16) Go on a short-term missions trip with Envision. Should you move towards internship? Should you move towards fulltime? Seek to use your gifts. Spend significant time loving and learning from people of other cultures.
- 17) Learn another language.
- 18) Evaluate relationship decisions: If serving Christ in mission is your whole heart, is it also the whole heart of your future spouse? Make that a priority in life choices. Missions is no hobby interest.
- 19) Begin to pray consistently about a people in the world who have little or no access to the Gospel. Learn about them, print a map of where they are, read *Operation World* or [Joshua Project](#) materials, talk to international workers that know them first hand or are near to them. Share this info with a prayer team.
- 20) Pray with others who are actively interceding for missions. This is massively life transforming. It is so much more than prayer!
- 21) Start a new prayer group yourself: with people meeting locally, or with a virtual group that can include international workers abroad.
- 22) Prayer walk your neighborhood or university. Ask God to show His heart for the people. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you learn and what may God be calling you to?
- 23) Tell your group leader and/or pastor that you are on this journey. Ask someone, or a team you trust to pray for you to find the right next step. Tell them how badly you want direction.
- 24) Seek the filling of the Holy Spirit, and develop a close, listening relationship with God.
- 25) Consider going with Envision as a team leader or team leader assistant.
- 26) Submit a preliminary inquiry form for fulltime ministry with the C&MA as an international worker.

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