

GO TO THE NATIONS. BE THE BODY OF CHRIST.

GO BE

**Are You Ready
for Missions?**

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About Serving
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**How Tattoos
Can Spread
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A PUBLICATION BY TEAM

If God's calling you to the mission field, WE KNOW HOW TO GET YOU THERE.

How do you set up life in a distant nation? How do you make friends in a hostile community? How do you raise support if you're afraid of public speaking? How do you choose where to go in the first place?

We've helped missionaries answer these questions for over 125 years. And as long as there are passionate, missions-focused disciple-makers like you, we don't plan to stop.

Visit team.org/missionscoach to see how we can help you explore God's call today.



What's the biggest missionary cliché you know?

Maybe it's that missionaries are tough. Or that they're super spiritual. Or that they don't need any worldly comforts, and they have everything figured out.

Often, we exalt missionaries to the point that they don't even seem like real people. And if you're a real person considering the missionary call, that image can scare you away before you've even begun.

But as you read the pages ahead, I want to turn your heart in another direction.

In 1 Corinthians 1:26–29, Paul writes, “Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of this world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong” (NIV).

What you hold in your hands right now is an invitation to be foolish and weak.

The missionaries you're going to read about aren't the best Christians. They aren't the most patient people or the most strong-willed. They are simply fellow Christians who know their frailties and rejoice to know that God uses them to reach a lost world.

And if you are a believer with a desire to share Christ with the world, God wants to use you, too.

I can't tell you how or where He'll send you, but I can tell you that we want to help you on that journey — whether you serve God with TEAM or another agency or even in your hometown.

So, take this opportunity to soak in the wisdom of those who have gone before you.

See how God is faithful to use talents and skills — and weaknesses — in ways you would never expect.

Write down your questions, even the ones you're afraid to ask. Then visit team.org/missionscoach so you can get answers.

The world is desperately waiting to hear the Gospel. And chances are, you are just the kind of weakling God will use to reach it!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray".

Ray Williams
Executive Director of Global Ministry

we're pretty social

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to join the
conversation!**

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You're excited to try short-term missions. But are you prepared for ...

Culture Stress?
Relationship Building?
Spiritual Warfare?
Safety and Security?

Short-Term Training by TEAM is a one- to two-day event for you and your teammates. A trained facilitator is ready to travel to your location and help equip you to serve cross-culturally. For more information, or to book a training event for your team, email short-term@team.org today!

SHORT-TERM TRAINING
by  team

Who Is TEAM?

We Exist to Help You Spread the Gospel

Before the Gospel can sink its roots into the soil of an unreached land, someone has to go — a nurse to heal the sick, a translator to share Christ's words in new languages, an entrepreneur to create new jobs for the desperately poor.

There are many ways you can serve others, and all can point to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. TEAM exists to help people like you live out God's call to go and bring real hope to a hurting world.

Since our founding in 1890, we have equipped missionaries to plant reproducing churches around the world. We've invested in holistic ministries, including evangelism, education, healthcare, media and community development. We've focused on places where the most need exists.

But you know as well as we do that the work isn't over. There are still walls to break down. There are still wounds to heal. There is still a message to share.

And if you want to do something about that, we want to talk with you.

Whatever your skills and passions, we know God has a powerful role for you to play in His Great Commission. We are here to help you find it.

It's what we've done for over 125 years. The only question is: Are you ready?

Mission

TEAM helps churches send missionaries to establish reproducing churches among the nations to the glory of God.

Vision

From everywhere to everywhere: We will establish reproducing churches wherever the most people have the greatest need in collaboration with churches anywhere.

Values

God Dependence

We subject our lives to the truth of Scripture and rely on God through prayer, knowing He gives us everything we need to carry out world evangelization.

Church Focus

We work with existing churches to establish new churches worldwide. Then, we encourage the new churches to establish even more.

Vision

We see the immediate future in light of eternity, making us adaptable and flexible in our ministry methods.

Passionate Service

Because lost people matter to God, they matter to us. We serve, knowing people's ultimate need is eternal life through a relationship with God.

Lifelong Learners

Through lifelong learning and development, we increase our effectiveness and become what God already knows we can be.

Caring Community

We relate to each other in a community characterized by unity, trust, acceptance and diversity, linking arms with God's people wherever we find them.

Where We Serve

TEAM missionaries serve in over 40 countries around the globe.

From the troubled youth of Mexico to the overworked masses in Japan, TEAM missionaries serve people around the world who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

They work through European winters and hot African summers, settle into South American cities and befriend Asian villagers.

With God's leading, they search for opportunities where there is the greatest need and the most opportunity for growth, longing for the day when Christ is glorified among all nations.



How We Serve

At TEAM, our goal is always to plant reproducing churches to the glory of God — and we want to do that by using the wide variety of skills, tools and open doors God gives us. That's why we've identified 12 main ways we serve people around the world.

Church Ministries

Since the Church is God's chosen instrument of redemption, it offers the only real solutions to humanity's problems. Christ's Church is at the heart of everything TEAM does.

Community Development

Whether through job skills training, after-school programs or community centers, TEAM believes in promoting the welfare of communities we serve. In doing so, we point all to Christ.

Creation Care

When the environment goes uncared for, the effects are devastating. Because God uses creation to provide for people, TEAM believes in working with our neighbors to find sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

Creative Arts

The arts have a unique way of opening our minds to new ideas. As the influence of the arts grows, so do the opportunities for Christian artists to introduce unbelievers to our Savior.

Entrepreneurial and Business

Oftentimes, seeking employment or launching a business is the best way to meet people and make disciples in countries where cultures and governments may prohibit missionaries from working openly.

Hospitality

Whether by organizing community meals, serving as part of a disaster relief effort or working as a hotel manager, TEAM missionaries believe in spreading the Gospel through breaking bread and offering hospitality.

Medicine and Healthcare

Following Jesus' example of meeting physical needs before addressing spiritual needs, TEAM places healthcare workers around the world. The goal is to point people to the ultimate Physician through physical healing.

Social Justice

Slavery and poverty remain powerful forces of oppression that must be met with Christ's freedom. TEAM workers bring this liberation to the downtrodden through job skills training, counseling and other such services.

Sports and Recreation

Sports and recreational activities are natural unifiers. TEAM workers use footballs, summer camps, weekend retreats and more to break down walls of skepticism and cultural barriers in order to bring others to Christ.

Teaching and Education

Education is one of the most freeing tools we can offer. It empowers people to grow into their fullest potential as followers of Christ. TEAM missionaries seek to provide schooling around the world.

Training Leaders and National Missionaries

Change is only lasting if it outlives us. In order to establish sustainable churches, TEAM workers train local believers in church leadership so ministries will continue after the missionaries themselves are gone.

Translation and Linguistics

About 200 million people still have no Scripture in their native language. TEAM works with national believers and translation experts to see that all people have access to God's Word.

Who We Serve

Church planting works best when you consider the unique qualities and challenges of the people you're trying to reach. At TEAM, we've identified 12 major groups that we serve around the world. Come join us!

Urban Populations

Over half of the world's population lives in cities, and even more commute to urban areas every day for work. This gives urban-dwelling Christians tremendous opportunities to reach highly diverse groups.

Buddhists

The Buddhist faith has hundreds of millions of adherents throughout Asia. Although it's a religion of great diversity, all its followers share a common need to know the hope Christ offers.

Muslims

TEAM workers have served among Muslim populations for over 50 years. Whether in tribal villages or sprawling Middle Eastern cities, our goal is to spread Christ's message of love.

Hindus

Many of the world's 1 billion Hindus still struggle under ancient systems of oppression and discrimination. They desperately seek spiritual transformation by appealing to their 330 million gods.

Unreached People Groups

Unreached communities still live tucked away in the corners of even the most well-known countries. TEAM works to identify those who have had little to no opportunity to hear the truth of Jesus.

Post-Christian/Post-Modern Populations

People within the world's developed nations increasingly question prevailing notions of authority and cultural values. This new-age, post-modern mindset has deep implications for how the Gospel must be communicated.

Indigenous/Tribal Inhabitants

Thousands of indigenous tribes are prevented from hearing the Gospel due to lingual, logistical and cultural barriers. Reaching them will take workers willing to learn their native tongues and ways of life.

Diaspora Communities

War, persecution, natural disasters and economic hardships drive hundreds of thousands of people to cross international borders each year. These groups face extreme vulnerability as they struggle to rebuild their lives abroad.

Professionals

TEAM missionaries walk alongside professionals in the workplace and disciple them in the Word. TEAM also encourages professionals to use their occupations and skills in support of church-planting and evangelistic efforts.

University Students

TEAM serves university students worldwide, whether through biblical education at seminaries or outreach programs at secular institutions. The number of university students is exploding, and the fields are ripe for harvest.

Disabled and Disadvantaged Individuals

Those who live with disabilities are rejected in most societies, which often results in inability to afford proper care. TEAM serves these individuals and upholds the value God places on all people.

Youth and Children

The special significance Jesus places on children is clear throughout Scripture. TEAM uses English programs, sports, summer camps and more to connect with youth and kids across the globe.

Mission Tracks

No matter what stage of life you're in or how much time you have to give, you can facilitate lasting change in communities around the world. Whether you're looking for an international evangelism experience that will last for two weeks, or one that will last a lifetime, TEAM has a track for you.

INTERNSHIPS

5 weeks–8 months

Are you a student trying to find out how God can use your area of study on the mission field? Do you need school credit (undergraduate or graduate) to complete your degree? If so, the Internships by TEAM program might be just right for you.

As an intern with TEAM, you'll get hands-on experience as you learn from knowledgeable mentors in your field. You'll see how your chosen field can play a valuable part in bringing the Gospel to the nations. And as you minister to people in need, you'll also get the chance to deepen your faith and learn more about the Lord.

Start discovering the possibilities today at team.org/serve/internships.

SHORT-TERM

2 weeks–8 months

Around the world, God uses short-term mission trips to reach the unreached, heal the broken and bring life to the dying.

Spend a summer discipling students at camp. Provide compassionate care at a hospital. Teach sustainable agriculture to struggling farmers. Whatever your skills, passions or background, there's an opportunity for you to share the love of Christ with people in need.

We'll walk with you from beginning to end, providing quality training before you go and debriefing after you return. And each short-term experience is designed to support long-term ministry, so you can be sure your impact will last!

Who knows? Maybe your calling is waiting for you on the other side of the world.

Visit team.org/serve/short-term to start finding opportunities now!

MID-TERM

9 months–3 years

If you want time to build deep relationships, learn a new culture and be mentored by seasoned missionaries — all while sharing the love of Christ — mid-term missions could be your perfect fit.

Spend two years caring for orphans, teaching nursing students, producing evangelistic media or even establishing a church plant. Or find your match among hundreds of other mid-term opportunities.

As a step beyond short-term missions, TEAM's mid-term track creates a two-year season to deeply explore your role in missions and make profound investments in the lives around you. By the end, you'll have built a strong foundation for ministry in your home country or even in long-term missions.

Discover the right role for you at team.org/serve/mid-term.

LONG-TERM

3+ years

Something special happens when you step past short-term service and make a new place your true home. Cultural walls fall. An outsider becomes a member of the community. And your foreign ideas about faith and God slowly become familiar — even exciting — to the people who need to hear them.

Whether your expertise is in farming, medicine, computer science or anything else, you have the potential to uniquely influence a community in need of Christ.

Because of their persistent dedication, long-term missionaries are the backbone of ministries that not only spread the Gospel, but also watch it take root and transform people's lives. And if God is calling you to this kind of work, we want to help you find your place.

Every day, we pray for new partners who are relentlessly committed to seeing Christ's name glorified in every nation on earth.

If you're ready to join us in bringing the Gospel to a lost world, start your journey at team.org/serve/long-term.

When Your Sweet Tooth Leads Someone to Jesus

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography courtesy of A.J. Westendorp

Have you ever craved a dessert so strongly you just knew it had to be from the Lord? Probably only if you're prone to exaggeration. But after you hear Celestino's story, you might think twice about your next hankering for sugar cookies.

You see, Celestino didn't have time for church. And after a lifetime of alcoholism and meeting Christians who only cared about how much he could tithe, Celestino didn't really have an interest in church either.

Maybe that's why TEAM missionary A.J. Westendorp got a craving for apple crisp soon after he moved to Guatemala.

That fall day, the grocery store was out of apples, so A.J. stopped by the apple stand near his house — Celestino's apple stand.

The men made a simple economic exchange, but God was already working. A.J. soon found that his daily life often took him by Celestino's stand, allowing the men to say hello.

One day, Celestino said he couldn't go to church because he had to sell apples seven days a week, just to make ends meet. A.J. asked him to come over for dinner instead.

As their relationship grew, Celestino patiently helped A.J. with his Spanish skills while A.J. shared what he knew about God and the Church.

Celestino was intrigued by A.J.'s stories of other local believers. They sounded so different from the Christians he knew before! After a slow week of business, Celestino decided to close his apple stand for a day, come to church and meet them.

A Church He Didn't Expect

The evangelical church in Guatemala has experienced explosive growth in recent decades. But much of that growth has been infected by prosperity gospel teachings.

As Celestino walked to church with A.J., he thought he knew what to expect: The pastor would ask for his money. People would ignore him when they found out he was poor.

But that didn't happen.

The pastor shared about God's holiness and faithfulness. The church members at *Iglesia Reforma* welcomed Celestino with hugs and talked with him as their equal. When he asked about baptism, someone answered his questions without pressuring him to make a decision.

That evening, Celestino announced he was going to stop selling apples on Sundays. He said God's goodness and riches were worth more.

A Changed Man

After Celestino's decision, A.J. continued to meet him at the apple stand for discipleship. Celestino didn't make it to church every Sunday, but he eagerly awaited A.J.'s visits.

"Discipleship with Celestino looks like ... asking him how his heart is, asking him how I can pray for him and talking through a Bible story or Scripture that he will love hearing about," A.J. said.

As God's love filled his life, the apple-seller stopped drinking. After a year, he decided to be baptized.

"He's humble, admitting to not knowing very much," A.J. said, "but he knows enough about grace to grab hold and let go of his past. The kingdom of God knows no limits."

Celestino still has much to learn, like any Christian, but now he has a whole church to help him. And day by day, he is learning to trust the God who arranges friendships, provides for lost wages and can use something as simple as apple crisp to bring someone to His throne. 📖

Is God calling you to cross-cultural discipleship? Visit opportunities.team.org and search under the "Discipleship" descriptive tag to find the perfect opportunity for you!



How Can a Water-Bottling Factory Reach Orphans?

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by Kara Richstone and TEAM

“Why don’t you have HIV?”

“Why do we have HIV if we haven’t had sex?”

“Why don’t we see our parents on holidays?”

These aren’t questions a typical engineer deals with during work. But for Brett Richstone, nothing was typical about his time as a mid-term TEAM missionary and water bottling plant manager.

He started each day with factory maintenance, applying for licenses or filling orders for fresh spring water. But by the afternoon, he was leading a Bible study, buying groceries for an entire village and having heart-to-heart conversations with children affected by HIV and AIDS.

It all began when Brett and his wife, Kara, started praying about moving overseas.

A water bottling factory is giving jobs to orphaned teens — and funding their Christ-centered care until they reach adulthood.



An engineer and a marketer, respectively, they thought God would give them professional jobs abroad. But as they prayed, Kara kept thinking of Rehoboth Children's Village in South Africa.

She had visited it on a short-term mission trip and was struck by the hope she saw there.

"Their whole goal is to give [HIV-affected children] a future, ... to give them a proper education, to let them be leaders and thought-changers in society," Kara said.

Four years later, she decided to look up Rehoboth and was stunned at what she saw: They were opening a water-bottling plant to help the ministry support itself. They needed an engineer to run the plant and a marketer to sell its product.

They needed Brett and Kara.

A Spirit of Abandonment

When the Richstones went to South Africa, they stepped into the biggest HIV epidemic in the world, with just over 2 million

children orphaned by the virus. Others aren't orphaned, but are abandoned or given up because their parents can't care for them.

Rehoboth's goal is to give these kids a stable upbringing through personalized health and education plans, family-style homes, and spiritual guidance.

"Building relationships is one of the hardest things with our kids because they really have trouble with attachment. ... They have that spirit of abandonment," Kara said.

She saw this firsthand when she started a Bible study with the teenage girls.

For months, she got nothing but blank stares during discussion times. And when the girls did start opening up, Kara could see they were testing her.

"News in the village travels fast, so they would tell me things and see if they heard about it from someone else later. ... I needed to prove myself to them, essentially, that I was trustworthy," Kara said.

Each day, the Richstones split their time



between factory duties and more relational activities that built up that trust, such as Bible studies, one-on-one counseling, homework help and organized sports.

So many people have come in and out of the children's lives that they learn to keep relationships on a surface level. But with persistent friendship-building, Kara and Brett saw walls come down.

Some of the deepest moments for Brett came simply while driving boys to running club or doctor appointments.

That's when the boys felt safe to ask about HIV or why they never see their families.

"They're hard questions I don't have good answers to most of the time," Brett said, "but it does make me glad I'm here, that I can at least help them talk through it. ... Tell them that God loves them and I love them."

As the kids opened up and matured, Brett and Kara watched the water bottling plant become a tool that helped them grow even more.

In addition to working at the water bottling factory, Kara and Brett Richstone (with son Cole on left) have built relationships with kids through Bible studies and other activities.

A Hopeful Future

The water bottling plant is not just about money.

In South Africa's economy, with a 26 percent unemployment rate, finding a job can be incredibly difficult for aged-out orphans. But if teenagers can work at the plant, they'll enter adulthood with a resume.

"If they want to leave Rehoboth and go somewhere else to find a job, they can use that as a reference," Brett said. "And that holds a lot of value in this economy."

The factory's first big order was for a Christmas market, so Brett decided to ask the boys from his Bible study to help.

The boys started out hastily, trying to set records for how fast they could go. But as Brett taught them about quality control, the boys took ownership of the project.

"It was cool just to see the excitement grow, ... like, 'This is our business, and we're gonna make this much money if we sell this many bottles,'" Brett said.

Each night, when Brett came back from the market, the boys would ask him about their profits.

"The best part of the experience was when the boys heard that over 900 bottles of water had been sold," Brett said. "The joy they expressed knowing they had produced something others wanted to buy ... was so exciting."

Through the factory, Brett and Kara hope many more orphans will experience that empowerment and see they have a Father who never leaves and always provides. 🙏

Working at the factory is a confidence builder for kids who will soon step into adulthood with few safety nets to catch them.



If God can use a marketer and an engineer to reach orphans, HOW CAN HE USE YOU?

Kara and Brett never dreamed they would use their job skills on the African mission field. But God had other ideas. He sent them to an orphanage to help create sustainable income. And now, the children at that orphanage can receive Christ-centered care for years to come! Find out how God can use your unique skills at opportunities.team.org.



What It's Like to Raise My Young Kids Overseas

Written by Beth Barthelemy
Photography courtesy of Beth Barthelemy

I have three kids. When we moved across the globe, they were all 4 and under.

To be honest, some of my thoughts were:

Am I crazy?

Am I irresponsible?

Definitely not, *I'm so equipped to not only raise my own kids but also to write a fantastic article about how I did it so well!*

But all this aside, here are some reflections from when I was a fresh-on-the-field, young mama of three on what it's like to raise little ones overseas.

They Have Losses Too

Before we left, many people

told us how wonderful it was that we were moving overseas when our kids were so little. And truly, they were right.

For months ahead of time, we talked with our kids, especially our oldest daughter, about how we would be leaving this home, giving away most of our things, packing up the rest and moving to South Africa.

She was not that affected then, when we did all of those things.

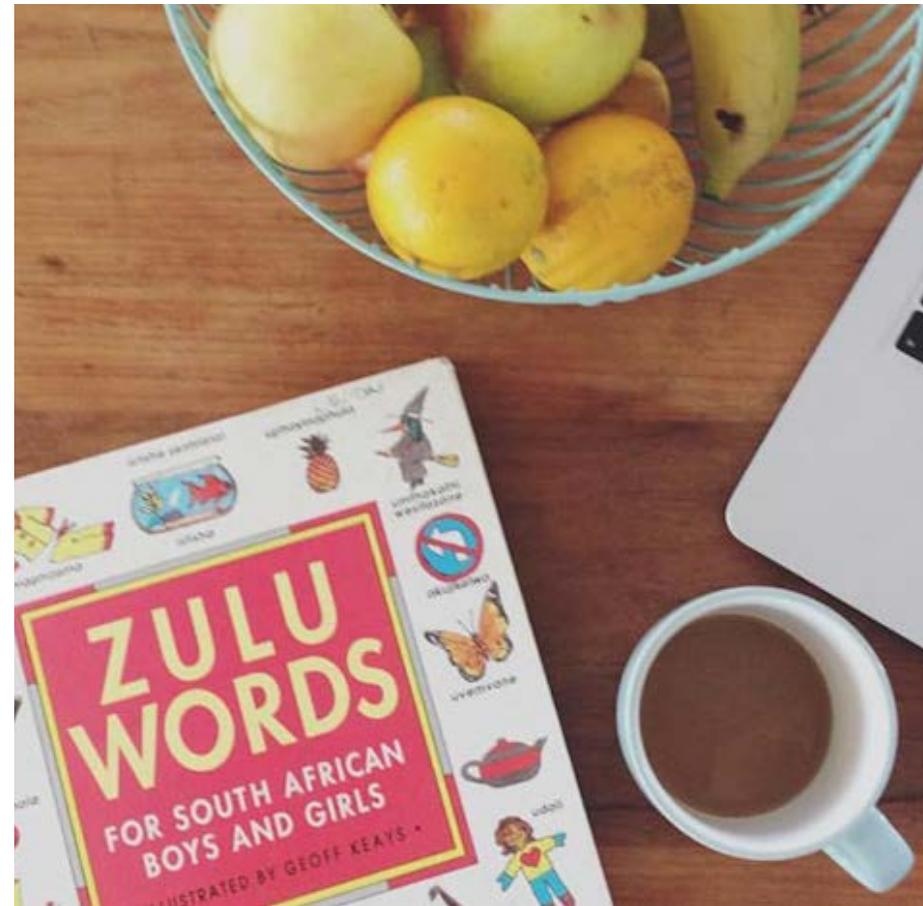
It was not emotional for her to pull away from our home after handing the keys over to our landlady. It was not sad for her to say goodbye to

her grandparents because her concept of time was fluid. She was actually excited the first night we slept in South Africa and asked, "But Mom, where are the lions?"

So when our veteran TEAM co-worker asked my daughter about home, and she said, "I miss our castle park," it was tempting to brush it off.

Wow, that's what she missed? Of all the losses, that's what she named?

But for my daughter, this was a great loss. The old park that we visited with her since she was 4 months old — that she saw torn down and built back up — was what she missed.



To sit with her, let her name her losses, to feel that loss with her, was a simple and important step. The longer we were there, the more she realized what she missed. *And her list grew.*

And in that process, I hope that first step, that first stint overseas, that first set of goodbyes somehow helps her as she inevitably faces many, many more losses in her life.

We Are Their Security

We jumped into an intensive language class exactly 19 days after stepping off the plane and just four days after moving into our new home.

So it is probably not surprising when I say leaving our kids with a local babysitter didn't go well.

There are many reasons for this, but after several very difficult days of leaving all three kids bawling at the door, I learned that while everything around them had changed, we had not.

While all that was familiar to them was now new, we were not. While all those little, seemingly insignificant, circumstantial and tangible things that gave them a sense of settledness were gone, we were there. And we were their security.

Everything from language to culture to scenery has changed for my girls. The one thing they can count on is that their parents have not.

After several weeks of trying to leave our kids with a babysitter so we could maximize our language study time, I felt the Lord nudging me to let this ideal go and stay home.

This meant some level of sacrifice. I did not get to study language as many hours each week as we had hoped. There wasn't as much of a break each week as I would have preferred.

But I am thankful that the Lord made this lesson clear to me, because our kids started doing well in their new environment, and I think much of that had to do with their sense of settledness.

Prioritize Them

In a related manner, we were tested to uphold a value we determined long before we moved overseas: Our family is our priority.

While we firmly believe that God comes first in each of our own lives, we don't equate our love for God with our ministry work.

We see God's gracious gift in each of our daughters, and understand the magnitude of the responsibility of raising them "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (*Ephesians 6:4, NASB*). We see that He has given them to us, that there is much good work to do as parents, and we want

to honor this calling placed on our lives.

We were passionate about the ministry God sent us to be a part of and desired to work well for His glory. But to learn the language, disciple a national believer, teach a class and work with orphans to the neglect of these little ones God gave us would have been a tragedy.

“While we firmly believe that God comes first in each of our own lives, we don't equate our love for God with our ministry work.”

So, particularly while they were little, we sought to order our lives in a way that prioritized their needs.

Pour on the Love

Quite honestly, this has become our mantra through seasons of parenting, not just as we transitioned our family overseas.

After hearing from a veteran

and wise mother about the concept of “saturation love,” the Lord has reminded me at key moments in our parenting lives that perhaps the best thing to do for our kids is to pour on the love.

Scripture is full of references to God's love as a place of safety, a place of security. Just as we are secure in our salvation through Christ because of God's great love, so too will our children find earthly security as we love them — and keep loving them.

Kids are bound to encounter a plethora of issues as they experience a huge transition — some old and persistent, others fresh and new. We may be tempted to meet those issues with the same level of stringency as we would have before.

But I thought of all the grace God extended to us in our complicated, messy process of transitioning to a new culture on a new continent. And I wanted to extend this same grace to my kids, realizing they were experiencing much of the same things I was, with far fewer tools in their toolbox for handling it.

So we pour on the love. Pour on the love again. And keep pouring on the love.

After all, if our model is God's love, how can we possibly give our children too much? 📖

“I felt God speak right to my heart: ‘You have a future in missions.’ And I was like, ‘I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.’”

— Jennifer Hylton
TEAM missionary in France*

You don't need all the answers to become a missionary. You need an experienced guide who can help you find your way. A TEAM missions coach will help you explore your passions, discover opportunities to serve and build a plan to answer God's call.

Get your personal missions coach today.

team.org/missionscoach

*Read Jennifer's story on page 64.



Check out the TEAM blog to find more thoughtful articles on what it's like to be a missionary. Visit team.org/blog today!

Can Tattoos Lead to Salvation?

Written by Brianna Langley

When Felicity* heard God's call to full-time missions in the Middle East, she thought she knew what to expect. She was raised as a missionary kid in a Middle Eastern nation, after all.

She grew up with Muslim friends. She knew the Quran almost as well as she knew the Bible, and she could debate apologetics along with the best of them.

But when she arrived in her new country, she realized none of it had prepared her for the ministry ahead of her.

"In high school, I would sit down with neighbor kids and we'd play, and ... our religion would come up, and they knew what the Quran said, so we'd get into discussions about that," said Felicity.

But when Felicity tried debating theology in her new country, her efforts fell flat.

"I've tried doing that with my neighbors, especially the ladies, and they have no idea what the Quran says," said

Felicity. "I don't even try to talk apologetics or anything like that because, really ... it's not even interesting to them."

What the women in this culture really wanted to hear were stories — and that presented an obstacle all its own.

Not a Natural Storyteller

Felicity openly admits that storytelling has never come naturally to her. But in a country where narratives dominate social gatherings, storytelling seemed to be the most effective way to share Christ.

So what could Felicity do?

She had been ministering to Muslims since childhood, and now it appeared that the one skill she sorely needed was the one she didn't have.

Fortunately, God led her to a form of storytelling that was both beautiful and unexpected.

Body Art That Brings Healing

A few years ago, a

Felicity tells the story of Jesus through breathtaking body art. This design relays the story of Christ's death and resurrection to a people who desperately need to hear it.



group of missionaries in India came up with an idea for sharing the Gospel in a culturally relevant way: henna tattoos.

For women in Arabic, Asian and African cultures, the tradition of decorating one's body with temporary artwork for special events has existed for hundreds of years. It's as intertwined with their heritage as the designs of the henna tattoos themselves are intertwined with each other — and the results are stunning.

So, what if female missionaries in these fields could take this ancient artform and turn it into a tool for sharing the story of Christ? As they painted henna tattoos on the hands and feet of their friends and neighbors, what if they used the intricacies of the patterns to bring the Good News to life?

Before long, a missionary in Felicity's host country caught wind of this new evangelism method and eagerly shared it with the other women in her area.

"I had grown up ... doing henna just for fun and, at first, I was really skeptical," Felicity said. "But then, after time, I saw how it could be used, and I got really excited about it."

Since Felicity already had experience with henna art, learning these new Christian storytelling designs came fairly easily to her.

"As I did [the henna designs], and as I grew, I gained confidence," she explained. "And then, people around me got excited about it too. So ... having that buildup of excitement was helpful."

A Grandmother and a Sister

One of the first women Felicity tried her henna stories on was her housekeeper — who also happens to be a grandmother to 22 grandchildren.

"She loved [the stories] so much, she would take them home ... and share them with her grandkids," said Felicity.

At Easter, Felicity shared the story of Jesus' resurrection with her.

"She said, 'Oh, congratulations! He's alive, and now He's in heaven.' And so it was neat to see that transformation — how these stories have become real for her," said Felicity.

Felicity also has the chance to build relationships with local women in a way she didn't have before — like when she had her friend and her friend's sister over for tea. They both instantly noticed the henna design on Felicity's hands.

"The sister went home and drew the design on her hand, but she didn't know there was a story to it," said Felicity. "The next week, I went to visit them, and she showed me her design."

The sister shyly told Felicity that she'd liked her henna design so much she'd copied it on her own hand. Seizing the opportunity, Felicity went on to tell her the Bible story behind the design.

"I drew the henna again and told her the story, and she went to each of the women in the courtyard and told them the story again and again — the story of Jesus' birth."

Now, these women who come to Felicity for henna tattoos feel comfortable sharing their problems, which gives Felicity even more opportunities to share the stories of Jesus and even pray with them.

All the while, Felicity's life serves as a reminder that God walks with us when we step out of our comfort zones — and that sometimes answers come from the most unexpected places. 📖

**name changed*

Is God calling you to a unique life of ministry?

Visit opportunities.team.org to discover how you can use your special skills to serve Him on the mission field!

When Your Escape From Ministry Becomes Your Ministry

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by TEAM and
courtesy of Steve Dresselhaus





Steve Dresselhaus started kayaking to get a break from ministry. But before he knew it, he was regularly driving friends to the beach and sharing the Gospel as they paddled across the Sea of Cortez.

What is your passion? The thing you get most excited about? The thing you would be doing if all your dreams came true?

Whatever it is, Steve Dresselhaus guarantees you can turn it into a ministry — and he should know. For over a decade, the TEAM missionary has led people to the Lord, disciplined new believers, counseled couples and more, all while kayaking on the beautiful Sea of Cortez in Mexico.

Steve actually started kayaking as a way to escape mission work. In 1996, the pastor was burnt out to the point that he sent TEAM his resignation letter. He and his wife, Lois, were committed to finishing their term in the Mexican city of La Paz, and then they were going home.

But that Christmas, Lois bought Steve a kayaking trip with a local outfitter. Steve loved it so much that he bought a used kayak the next day and started going regularly as an escape from the pressures he felt.

One day, he decided to take a friend, and to his surprise, Steve got to share the Gospel.

“I can even recall how he opened up the conversation as we drifted side by side in Balandra Bay,” Steve says. “That was truly an amazing beginning as I saw God working in a new way.”

Steve started inviting more people to go kayaking with him and taking them scuba diving, too. As word spread, the pastor’s hobby became a major ministry with 12 kayaks and a trailer. He could take whole youth groups out for the day.

“Once it got going, there was no way you were going to get me to leave TEAM,” Steve says.

God, the Good Steward

As much as the ministry’s progression took Steve by surprise, he sees it as a perfect fit with God’s nature: If God tells us to be good stewards, he explains, God must be a good steward Himself.

“I believe that during our life, as we’re

growing up, ... as we’re maturing, God is investing in us with passions, desires, special giftedness, and I think He expects a return on that investment,” Steve says.

When he speaks to youth groups, he gives teenagers a 3x5 card and a pencil and tells them to write down what they’d be doing in 10 years if all their dreams came true. They turn in the cards, and Steve helps them come up with a ministry that could come out of their dreams.

Steve can’t remember a time when he didn’t love the ocean, and now he can see part of why God gave him that love.

Space for Shy People

Kayaking creates openings for the Gospel in a number of ways. One woman was fascinated by the names of Steve’s boats: Each one was a fruit of the Spirit. She asked a Christian friend about the names’ meanings and soon came to the Lord.

Out on the ocean, the stunning water, rocks and animals naturally lead to discussions about the one who created them.

But one of the most significant things that opens doors is having blocks of uninterrupted time. With an hour of driving time and about three hours on the water, Steve’s kayaking trips give people space to get comfortable with small talk and then ease into deeper matters.

Steve finds this is especially true for the men of La Paz, who are often shy about opening up. Out on the ocean, drifting side by side, kayakers can ask a question and paddle away or simply sit in silence as they ponder the discussion.

One man was sent to the hospital after overdosing on drugs. When he got out, he began searching for help and decided to look up “the kayaking pastor” he had heard about. He and Steve began to kayak together frequently, and gradually, the man opened his heart to the Lord.

“Kayaking creates openings for the Gospel in a number of ways. One woman was fascinated by the names of Steve’s boats: Each one was a fruit of the Spirit. She asked a Christian friend about the names’ meanings and soon came to the Lord.”

Becoming Attractive Missionaries

In 2009, TEAM asked Steve to take on a leadership role that he performed in the U.S. until 2015, when he realized he could do the job remotely. He and Lois moved back to La Paz, and Steve started kayaking again. That summer, he had a waiting list of people who wanted him to take their family member kayaking and talk to them about God.

Steve is well-known enough that many of his kayaking partners come to him by word of mouth. But he has also joined other kayaking groups and beach clean-up campaigns that put him in touch with people he wouldn't meet otherwise — professors, scientists, environmentalists and even government workers.

At a tenure party, one professor introduced Steve to the group by saying, “This is my friend Steve. He taught me to kayak, he taught me to scuba dive, and now he is teaching me about God.”

It's notable that God came last in the introduction. Steve says people are often attracted to missionaries before they are attracted to the message of Jesus, “but some of us get so entrenched and so stuck on our work that we become shallow people, and our lives aren't attractive.”

Having a passion outside of his work as a pastor has opened doors Steve never expected and allowed the Gospel to spread far beyond his church walls. And while he takes more people out on the sea, he hopes other missionaries will look for similar opportunities to find hobbies to be passionate about, get good at and use to the glory of God. 🏠

Finding a passion outside of ministry has opened more doors for the Gospel than Steve ever would have imagined.

How Do I Know If I'm Ready for Missions?

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you.”

Luke 14:28–29 (NIV)

Jesus said a lot of radical things during His time on earth, but in Luke 14, He settled in for a moment of plain common sense: People who jump into things before they're ready frequently live to regret it.

In the missions world, we like to celebrate passion, risk-taking and people who refuse to listen to the naysayers. But all of that works best when we've prayerfully

looked at where we are in life and what roadblocks we might face as we head out on our journey.

The following questions are designed to help you determine if you're ready for missions.

As you answer the questions, we invite you to be brutally honest. Pray through them; write out your answers in a journal; and discuss them with a mentor, pastor or TEAM missions coach when you're done.

As flawed human beings, none of us is ever fully ready for missions. But we hope that by identifying strengths, weaknesses and circumstances, you'll be able to make wise decisions regarding them and, ultimately, serve God with a healthy perspective on life and ministry.

Want to see how God can use your passions on the mission field? Connect with us at team.org/missionscoach to share your interests and see what steps you can take next!

How is your spiritual health?

Christ told us the only way to bear fruit is to abide in Him. Yet one of the biggest challenges missionaries face is not losing sight of God in the midst of unfamiliar cultures, loneliness and all the work they're doing for Him. Use these questions to see where your spiritual foundation may be vulnerable.

1. What does time with the Lord look like for you?
2. Right now, what in your life shows that you are growing as a disciple and bearing fruit?
3. What does your engagement with your local church look like?
4. With whom in your life can you honestly and deeply share about your journey of faith?

How is your church health?

God's call to missions rarely (if ever) comes to individuals in isolation from the church communities where they worship, serve and minister. If God is calling you to serve overseas, it's likely that others in your church community have sensed God calling you in this direction as well. Answer the following questions, and then sit down with a trusted mentor, pastor, elder or friend to see if God brings insight through the body of Christ.

1. Read Acts 13:1–3. When and how does Saul and Barnabas's missionary call come? What is the church's response?
2. How are you serving in your church right now?
3. How has God used your local church to call you to missions?
4. Who in your church might sense that God is calling you overseas? Have you invited them into your life as you discern God's leading?

How is your missional health?

A missional mindset doesn't just begin when you reach the field. Your commitment to sharing Christ should be growing and visible in your life right now. Let the questions below get you thinking about your attitudes toward living on mission in your local context and how your actions demonstrate them.

1. What does discipleship look like in your life right now? Who's investing in you? Who are you investing in?
2. What is your definition of a missionary, and where do you find it in the Bible?
3. How do you engage with nonbelievers in your everyday life?
4. How do you define success in living?
5. How have you invested in other cultures?

How is your physical health?

The availability and quality of medical care can vary widely from country to country, and some assignments require much more physical activity than others. Measure your medical health and the needs you will have overseas to help determine if and where international ministry is an option.

1. What habits and practices do you employ to take care of your body?
2. Which healthy habits do you need to add, and which unhealthy habits do you need to kick?
3. What are your physical and medical limitations?

Need space to write out your thoughts? Visit learn.team.org/am-i-ready-for-missions to get a free, downloadable journal with these questions inside!

How is your financial health?

Some people imagine life abroad to be a free-spirited escape from all financial worries. But as a missionary, your finances will likely grow more complex as you add travel costs, ministry budgets and foreign currencies to your regular concerns. Understanding your current financial standing will help you face these challenges with confidence rather than fear.

1. What do you think the Bible says about fundraising?
2. What steps are you taking to maintain a balanced budget and live within your means? How well are they working?
3. What debts or expenses might hinder your freedom to serve God with abandon?
4. What are your thoughts and feelings toward fundraising?

How is your psychological health?

Qualities like resilience, a sense of humor, a sense of perspective and good boundaries are all worth striving for in missions. Establishing those qualities and a healthy pattern of living now will help combat burnout and ensure longevity on the field. Use these questions to evaluate your psychological health and identify potential weaknesses.

1. What do your rhythms of work and rest look like?
2. How do you feel when things don't go according to your plans?
3. What potential stressors at home might be magnified on the field?
4. What is your recent track record of saying "yes" and "no"? Do you find yourself overcommitted?

Ultimately, you will never be able to give a perfect answer to every question on the list. Every missionary struggles with weaknesses, temptations and failures — but by taking a look at them now, you are building a strong foundation for the work ahead. When hard times come, you will know how to finish well. 📖

How is your relational health?

Conflicts and difficulties will arise on the field, and your ability to handle them with kindness, flexibility and a sense of personal responsibility will be crucial to healthy teamwork. Take a moment to look into how you relate to others.

1. What does healthy conflict look like?
2. In what parts of life do you tend to be a leader? When do you tend to follow?
3. What intimate relationships do you have? What do they look like?

How is your marital and familial health?

Whether you're taking your kids to the mission field or going on your own, the health and attitudes of your family unit can bring life to your time abroad or send you packing. Answer the questions below to determine what limitations and strengths you bring to the table.

1. If you are married, are you and your spouse discussing this calling together? Is your spouse on board?
2. If you are single, is your desire to serve as a single person, or do you want to wait to serve until you get married?
3. If you have kids, do they have any limitations that may impact your decision to serve?
4. Have you talked about your calling with your extended family (parents, grandparents, etc.)?
5. Have there been any major changes in your life in the past two years?



When the Nations Come to Us

Written by Brianna Langley
Photography by TEAM

Syrian refugee Ibrahim* instantly tensed when he saw the American couple approaching from across the park. Would they be friendly? What would they think when they realized he couldn't speak English?

"*As-Salaam-Alaikum*," said the American man as soon as he was within earshot of Ibrahim.

Ibrahim's fears immediately melted away. This American knew the traditional Arabic greeting: "Peace be unto you"!

Astonished and relieved, Ibrahim and his family made their first two American friends, TEAM missionaries Miles and Ava Douglas*.

Two Nations, One Ministry

When the Douglasses moved to America after 30 years in the Middle East, it was amazing how little their life changed.

The couple met at a hospital in the Arabian Peninsula. Ava was serving there as a nurse. Miles went as a short-term missionary and ultimately felt God calling him to stay.

"I ended up staying there 30 years, working in many different roles in the hospital," said Miles. "I worked in engineering, maintenance, administration — but the main focus of what we were doing there was reaching out to the Gulf Arab people."

In 2014, the Douglasses realized God was now calling them from the Middle East to the United States.

"But, when we began to first sense that, we never once sensed that we would be leaving our ministry to Muslim people," explained Miles.

Even when God called them to serve in the United States, the Douglasses' heart for Muslim ministry never changed. After 30 years in the Middle East, they recognized that God had been preparing them to serve Muslims — only this time, in their home country.

“Actually, when we first came back, we began thinking immediately about where we could plug in here in regards to Muslim ministry.”

The Douglasses continue to serve Middle Eastern communities as missionaries — only now, in the U.S.

Reaching Muslims Through English

The Douglasses moved to a city where a local children’s hospital takes a large number of patients from the Gulf. Because of the hospital, many Gulf Arab families end up spending a year or two there.

Miles thought he would work at the hospital, too. Instead, God directed him to a job as an Arabic interpreter for the local school system.

“Of course God knew better, because now, we have so much more freedom through the schools,” said Ava. “I mean, if Miles had ended up at the children’s hospital, I don’t think we would have the freedom that we have now to visit families after hours, and I think giving them Bibles and things would be difficult.”

As for Ava, she now serves as a facilitator for a local English tutoring ministry.

Through Miles’s work with the schools, the Douglasses quickly recognized that Arab families face pressure to learn English as soon as they arrive in the U.S. That’s where Ava’s work comes into play.

“We’re in touch with several different churches in the area that have put announcements in bulletins and things that we need tutors for Arab families,” Ava said. “Then these Christian American ladies will call me and I will match them up with a family that they can go to and tutor.”

The tutoring program is flexible. Some volunteers prefer to help women with simple, conversational English, while others

prefer to help children with their American schoolwork.

Most tutors have no background in English education or even Arabic. It truly is an opportunity for anyone with a heart for reaching Muslims.

“The testimonies that we hear are really amazing,” said Ava. “When you have a Muslim lady one-on-one, it becomes so much easier to talk with her about the Lord and about ... what Jesus means to us.”

The Friendships Immigrants Crave

When Samira* came to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia as a university student, her brother was suddenly the only person she knew.

She desperately wanted American friends. But she didn’t know their language or their culture. She’d never felt such intense loneliness before.

By God’s grace, someone told her about the Douglasses.

They told her they knew an American woman who was her age and studying at the same university. They said this woman had a love for Middle Eastern culture and was pray-

ing for a friend just like Samira!

The Douglasses say stories like Samira’s are one of the most rewarding aspects of their ministry. Through their efforts, friendships are formed and fear of the unknown dissipates.

“They love to have American friendships. They really do,” said Ava. “It’s something they want, and something most of them don’t get.”

One of the most effective ways to introduce a Muslim to Christ, the Douglasses say, is to show them Christ’s love in action and not be afraid to reach out to them.

“I think with Americans, there is a discomfort and fear when it comes to Muslims, but

“She desperately wanted American friends. But she didn’t know their language or their culture. She’d never felt such intense loneliness before.”

that also goes the other way around,” said Ava. “There is a fear Muslims have of how Americans might receive them. ... Both sides must lose their fears.”

And now, with the influx of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, Christians in America have more opportunities than ever to reach out to Muslims with the love of Christ.

Most Middle Eastern refugees have experienced great violence and trauma at the hands of Islam. Because of that, some are abandoning their faith in Allah after coming to the States.

“There’s just an openness to hear about something that does work, and to see it in action through the Church,” said Miles. “You can talk until you’re blue in the face, but if they don’t see it in action, it won’t mean anything to them.”

The World in Your Neighborhood

Between the refugee crisis and a general growth of Middle Eastern immigrant populations, the landscape surrounding North American Christians looks much different now than it did 30 years ago.

The Douglasses believe God is bringing Muslim immigrants and refugees to America in order to make Christ’s Gospel more accessible to them.

“There are people from over 360 unreached people groups here in North America now,” Ava said. “It’s incredible. Only God can do something like that.”

The need for overseas missionaries continues, but local churches now have a unique opportunity to reach unreached people groups within their own neighborhoods.

Scriptures such as Hebrews 13:2 and Romans 13:10 issue strong commands to welcome and love both strangers and neighbors. And this calling is not lost on the Douglasses.

“As Christians, it should come from us anyway to be the first to reach out to them,” said Miles. “We really should be the first ones welcoming them here.”

*names changed



Completely uprooting and moving to a foreign country — where people may not receive you kindly — is scary for anyone. So even offering to tutor Arab children through hands-on crafts and lessons (bottom) is a huge opportunity to forge friendships and share the love of Christ with entire families.

Check out opportunities.team.org to see how you can help with Muslim or refugee ministry in the States or abroad!



How American Football Is Winning European Souls

Written by Heidi Chupp
Photography by Jakub Pláteník

On a damp and wintry afternoon in Prague, Czech Republic, TEAM missionary Zach Harrod was running down the street — not for exercise, not to escape danger — simply to go from one meeting to another.

He and his wife, Míša, had just spent time with friends who were part of their support team. And now Zach had to hurry to his next meeting ... football practice. The rest of the afternoon, Zach coached, recruited, hauled equipment between locations and led conditioning workouts and practices.

Zach and Míša live with this interesting mix of ministry every day — helping plant churches in Prague and living out their faith in the American-style football community of the Czech Republic.

Zach's journey to sports ministry began with high school football and continued into college, where he lettered all four years. When he became a follower of Jesus, a desire for ministry grew in his heart.

He served with Athletes in Action in the Czech Republic before transitioning to TEAM, where he began to invest more time in church planting while continuing his involvement in sports ministry.

Winning Games ... and Souls

So what does sports ministry look like in real life?

Sports ministry looks like sports. It's focused and competitive. It's training camps and conditioning. It's an all-out effort to

perform at the highest possible level and win.

The Prague Lions have won numerous league championships under Zach's coaching and mentorship. However, they've also faced defeat.

One year, they lost the championship in the last two seconds, the result of a questionable call by one official.

"It was awful," Zach says. He cried on Míša's shoulder afterward.

"We worked so hard to get there," he remembers.

Sports ministry means investing in players and coaches to develop their talents. Zach regularly sends a few coaches to a series of sports clinics at U.S. universities. He also coordinates opportunities for players to travel to the States for football camps.

Football could be considered a distraction from ministry. But for Zach, it is the ministry.

It's laid a foundation of trust and credibility. He's discovered opportunities for real conversations, for long-lasting and meaningful friendships.

Where God Does the Most Work

Sports ministry also looks like ministry. It's what fuels Zach's efforts and what drives his investment of time and energy. It has a higher aim than whatever shape each day takes. It's focused, as he says, on "deep, everlasting change."

So when opportunities come up to share the Good News, he speaks. He's deliberate in building long-term relationships, in caring for people, in living out his faith. He organizes a team meal every year for the sole purpose of telling his players in a practical way that he loves them.

"It's really just being able to be a normal person," he says. "Letting people into our junk and our mess — that's where God does the most work."

Zach remembers instances when he's lost his temper after a player's poor performance on the field. His ready apology, something traditionally viewed as a sign of weakness in Czech culture, has made a huge impact on the team.

An Insider ... and an Outsider

Sometimes, just being a "normal person" is both relevant to the community and at the same time challenging to societal norms, even counter-cultural. Zach feels like an insider and an outsider all at the same time.

Having lived in the country for more than a decade now, he considers the Czech Republic home — especially since he has a Czech wife — but he knows he will always be viewed as an American.

He's fluent in Czech and has a deep understanding of the culture, but he sees himself as a perpetual student.

Zach has deliberately framed his team values within a traditional Czech cultural context. And the Prague Lions have been praised by the national media for their character and sportsmanship on the field. But his coaching style — focused on the positive and on character and leadership building — is vastly different than the approach usually taken by Czech coaches (who often treat their players harshly).

Zach's involvement with the American football community in the Czech Republic gives him connections and access to a group of people that he wouldn't have otherwise. But he's also an unashamed Christian in a nation that's one of the most atheistic and spiritually indifferent in the world.

So, unless God directs otherwise, Zach plans to keep on running toward sports ministry. It's a life he knows the Lord custom designed for him, and he has seen the value and the fruit in pursuing what he's been gifted to do.

"It might not be how everyone else's life looks, but that's OK. It's gonna be what God intended for me, and it's gonna be an adventure." 🏈

Do you have a unique passion you want to use on the mission field? Discover a world of opportunities at opportunities.team.org!

Teacups, Tiffs and Why You Need Member Care

Of all the things that could make you leave the mission field, we're going to bet you haven't thought of teacups.

Neither did two of our early missionary couples. Which is why, their second year, one of them almost packed their bags and left South America forever.

Yes, really.

In 1906, two missionary families began working in Venezuela. Resources were slim, so they shared a house. And during that time, someone *may* have borrowed a set of teacups for a little too long.

That mild tiff became the first of many arguments. Before long, the tension grew so great that the missionaries decided they could no longer work together.

So, what kept them from giving up? Turns out what they needed was a little something called member care.

What Is Member Care?

Missionary life can be tough. Sometimes that's because you don't have indoor plumbing or violence is ramping up in your host country.

Other times, it's because you don't know how to plan for retirement or your teammates borrowed your teacups for too long, and you're pretty sure they're the absolute worst.

Whatever the hardship, TEAM member care makes sure you don't face it alone.

We have experts who can help you navigate foreign systems, evacuate in an emergency, make medical plans, sort through tough

relationships, plan for retirement and face many more challenges.

We also work with your church to make sure they know how to support you on the field and when you come home to visit.

For us, it's all about making sure nothing — big or small — keeps you from the mission God has given you.

We Care for You, You Care for Others

When TEAM heard about the fighting missionaries in Venezuela, our founder sailed to South America. He counseled the missionaries, prayed for them and urged them to reconcile.

Because they got the care they needed, both couples stayed, and countless Venezuelan lives were touched. And when you get the care you need, we believe God will do great things through you, too!



What Does Member Care Include at TEAM?



Counseling

Whether you're facing culture shock, family tension or recovery from a crisis, we have trained counselors ready to listen and help you walk toward healing and wholeness.



Financial Planning

Being a missionary doesn't have to mean financial instability. We'll help you plan for savings and retirement so you can serve without worrying about tomorrow.



Emergency Response

We keep tabs on natural disasters and political upsets. When they strike, we're ready to give you the support you need and evacuate teams when necessary.



Medical Care

Don't face a medical crisis alone. We'll help you determine where to get the best treatment and how to care for your family. (See Karan's story on p. 46.)

Training

Learn how to raise support, prepare for the field and expand your ministry skills once you reach the field. Whatever stage you're in, we provide training to help you be your best.



Spiritual Formation

Missionaries aren't spiritual robots. Just like anyone else, you'll need help to keep growing in your faith and face doubts head on. We'll give you the guidance and time you need to do both.



Debriefing

Returning from the field can be an unnerving experience. We'll help you readjust to your home culture, process your field experiences and listen for what God might be telling you.



Church Support

We'll teach your church about missionaries' needs and show them how they can support you well on and off the field. When a crisis strikes, we'll work together to give you the best care possible.



'We're Gonna Walk You Through This'

TEAM Member Care in Action

Written by Heidi Chupp

Photography courtesy of Paul and Karan Davis

While Paul Davis fed pages of information into the fax machine, his wife, Karan, prepared supper for their five children. On any other day, this could have been a familiar routine for the France-based TEAM missionaries.

But on that September day in 1994, life had just become anything but familiar and routine.

Hours before, Paul and Karan had met with a doctor, expecting a simple diagnosis for the knee pain Karan was experiencing. Instead, they heard words like “very serious” and “cancerous bone tumor.”

'A Nightmare Time'

Three days later, Karan was on a flight to their home state of Florida, where she underwent weeks of testing. The results confirmed that she did indeed have advanced bone cancer and that she needed to begin treatment immediately. The rest of the family arrived a week later.

There were all sorts of decisions to be made: where they would live, where the children would go to school and where Karan would receive treatment.

The Davis children had grown up in France. Now they were hastily uprooted from the culture and school environment they'd known all their lives and plunged into American customs and ways of thinking.

Paul and Karan were told that their overseas missionary careers were over. It was painful to realize that the door had been shut to the very place where they longed to return.

It was what Paul called “a nightmare time” in their lives.

The Davises' missionary career came to a halt when Karan (far right) was diagnosed with stage four bone cancer. TEAM's member care program helped the family through the next four years of treatment and brought them safely back to the field.



Surrounded with Support

But TEAM's member care network had swung into action, partnering with the Davises' supporting churches to surround the family with support they needed.

The fax Paul had sent that September evening was to TEAM's medical director, who lived halfway around the world in Carol Stream, Illinois.

“This was before email,” Paul remembered. “I really thought maybe in a few days we'd hear back from him. Forty minutes later, the phone rings.”

TEAM's medical director urged Karan to return to the States so she could get the best treatment possible. When Paul and the children needed to join her, someone in their home church provided for the flights.

When Paul and Karan decided to enroll their children in the school run by their home church, the entire school bill was paid for within a month — through church donations facilitated by TEAM.

Paul called TEAM's senior director for Europe, asking for clarity and direction in his role.

“Your job description until further notice,” responded the director, “is to take care of your wife and kids. If you need any help, you give us a call.”

'Chapter Two'

In a joyful turn of events, Karan's body responded beautifully to the cancer treatment. Four years after her diagnosis, the Davises were given the green light to resume their overseas ministry.

Paul and Karan and their family returned to France in 1998, ready to start what Paul called “chapter two of our ministry life.”

“TEAM wisely advised us not to do anything for the first year,” Paul said. “We had a whole school year to help the children get resettled, determine where our ministry would be, ask the necessary questions and start feeling at home in France again.”

Since their return, Paul and Karan have helped plant three more churches in France. Two decades have passed since those difficult days, but the care they received from TEAM is still fresh in their memory.

“TEAM was there for us the whole time,” Paul said. “I'm so thankful that TEAM and our churches said, ‘This is a phase that we weren't expecting, but we're going to walk you through this. We're gonna help you with it.’”





A Crazy Man, Fish and the God Who Provides

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography courtesy of Dave and Cheryl Jereb



History is full of missionaries who found success by blending in with the local culture. TEAM missionary Dave Jereb found it while building a reputation as a crazy, old, white guy.

Dave and his wife, Cheryl, came to Zimbabwe with a dream to provide sustainable food sources and job training for needy communities through aquaponics, a self-contained system for growing produce and fish.

The fish live in tanks, and the nutrient-rich water is piped into plant beds where crops grow hydroponically. The plant roots cleanse the water, which is then pumped back into the fish tanks. Within a few months, fresh vegetables are ready for harvest, and a short while later, fish are ready to fry.

Dave began by building an experimental aquaponics unit in his front yard. Then he hired Zimbabwean pastor and gardener Joshua Masunga to help tend the system and educate the community. The small team calls the project “Fish for Life.”

A Growing Vision

After sharing the fruits of a successful harvest with their neighbors, the Jerebs and Joshua began to put more focus on their large-scale project: an aquaponics system to feed patients and workers at the local mission hospital.

The Jerebs began a fundraising project, and as people learned about the need, they jumped on board. Soon, Dave’s team had a greenhouse to warm the water in the tanks. Next, Dave, Joshua and a team of American volunteers got to work on the actual aquaponics unit.

The hospital unit’s size and location made it much more visible to the community than the previous unit. It also drew much more skepticism.

“The general consensus of the community is that Dave must be a crazy ... old, white guy who doesn’t know how to grow anything,” Cheryl said. “Who would ever grow plants in just water and stone?”

By teaching sustainable agriculture, Dave and Cheryl Jereb saw doors open in their Zimbabwean community.

Despite the locals’ uncertainty, donors helped Fish for Life buy solar panels to power the system and add employment hours for maintaining the system. After months of hard work, the hospital kitchen received its first harvest of tomatoes that fall.

Somehow, the old, white guy didn’t seem so delusional anymore.

God’s ‘Impossible’ Provision

With the proof of a successful harvest, the community’s curiosity grew. And with that curiosity has come God-given opportunities to build relationships.

“It is exciting that they are coming to us,” Dave said. “These relationships are open doors to talking about how the Lord is their provider. When they visit and see how plants can grow in just water and stones, they see how it can only be of God that these ‘impossible’ things can happen.”

After the hospital’s success, Fish for Life began taking its “crazy” message of God’s provision to area high schools, setting up smaller units and teaching students a sustainable way to feed their families.

“The excitement was very contagious and [it was] such an encouragement to see the Lord’s plan for Zimbabwe’s youth,” the Jerebs wrote after taking nearly 100 students on a tour of the greenhouse. “His perfect provisions will bring HOPE to this land.”

Discover how you can share the Gospel through sustainable farming and caring for God’s creation! Visit opportunities.team.org and search for “Creation Care” under the Ministry menu.

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When Learning a New Language, Pray First and Speak Second

Written by Amanda Keeny

I used to think that in the moments of crisis, you should first seek all available solutions, and then, when there's nothing else that can be done, pray.

I knew prayer was important but believed it was more like a Hail Mary pass. When everything seems hopeless, you just kind of chuck your prayer up into the air, hoping it will stick. But the longer I served as a missionary in Ukraine with TEAM, the more that belief was proven wrong.

For the times when I felt like (and had the language abilities of) a child, prayer was all I had. I could listen to someone pouring out their heart and try to understand, but at the end of the day, all I

could do was pray for them in broken Russian or in English in my heart. I didn't have any magical advice or foolproof solutions to painful life situations; I only had the Lord to lean on and the trust that He would work and be glorified in all things.

When I would walk in downtown Odessa and pass a crowd of people watching Hare Krishna pilgrims dancing and chanting to drums and bells, I was compelled to pray. Seeing people so completely invested in the worship of a lie brought an overwhelming sadness to my soul.

I couldn't just walk up to them and start a conversation about what they believe and who God really is. I could barely ask for things at the market in Russian and confused the words for "chicken" and "cinnamon." I was completely unable to "do" anything, so I prayed. I begged God to open their eyes and show them who He is in contrast to the god of the air they worship. I asked God to reveal Himself to them, that they may know Him and live.

After my first school year in Russian studies, though, I was no longer mixing up the easy words (I was still mixing up words, but now they were longer and more impressive ones!), and I felt like I had a much better handle on communication, both in listening and in speaking.

When that summer came, I moved to my ministry team leader's house to watch their dog with their friend Katya while they were in the United States for a few months. I had

known Katya before that, but we had not been close. Over the course of three months that felt far too short, though, a real friendship began to develop between us. We would share what God had done in and through us that week — the minuscule and the big and exciting — and we would share how we'd been struggling.

I was finally able to give advice in Russian and felt like I could help find ways to "fix" our problems. But before trying to fix something, Katya and I decided to pray — to ask God to show us what was best, what was needed and what was not.

Even as my language abilities got better and I was able to live life with Katya completely in Russian, God was constantly showing me that prayer is the most important and most active thing I can do.

Now I'm in my second year of language school*, this time as a freshman Russian philology major at Odessa National University—Mechnikov. I know more of the Russian language than I ever thought possible (or than I had ever wanted to know). I'm able to keep up with lectures in Russian on all aspects of linguistics and literature and take decent notes, ask follow-up questions and interact with professors and fellow students.

But even as I'm linguistically able to communicate real solutions to complex situations, the Lord has reminded me that prayer comes first and actions follow.

Like when my professor, the most intelligent linguist I've

ever met, lectures on world-view and asks us to include religions with myths, because to her, God is a myth. Or when she asks me about what I'm doing in Ukraine and what my plans are for life and the future. I pray first.

I ask God to give me the words He has for her and to open her heart to hear truth as only He is able to do. Then I speak, boldly and unashamedly, because my God has already gone before me in this conversation. I know He will allow things to be remembered or forgotten according to His will, so I don't have to worry about messing it up or getting in the way.

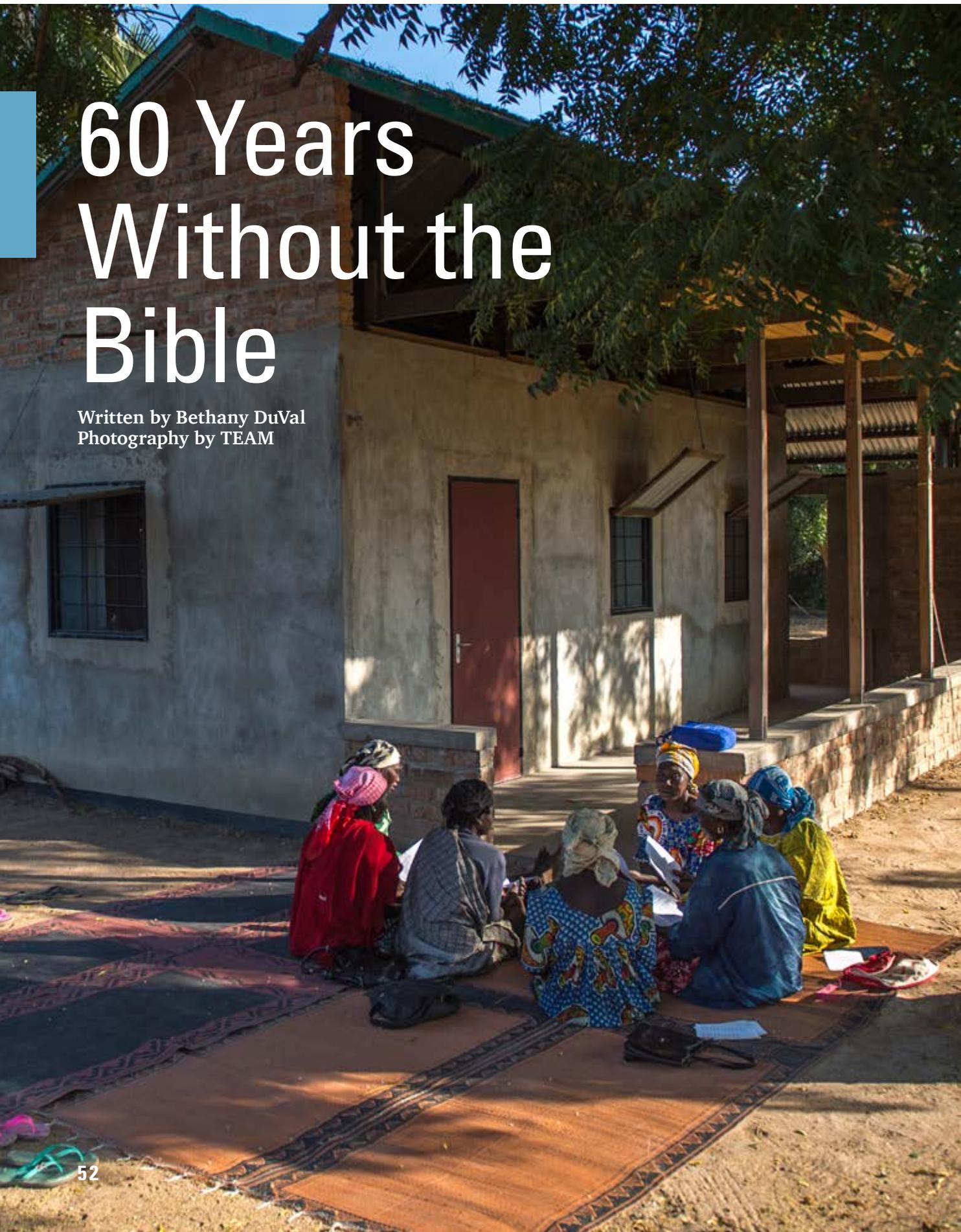
Prayer is the first course of action, not just when we're weak and learning and don't know what to say. Even when we know what to say and have an idea of what to do, we need to bring our lives and all the moments in them before the throne of God, humbly acknowledge that we don't know it all and ask for wisdom to do and say what is best. 📖

**Since writing this piece, Amanda has completed her two years of language school and moved into full-time ministry.*

Want to learn more about how TEAM equips missionaries for long-term ministry? **Connect with a missions coach at team.org/missionscoach today!**

60 Years Without the Bible

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by TEAM



“Come, follow Me, and I will make you killers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

No, that isn’t an excerpt from a new zombie-themed version of the Bible. But it was — ever so briefly — part of an unpublished Kwong translation of the Book of Matthew.

“They don’t have a particular word for ‘fishing’ in [Kwong], so they just say, ‘I’m going to go kill fish,’” explains Mark Vanderkooi, a TEAM missionary to the Kwong people of Chad.

In over 25 years of translation work, Mark and his wife, Diane, have repeatedly learned that creating a literal Bible translation is much easier said than done.

The language structure is very different, and it has almost no abstract nouns, such as “patience” or “faith.” Instead, they create expressions with human body parts to convey these ideas. For example, “patience” is “taking your head,” and “faith” is “putting your chest.”

As two of three non-native Kwong speakers in the world, the Vanderkoois rely entirely on the Kwong people themselves to find the right words.

The work is painfully slow. Learning the intricacies of one word can take years of effort. And yet, each day is filled with great urgency.

After all, the Kwong church has waited over 60 years for a Bible in its language. And when the Vanderkoois retire, there may not be another translation effort for another 50 years — or more.



They Didn’t Know to Give up Their Gods

“The kids in your junior high Sunday school class ... can probably run theological circles around many of the pastors and elders in a lot of these little churches,” Mark says.

The first Kwong churches were started in the late 1950s. Since then, pastors have struggled to teach from Bible translations in other languages that they barely understand — and illiterate parishioners have struggled to understand them at all.

Without clear guidance, syncretism is a constant temptation.

“They struggle with whether God is stronger or ... the little gods of their forefathers are stronger,” Mark says. “And it’s a lot of the same issues that people of the Old Testament in Israel struggled with.”

Bibi*, a pastor’s wife, didn’t know appealing spirits was wrong until she attended a Bible study led by Diane.

Unbeknownst to Diane, Bibi had been desperately trying her family’s rituals to get healing for her daughter. But after Diane taught about putting full faith in God, Bibi decided to give it a try.

“Her daughter got well, believe it or not, and she came back just praising God and amazed at what God can do,” Diane says.

As the Vanderkoois enter their last decade of service, they are carefully considering what books of the Bible are most likely to provide similar revelations.

“We pray all the time ... that the Gospel will change their whole way of being,” Diane says.

Without the Bible in their language, Kwong believers struggle to know how to live for God. That’s why the Vanderkoois have worked on a Kwong Bible translation for over 25 years.

Picking Strategic Books of the Bible

Now in their 50s, the Vanderkoois know they won't finish the whole Bible before they retire.

It took them 25 years to translate a little over half of the New Testament, as well as Genesis and a third of the Psalms. They have to be strategic with their time left.

In 2017, they opened the first Kwong Bible school to train a new generation of pastors, which pushed Romans to the top of their list.

"It's pretty hard ... to study New Testament theology without the book of Romans," Mark says.

Before they retire, they hope to finish the New Testament and the Psalms, as well as

Deuteronomy and Isaiah — books that can speak to the Kwongs' struggle to leave former gods.

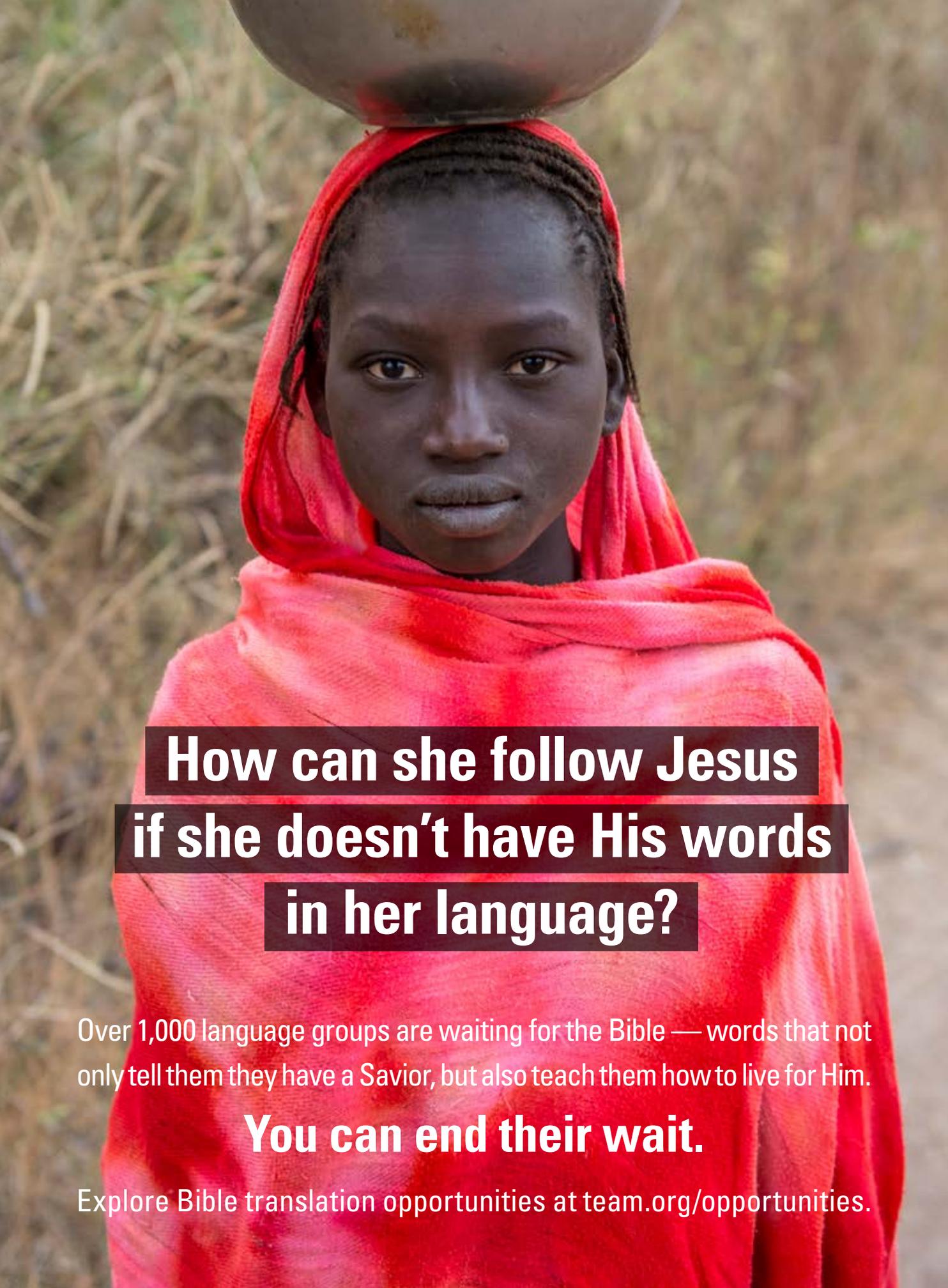
But the Vanderkoois aren't naïve. They know they could easily be driven out by illness or even a civil war.

"We would like people to pray that the Lord grants us the favor to finish well," Mark says.

And as they finish, Mark and Diane will continue to pray that God transforms lives and makes the Kwong people fishers of men. 📖

**name changed*

A new Bible school will help Kwong pastors learn to read and study the Vanderkoois' Bible translation so they can teach their congregations.



**How can she follow Jesus
if she doesn't have His words
in her language?**

Over 1,000 language groups are waiting for the Bible — words that not only tell them they have a Savior, but also teach them how to live for Him.

You can end their wait.

Explore Bible translation opportunities at team.org/opportunities.



Many missionary kids think they can't voice their doubts in God. But teachers like Seth and Laura O'Day are creating safe places for MKs to open up and make their faith their own.

Why Missionary Kids Need Missionaries Too

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by Karlo Tan

When it comes to reaching the lost, few people think of missionary kids. After all, their parents are the ultimate Christians, right?

But according to TEAM missionaries Seth and Laura O'Day, the MK status as super Christian offspring can be exactly what hinders them from becoming devout believers themselves.

"They've gotten used to burying things ... because it looks bad for their family if they're obviously having a problem with something," says Seth.

And what could look worse than an MK having doubts about God?

When MKs struggle with their faith, many would rather pretend than reach out for help. But at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines, teachers like Seth and Laura are working to change that.

Faking the Faith

Faith Academy was founded as an MK school and has grown to include children of

ambassadors, international business people, and local Filipinos.

MK or not, most students have some kind of Christian background, but Laura says their responses to that background vary widely.

"Have they made it their own? Or are they running away from it at full speed? Or just plodding along and ignoring things, or what?" Laura says.

In a school culture where everything revolves around Christianity, it's easy to fake at least a lukewarm faith. That's why true relationships with students are vital to discovering what's really happening inside.

Opening Doors Through Friendship

Laura and Seth have both taught in the States, so they were surprised at the vast opportunities to build relationships with students at Faith Academy.

"It would be unthinkable for an American teacher to friend a student on Facebook," Seth says. "Yet, that is rather common at Faith Academy because the teachers are all friends with your parents, and you might hang out with them after school, or ... they might come to your house for dinner."

The O'Days made a point of taking on extracurricular roles within the school.

Laura's specialty is French, but she's also coached the school's academic bowl team on the side. In addition to teaching science, Seth has served as a class advisor, helping students elect class governments, hold fundraisers and organize special events.

"[Students] would often come to me if they had things ... they needed to talk about," Seth says. "They knew that they could talk to me because I care about them and their class."

When bullying broke out in one class, Laura and other teachers used their relationships to guide students through exercises of restoration and healing.

Through the process, it came out that one of the bully ringleaders was going through a difficult transition with her family. She didn't know how to handle it and was taking it out on her classmate.

With their teachers' help, the students not only welcomed the victim back into the fold but also extended grace to the bullies.

"As those students ... moved into high school, the community in that class was pretty remarkable because they had walked through that together," Laura says.

Building True Faith

As the O'Days build relationships with students, God continues to open doors for discipleship. Ultimately, they hope students will develop a faith that lasts outside Faith Academy.

"I know how easy it is for them to fall away from the faith," Seth says. "I've seen the statistics. ... So that's the thing I pray most, ... that they'll be rooted and established and be able to weather the storms that are coming without giving up their faith."

So, when students are excited about their faith, Seth and Laura teach them how to live that out. When students are lukewarm, the O'Days show them how to heat up their faith.

And when students are struggling with their faith — or running away at full speed — the O'Days don't let them

pretend. Day by day, these missionaries invite students into the light, where they can know the healing grace of God.

The students may not become missionaries or be known for impressive piety, but with openness and honest discipleship, they can live full lives of faith that influence the world for Christ. ■

“Have they made [Christian faith] their own? Or are they running away from it at full speed?”

—Laura O'Day

Who can point a student to God more than the teacher she sees every day?

Let's face it: You didn't become a teacher just because you love to do fractions and diagram sentences. You're in it to show students they matter, to walk with them through hard times, to demonstrate God's love.

You're in it to change students' lives.

And as a teacher with TEAM, that's exactly what you'll do.

Whether your students are waiting in an urban academy or a remote village hut, we can help you get there. Visit team.org/ministry-areas/teaching-and-education to start your journey today.

What It's Like to Be a Single Missionary

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography courtesy of Tillie Tiller and Nancy Sturrock



When missionary Tillie Tiller left for Chad, she'd already found full contentment in being single. No one told her she'd have to find it more than once.

She's known as the MacGyver of missionaries. She spent 15 years traveling with nomadic cattle-herders, single-handedly wired her desert home with solar panels and still has her water delivered by donkeys.

But Tillie Tiller's adventurous life in Chad slammed into a wall when she turned 39.

That's when she realized she wasn't getting married.

"In so many missionary biographies, in the middle of nowhere, a single guy shows up, and it is a perfect pairing. ... Up until age 38, I thought it was going to happen," Tillie said. "At age 39, I was pretty sure it wouldn't happen, so then I started to spiral out of control. I didn't even realize what was going on."

As Tillie's sending agency, TEAM called her off the field. She would spend the next year in counseling, figuring out who she was without the possibility of a spouse and children.

For many prospective missionaries, Tillie's breakdown is their worst nightmare.

Singleness is one of the most common reason appointees don't make it to the mission field or take a long time getting there, according to a Pioneers International report. And truthfully, fears of loneliness, feeling out of place or saying goodbye to the possibility of marriage aren't entirely unfounded.

Even when she was raising support to serve in France, TEAM missionary Jennifer Hylton thought, *This would be so much easier if I weren't alone, if I just had someone to help me.*

But despite the challenges, some estimate that single people make up a third of the U.S. missions force.

So how do single missionaries make it work? It begins with recognizing the benefits.

Open Houses and Divine Surprises

Ask any missionary about the advantages of being single on the field, and they'll talk about flexibility.

"I can do so much more spontaneous ministry," said Taylor Nesse, who works with college students in Italy. "[If] someone texts me, nine times out of 10, I'll be able to show up. I love that."

Without a family to worry about infringing on, Taylor feels free to open his home, hosting

large group meals throughout each semester. On the flipside, flying solo makes people feel more comfortable inviting you to their own homes, according to 35-year missionary Nancy Sturrock.

In South Asia, she said, “They have these small, little houses, and they’re not sure if they have enough food, and they don’t really know what to do for a foreigner. But one person, they can manage.”

Zach Harrod got married after nine years as a single missionary to the Czech Republic, but he’s still reaping the benefits from his time without a spouse.

“As a single, it was just like, heck, let’s get after it. ... I grew, God helped me get the language, helped me get a ton of relationships with it. I’m still kind of riding the wave of that,” Zach said.

But sometimes, the greatest benefit to singleness is seeing God work in unexpected ways.

Lorraine Green went to Chad at 27 years old to do youth ministry, but she quickly saw that it wasn’t for her.

Instead, she ended up working with the local Bible school, teaching women how to be good pastors’ wives.

The irony wasn’t lost on Lorraine. But when she shared her concerns with a local pastor he said, “Don’t talk like that. You teach God’s Word. You teach the principles of God’s Word, and the rest will work out.”

So she did — for 30 years. All the while, not a single student ever doubted her qualifications. God’s Word was enough.

‘I Thought It Was Forever’

Naturally, those highs don’t

“Ultimately, success as a missionary — single or married — comes down to trusting God and being willing to follow Him wherever He leads.”

cancel out the challenges of singleness.

For Tillie, getting back on the field meant admitting that she still felt a loss in not having a partner to share that life with.

“When I left for the field, I was completely content, so I thought it was forever,” Tillie said. “But every so often, the intense, deep yearning to be married would come again. It would pass, and, again, I thought it was over for good. I wish I had realized that it would roll around again and to be prepared to deal with it.”

Well-meaning, fellow Christians don’t always make that preparation easy.

Furloughs are sprinkled with people who want to know if you’ve “found anyone yet.” And long-married teammates may struggle to understand adult life without a spouse or children.

“It can be isolating sometimes, but I have to focus on Jesus and not circumstances,” Jennifer said.

In those moments, Jesus becomes a greater source of comfort as the only one who knows each person fully — single or not — and as someone who lived single missionary life Himself.

Recalling Christ’s determination in Isaiah 50:7, Lorraine said, “Jesus set His face like a flint to fulfill His calling, and I will do the same. ... Bless His heart, He showed us how to be single.”

Finding Support in Unexpected Places

One of the hallmarks of Jesus’ life was the community He built for Himself — not only with the 12 disciples but also with His dear friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

On the field, finding deep fellowship often means getting creative.

After several rounds of people coming and going, Nancy grew hesitant to keep building doomed friendships, but she still needed confidants who knew her well. So, she decided

to keep building relationships in Thailand but let her deeper friendships be ones she maintained over the internet.

In addition to befriending teammates, missionaries warn not to overlook nationals as friends who are less likely to move and will gladly pull you into their culture.

During language school, Zach said, “While I had a great flat that I lived in, I wouldn’t study there. I’d study at cafés where I knew people were that I could meet or my friends were, ... and it’s really paid off.”

Some missionaries find families who will let them take part in day-to-day life. Others find fellow expatriates they can visit over a weekend, or they see who’s serving locally with other agencies.

Taylor says it’s normal to think your closest relationships will be found on your team, but he encourages new missionaries to hold out for people they naturally trust and confide in.

“Find your people; don’t assume who your people are,” he said.

Sometimes that will mean finding people in the same life stage. Other times, it means building relationships where both parties can offer unique perspectives.

“Often, [married] friends will remind me of a blessing in my life that might become easy to overlook, and I thank God for that reminder,” Jennifer said. “Another perfect example of why we need the Body of Christ!”



Is Marriage Your Idol?

Ultimately, success as a missionary — single or married — comes down to trusting God and being willing to follow Him wherever He leads.

“All I know is that God’s called me to be single today — and probably tomorrow. I don’t think I’m having a wedding before tomorrow,” Nancy

said with a laugh. “... So I need to be single with my whole heart and go about what He’s given me to do today.”

Zach encourages young men to put their hearts under a microscope and carefully consider if God is truly calling them to stay home in pursuit of marriage or if a domestic ideal has become an idol.

Ironically, he says, staying home in the hopes of getting married would have kept him from meeting his wife, a Czech woman he met on the field. Their first child was born in 2017.

“Our lives are just so much more interesting, so much more colorful, just because ... I decided I’m just gonna go, and God’s gonna take care of me,” Zach said. “It might not be how everyone else’s life looks, but that’s OK.”

Decades after her year of counseling in the States, Tillie believes the same thing about her continued life as a single missionary in Chad.

“In hindsight, I can honestly say that I love my life,” she said. “I don’t regret any of it.”

(Above) Friends teaching Nancy Sturrock how to pound rice in 1983.

Check out [team.org/blog](https://www.team.org/blog) for more honest reflections on missionary life. Just click on the “Missionary Life” category!



In a country filled with landmines, amputations are common — and prosthetic limbs are a life-changing demonstration of God's love.

Prosthetics Lead to First Steps of Faith

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by TEAM

For as long as Cho* can remember, her war-torn country has been a nation of landmines.

Triggering one and losing a limb is almost common, so when Cho was born missing an arm and both legs, she should have been able to get prosthetics. She could have — if the war hadn't driven her family into poverty.

It must have seemed like a miracle when a mobile clinic arrived in Cho's village 20 years after she was born, offering prosthetics for free.

Except the mobile clinic couldn't help Cho. Her limbs were too misshapen, and because she'd spent her entire life crawling on the ground, she would need months of therapy to learn to walk.

There was only one thing to be done. This was a job for TEAM missionary Paxton*.

How Engineers Make Friends

When Paxton started college to study engineering, prosthetics were nowhere on his radar. That began to shift during a mission trip to South America.

Paxton started thinking about long-term missions, but he couldn't figure out how an

engineer would get opportunities to build meaningful, missional relationships.

That's when a professor pointed him to prosthetics: "He said it would be a great way to kind of combine [engineering] with a way to kind of meet people person-to-person."

Meanwhile, Paxton met Zoe*, a nursing student with a deep desire to serve Cho's war-ravaged region of Asia.

"It just seemed really clear that it's just a really good fit," Paxton said. "The needs were there for ... the skills that [God] has given us."

In 2014, Paxton and Zoe, now married, moved to Asia, and Paxton found work at a free clinic. It was the same place where the mobile clinic would one day send Cho.

Standing Face-to-Face

In Cho's first week at the clinic, the staff got to work making casts of her legs and forming the prostheses. Once they made the basic prostheses, they began teaching Cho to walk.

Therapy starts simply, with patients learning to stand and sit the first day and then slowly moving into taking their first steps.

"When they've gone without walking for that long, it's really difficult ... to get them to a place where they feel more comfortable with the prosthesis than they did before," Paxton said.

Some days, Cho decided the struggle wasn't worth it. But on good days, she learned to put more weight on the prostheses, telling the team about pain points so they could make adjustments.

Paxton said frustration is common. He warns new patients that it will probably be two months before they go home and up to a year before they feel comfortable with the prosthesis.

But while Cho fought for her new normal, God poured hope into another part of her life.

An Open Heart

Unlike Paxton, Zoe couldn't get permission to use her medical skills in the couple's host country. Instead, she focused on learning the local language and building relationships where she could.

One of those relationships was with Cho. Legal restrictions and language barriers



made sharing the Gospel tricky. When Zoe met Cho at the clinic, she started a conversation anyway. Soon, a friendship began to grow.

"It's just so difficult and slow, but it's been kind of neat — like she was really hardened and quiet at first, and [now] she's been opening up about things," Zoe said.

When Zoe invited Cho to a program at church, Cho agreed.

The next day, Zoe said, "She was telling me, 'Oh, I loved it so much! I really liked the singing. I didn't understand because I'm not a Christian, but I really liked it.'"

Although Cho's time at the clinic was short, Zoe is still eager to see how God waters the seeds planted in Cho's heart. And together, she and Paxton pray they will see God open many more doors in this land of suffering. 🙏

**names changed*

Use your medical skills to reach someone like Cho!
Visit opportunities.team.org and search for
"Medicine and Healthcare" under ministry types.

What a Future in Missions Means

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by TEAM

When TEAM missionary Jennifer Hylton shares how God called her to France, she gets straight to the point, with no effort to impress: “I felt God speak right to my heart: ‘You have a future in missions.’ And I was like, ‘I don’t even know what that means.’”

As a first-generation Christian in her 20s, Jennifer didn’t know a single missionary, much less how God would call one. She had been praying for peace about her future, thinking she might go to medical school or relocate, but mission work was nowhere on her list.

When she sensed God speaking to her during a conference worship service, “I looked at the guy next to me, and I was like, ‘I’m pretty sure God just told me I’m gonna be a missionary. Is that a thing?’ He was like, ‘Yeah, that’s a thing.’”

An Impulse for Hope

Even though Jennifer knew very little about becoming a missionary, she had long nurtured an impulse to give others hope. As a research associate at a children’s cancer clinic, she often served as a support to patients’ families, helping them understand research and giving encouragement.

“I need to give people hope,” she said. “I feel like I’m so stuffed up and stifled when I’m not giving hope, it’s hard to explain.”

Jennifer also had a lifelong love for everything France-related, so when she began to

research opportunities and learned of the country’s spiritual neglect, it seemed like a perfect fit.

She took a vision trip to France and applied to TEAM upon her return. The next year, she was officially appointed by TEAM to serve in France.

Realistically, Jennifer thought she could have 90 percent of her support in 17 months, but she had significant obstacles ahead. Not only was Jennifer a first-generation Christian, but her young church had no experience in sending one of their own to the field.

“They were figuring out this journey along with me,” Jennifer said.

Jennifer began setting up meetings, building relationships and writing a blog about her journey. Her church created videos to share the vision and hosted fundraising events, while her missions pastor met with her every week.

Still, years went by, and Jennifer’s calling to France remained desperately out of reach.

Jennifer wondered if she should take work promotions or what she should tell her boss. At church, people began asking how her “trip” to France had gone and “Didn’t God call you to be a missionary?”

“Seeing the lack of faith in other people’s eyes can shake you,” Jennifer said. “But God didn’t call me to see faith in other people’s eyes. God called me to have faith in Him and to act on it.”



The Beauty in Waiting

Jennifer said God confirmed her calling hundreds of times over the years, so she pressed forward, learning to trust Him, learning to find the beauty in waiting.

Although Jennifer never had a breakthrough moment, she gathered her support through slow persistence. After four years of fundraising, Jennifer finally experienced the victory of a one-way flight to France.

Making it to the field didn’t mean her trials were over. She still faced language school, learning to minister in a new culture and an abundance of other challenges. But through it all, Jennifer carried every lesson she’d learned since God first spoke missions to her heart.

“It went great!” Jennifer told her supporters after teaching her first Sunday school class in French. “Of course it went great, because you prayed, and God is so faithful.” 🙏

When God called Jennifer Hylton to France, she didn’t know a single missionary — and she never would have guessed she’d take four years to raise her support.

Hear the rest of Jennifer’s story and find out why France is a bigger mission field than you might think. Watch Jennifer’s exclusive interview at learn.team.org/jenn-hylton

When Being a Missionary Means Keeping Your Job

By Bethany DuVal

Everyone knows what becoming a missionary means: Quit the job you enjoy, attend a fancy seminary, get fitted for one of those safari hats and start looking for random strangers to proselytize.

OK, maybe not the hat, but the rest tend to be considered non-negotiables. Unless you're a doctor, a teacher or capable of starting a whole business (as mission), giving up your career and learning cold evangelism are seen as part of the "dying to self" that all missionaries go through. But what if, in a growing global economy, building your career was one of the most effective ways to build the kingdom of God overseas?

While TEAM obviously still believes in the traditional missionary model, it's undeniable that God is also opening doors for people to take professional jobs in foreign countries. These people are called "kingdom professionals," and here are a few purposes we think God may have for the movement:

1. Every country needs IT directors (and designers, chefs and psychologists).

The world is an ever-changing list of countries that don't allow missionaries among their people. Review Christian missions history, and you'll easily find people who had to minister just outside the country they truly felt called to or who had to leave after a political upset. No matter their political leanings, however, most nations still need accountants, engineers and marketers.

Make no mistake, we're not talking about just taking a job as a cover. As you do your job well, your host country will see the value of keeping you around, even if you discuss theology with your cube-mates.

2. Professional jobs come with co-workers who need Jesus.

A traditional missionary's first task is to build relationships, and finding ways to relate to well-paid professionals (who don't need free health clinics and other social services) can be tough. Relating to your co-workers, however, often happens naturally.

As you bond over breakroom coffee, tough projects and pictures of each other's kids, you'll find ways to share the Gospel just like you would in your home country. The difference is, now you're reaching people who may never have heard Christ's name before.

3. People who get regular paychecks don't raise support.

Ideally, the church could and would financially support all the missionaries needed to reach the 2 billion people in this world who haven't heard the Gospel.

Until we reach that ideal, taking paid positions is a practical solution for a big financial obstacle,

closely mirroring the Apostle Paul's tentmaking strategy. And with the financial burden lifted, churches should feel even more freedom to provide spiritual, emotional and strategic support to fellow Christians working abroad.

4. God gives us skills and talents for His glory.

When it was time to build the tabernacle, God called Bezalel and Oholiab by name to create beautiful embroidery and carvings. It wasn't just that God found the two most talented people in Israel, though. Exodus 35:30–35 says God filled them with the skills and intelligence needed for the job.

Their trades weren't the things they needed to sacrifice before they could really serve God; they were the exact tools needed to serve God according to His will. As Christians spread across the global economy, using their skills in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17), we believe God will be glorified, especially as more people come to know Him.

Next Steps for the Kingdom Professional

Of course, being effective as a kingdom professional isn't as simple as finding a job in a foreign country (a challenge in itself), but as the trend grows, so are the resources for it.

You can get started by talking with a TEAM missions coach about your skills and passions. They can connect you with job opportunities, fellow kingdom professionals, pre-departure resources and on-field support!

We aren't all called to be evangelists, but we are all called to spread the Gospel — to the darkest jungles and to the farthest water cooler. 📖

Want to learn more about kingdom professionals? Visit team.org/serve/kingdom-professionals today!

Why We Love the Local Church

Written by Anna Price
Photography by TEAM



I grew up a pastor's kid, racing up and down the hallways of churches across the Bible Belt for much of my life. When I got sick, my dad would roll out a sleeping bag in the kids' Sunday school room where I would watch cartoons and sip apple juice until his sermon prep was done.

Throughout the years, I moved around often, but no matter my family's geographic location, church was always there. I dove headfirst into youth group activities, served anytime the children's department was open, cried around church campfires and in eighth grade, I walked down the aisle to tell everyone I was called to ministry.

My church family saw me at my best and was beside me at my worst. In the same way, I saw the church at its best — caring for one another and living on mission — and also saw the challenges that come when an imperfect group of people commit to living life together.

At TEAM, we love and believe in the local church. Our purpose statement says, "TEAM partners with churches to send missionaries and establish reproducing churches among the nations, to the glory of God."

The fact that we partner with churches to send missionaries isn't just a nice turn of phrase; it's central to everything we do as an organization. We don't partner with churches because it is easy or convenient or sounds cool. TEAM partners with churches because we truly love the Church.

“The fact that we partner with churches to send missionaries isn't just a nice turn of phrase; it's central to everything we do as an organization.”

We love the Church because Jesus loves the Church.

As much as we love TEAM and other missions agencies, we can search through Scripture and never find our acronym anywhere in its pages. What we do find, though, are communities of imperfect people stumbling toward God and a Savior who loves the Church as His bride so much that He was willing to die for it (Ephesians 5:25–27).

We love the Church because God designed her to fulfill His mission.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He didn't give it to a few individuals. He gave it to the community of believers who were following Him. God gave us each unique gifts and skills to contribute to His mission (1 Corinthians 12), and He calls the Church to act as Jesus' Body here on Earth (Ephesians 1:22).

We love the Church because the Church is a part of a missionary's calling.

Your church impacts your calling, and your calling impacts your church. When a missionary is called to serve, their entire church is a part of that calling. The congregation has been part

of the discipleship that led the missionary to cross-cultural service.

In Acts 13, we see a congregation worshipping together when God tells them to set Paul and Barnabas apart for missionary service. The church played the leading role in discerning who God was calling. When Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the church at Antioch, they left a huge hole with their talents and passion for Christ, but they also invited the church into a more expansive ministry than could have been achieved had Paul and Barnabas stayed put. The church was a part of discipling, identifying and commissioning them to live out their calling.

We love the Church because she takes care of those she sends.

As I began my own journey into ministry, my local church played an invaluable role. Its members created opportunities for me to learn my spiritual gifts and put them into practice. My church was a space for me to share my struggles without fear.

They wrote me letters when I was discouraged. They offered financial support, saying, "We have seen you

minister here, and because of that we know this is an investment in the Kingdom." When I left ministry for a time, broken and bruised, they spoke truth over me and offered rest.

We wholeheartedly believe the agency has a role to play in member care, but in Scripture, we see the local church remaining deeply invested in those they send.

From the Ephesian church sending Onesiphorus to care for Paul while he was in prison (2 Timothy 1:15–18), to the Antioch church welcoming Paul and Barnabas home after their missionary journey (Acts 14:26–28), the Bible doesn't give us a model of "send and forget" but instead "send and commit" to the care of those sent.

And that is why we love the Church. The local church certainly isn't going to be perfect on this side of heaven, but nothing is as beautiful as the Bride of Christ living out her calling to make disciples of all nations.

Sending missionaries is one way churches get to live out the Great Commission, and we are honored to help local churches identify, prepare and care for those they send. 🙏



(Left) Tourists vacation at Lake Bourget in Aix-les-Bains, France, for its temperate water, wide-array of water sports and beautiful mountain view. But the Nileses have found an alternate use for the lake in baptizing new disciples of Christ.

Most missionaries can look back at their former lives and see what God used to prepare them for the field. For Steve Niles, it was his father's cows and life on the farm that prepared him for a life of discipling others and leading by example.

"I'm not an intellectual teaching in the Bible school," Steve said. "I grew up on a farm, and I learned everything hands-on. I just like to do that with other people."

Steve's first mentees were his own sons. As he and his wife, Donna, raised four boys, the couple focused on teaching them to follow God in a practical way, eventually seeing all four become missionaries and disciple others. From there, the Nileses have made it their mission to train and raise up young leaders in the church.

As Steve and Donna recount their decades in France, stories of current and former mentees spill out naturally: the young couple from Greater Europe Mission (GEM) who helped start their current church plant; one of the first couples the Nileses discipled in Lyon, now leading a church that started in their home; the couple that took over their church plant in Annecy, which has helped fund the Nileses' current church plant.

For the Nileses, it's all about making themselves unnecessary.

Humble Discipleship

Written by Bethany DuVal
Photography by TEAM





The Nileses' church planting team in Aix-les-Bains is a testament to their passion for discipleship: It's a collection of younger Christians working in partnership with ABBA, their previous church plant in Annecy.



Working to be Replaced

"I'll be real honest," Steve said. "I would like to see France not need missionaries anymore, and my thing is training this French younger generation. I think we should be on our way out."

The co-leader of the Nileses' project in Aix-les-Bains perfectly reflects this philosophy. They met Thierry Mirone in the 1990s, when he came to work at the Christian ski camp they were running. A recent convert, Mirone came fresh from a life of gangs, drugs and theft, but he was eager to let Christ change him.

"He was raw," Steve said. "I mean this is a guy who in the morning, he would say, 'You know, I was just reading my Bible, and I'm going to quit smoking.' He'd wad up the cigarettes, throw them in the garbage. About four in the afternoon, I'd see him in the garbage, trying to put these things back together to smoke these broken cigarettes."

But the Nileses worked with Mirone for two years, watching as he matured in his faith and married a Christian woman. The newlyweds became colleagues in camp ministry, then the national youth directors for France Mission and then partners in planting a church in Aix-les-Bains.

With decades of experience to their names, Steve and Donna are excited to hand down what they've learned. Yet, they maintain a posture of equality with even their youngest teammates.

GEM teammate Jordan Egli said Steve often illustrates his leadership style by talking about the farm. When Steve's uncle would move the family's cows, he'd twist their tails and yell at them. When Steve's turn came, he went among the cows and walked with them.

"It's not 'I'm going to tell you how to do this,'" Egli said. "It's 'We're going to do this together. We're going to learn together. We're going to serve together.'"

All Disciples

At the Aix-les-Bains church plant, everyone — from the oldest believer to the newborn saint — learns together, due to the team's vision that everyone should be discipling someone and be in the process of being disciplined.

The country's strict focus on secularism means new believers come to Christ after years of deep spiritual deprivation. To make up for it, church members meet for worship services, house groups (eight to 10 people), growth groups (two to three people) and one-on-one discipleship.

And the discipleship doesn't always begin after salvation.

One new believer, Guillaume, realized through the discipleship process that it was wrong to live with his girlfriend, but he also believed that leaving her, after living as a married couple, would be the same as getting a divorce.

The team decided to invite Guillaume's girlfriend to join a growth group. At first reluctant, she gradually realized her need for a Savior, and soon, the couple was married in a Christian wedding service.

"Some people say the discipleship process is from when you become a Christian," Steve said. "I personally, with the French setting, believe it begins even before that."

The Aix-les-Bains team sees many opportunities to continue discipling those who do not yet know Christ: tutoring kids after school, using their English language club to share Christ and whatever other ways God allows them to spend time with people.

"I think that's what real discipleship is," Steve said. "It's not necessarily following any particular [method] ... but letting the Word of God work on a person's life through the Holy Spirit to show them where they need to grow and seeing the fruit, then, from that." 📖

Has God given you a gift for discipleship? Visit opportunities.team.org and search under the tag "Discipleship" to see how you can serve around the world!

How Do You Know You're Called to Missions?

Written by Katie Back Salmon

How can you *know* you're called to missions? Especially when the very concept of "calling" can seem vague, mysterious and painstaking to figure out?

Sure, it's nuanced. But confidently knowing your missionary calling is not impossible either. Read five workers' unique testimonies of how God called them to serve.

Open Doors

"Our calling to missions started by Susan and I both saying that we would never be missionaries, and that kind of got God's ear," said Scott Downing, a worker in Chad.

Scott and Susan both grew up as missionary kids in Africa but never considered a life of missions for themselves. It was through a devotional study by Henry Blackaby that God began to challenge the Downings to surrender these plans.

"Henry Blackaby asks in the devotional, 'When was the last time that you heard God speak?' And neither of us could answer that. ... That kind of

sent us on a journey, and everywhere we went, all we heard was, 'Surrender to full-time, faith-based missions.'"

In obedience, the Downings reached out to missions agencies and received information from TEAM about Chad. Scott said, "[The report] was pretty doom and gloom, you know? Dark. You're stranded. You're flooded out in the rainy season. There's no food. It's 120 degrees. And we were really excited about that!

"So we pursued [Chad], and we told God, 'We're pretty ignorant. If this isn't Your will, You're going to have to slam doors in our face and not just close them gently. We're moving forward for Chad, and if You don't like that, please show us. And 11 years later, He keeps opening doors.'"

Homesick for an Unknown Home

Roberta Peabody met her first missionary when her pastor's brother, a Christian worker in Japan, visited her congregation. He later invited

Roberta on her first short-term mission trip to teach English in a Japanese church.

"I remember very clearly, it was a very difficult summer because I was in the big city, and it was hot. And I went ... so proud of myself because I was going, but then, I couldn't communicate! I didn't speak a word of Japanese."

To bridge the language divide, Roberta had a translator to help lead her English class. One day, she asked the translator to pray with her before class. Roberta was deeply homesick, physically sick and overwhelmed by her inability to communicate. As they prayed, each in their own language, Roberta had a revelation.

"As a young Christian, that was the first time that I really got it that God understood both of us — without any confusion, without any need for translation. So I returned home from Japan, homesick for Japan."

God continued to confirm Roberta's calling to Japan,

and she ultimately found her home and ministry there.

Trading Small Ambitions

Brent Preston grew up in what he called "a young guy's paradise." Brent's parents served as missionaries in the jungles of Papua, Indonesia, and he fondly recalls days of fishing and hunting and water skiing on mile-wide rivers.

Less fondly, he remembers tough financial times and the hand-me-down clothes he had to wear to boarding school. He said, "I hated wearing clothing that was out of style, so I thought, 'You know, I [love] what my parents did, but I [am] going to be a rich Christian.'"

So Brent pursued his education in the United States, with sights set on affording the lifestyle his missionary parents never could.

At a graduation ceremony, Brent observed something peculiar to him: "The president of the school was given a new suit by the graduating class. And I thought, 'Why is this guy being given a new suit? Can't he buy his own suits? He's the president! He gets the best wage on campus!'"

Later, Brent discovered the president of his university bought his clothing at thrift stores so he could give more money to missions. "The very clothing that I didn't want to wear, he wore on purpose," Brent said. He realized, "This guy is living for eternity, and I am not."

Brent noticed that, for many of his classmates, missions was off the table due to fears of travel, other cultures or unfamiliar foods. He remembers

thinking, "I don't fear any of that. ... I'm not afraid of foreign foods. I'm not afraid to learn another language. I've been away from home my whole life. Why *shouldn't* I go?"

"So," he says, "I gave up my small ambitions. ... I was nineteen years old, and I decided to be a missionary."

Gradual Understanding

Six months into Sally Kauffman's short-term mission

“Our calling to missions started by ... saying that we would never be missionaries, and that kind of got God's ear.”

—Scott Downing

trip, she was homesick, experiencing culture shock and desiring to go home. But as she continued in ministry, God continued to call her to missions — gradually.

"In my case, it wasn't just like a knock on the head or anything like that, but ... over the course of two years, the Lord just kept impressing on my heart, day after day, 'You've been given so much. You need to share.' It was just that simple. ... So it was just a slow, steady understanding in my case."

For over three decades, Sally continued to share the gift of Christ with the people of Japan.

A Dream Come True

"God's unique in the way He deals with each of us, and ... I really wanted to be in missions from the time I was a little kid. By the time I finally left for [South Asia], it was like a dream come true in a lot of ways for me," said Becky Martin, a worker in South Asia.

Becky grew up in a family and local church where, she said, "Missions was just part of being a Christian." So she pursued a degree in nursing with the intention of using her skills on the mission field.

Regarding her decision to serve in South Asia, Becky said, "It was a process." She began by choosing a sending agency, TEAM. Then, she looked for a country where physical and spiritual needs were great. A country in South Asia fit the criteria.

Through decades on the field, Becky has continued to see God confirm the missionary calling He gave her as a girl. 📖

Is God calling you to be a missionary? When you're ready, TEAM missions coaches are eager to talk and pray with you as you discern your next steps. Connect with a missions coach at team.org/missionscoach.

What Does a Missions Coach Do?

You think you've been called to the mission field. Now what? How do you figure out where to go? Or which organization to go through? What does fundraising look like on a practical level?

Where do you even start?

Figuring out your missionary call can be overwhelming. That's why TEAM has missions coaches to walk with you on your journey to the mission field.

What Is a Missions Coach?

When you start looking into missions, it may

The process is highly personal. When you first get to know your missions coach, they'll want to hear about you, your passions and why you think God is calling you. You'll pray together regularly. And you'll spend time discerning what your God-given gifts are and how those gifts might be used on the field.

"A lot of missions coaching is listening and taking a step back before asking pointed, helpful questions that can really get to the heart of some of the issues a person may be facing," says Senior Manager of Mobilization Wesley Mills.

“Figuring out your missionary call can be overwhelming. That's why TEAM has missions coaches to walk with you on your journey to the mission field.”

surprise you how many questions there are to answer and opportunities there are to examine before anyone agrees to send you somewhere.

Fortunately, missions coaches are trained to help you answer and examine everything thoroughly.

With experience on the mission field, they already know some of what you're going through on a personal level. And with continued access to the field, they know whether and where there are opportunities for someone like you.

The key to missions coaching is building relationships. It's all about helping someone determine whether or not they are called to go to the nations — and figuring out what God is calling them to.

Where Are They Located?

Because TEAM has coaches scattered all over North America, it's likely there's one within driving distance of where you live.

Each one is strategically located so they can be available to anyone interested in missions.

In fact, something that sets TEAM missions coaches apart is the fact that they are based in many local areas — which means they get to know the churches there, the culture there and what God's doing in that specific place.

And missions coaches aren't just waiting for people to come to them. They're stepping out into their communities and finding the people who have questions about missions but don't know who to ask.



"We are responding, but we're also reaching out, connecting, networking and being involved in communities with a more intentional approach, as opposed to just receiving all these people that are coming to us," Wesley says.

What Can You Expect From Your Missions Coach?

So, you've decided to contact a missions coach. You've even filled out the online form saying you're interested in missions.

What happens now?

First, a missions coach will email or call you within 24 business hours. Then, you get to ask any and every question you have about missions or TEAM.

A few great — but often forgotten — questions to start with:

What are your statements of belief? How do you care for your missionaries overseas? What

does your appointment process look like? How does fundraising work?

From there, your missions coach will walk with you through the journey of discovering how and where you should serve. They'll help you consider steps for further growth. And if God is calling you to missions with TEAM, they'll guide you through the application and interview process to become a missionary.

Once you're accepted, your missions coach will take a step back so you can be assigned an appointee mentor who is tied to the region where you'll serve. As you raise support and prepare for the field, TEAM will be there to guide you all the way! 📧

Connect with a missions coach today!

Just visit team.org/missionscoach to begin the conversation

and see where God might be calling you.

What Do I Do Now?

Want to know if God's calling you to mission work? Here are four steps to help you find answers and get started on your journey!

1

Talk with leaders at your home church.

Share how God is working in your heart. Ask them to join you in prayer and give you guidance as you seek God's plan together.

3

Start serving cross-culturally where you are now.

Get involved in refugee ministries, or start teaching ESL classes. Learn a new language, and start getting a taste of different cultures before you step outside of your home country.

2

Start praying for the nations.

Do some research. Find out what's happening in different parts of the world so you can tailor your prayers to specific situations. See if God leads your heart to a particular place or people group.

4

Visit team.org/missionscoach.

A missions coach is your personal guide through the missions exploration process. Share your passions and struggles, pray together and discover the opportunities God has for you.

Find Opportunities

The TEAM world is full of missions opportunities for you to explore. Find your perfect fit at opportunities.team.org.

Just tell us:

Where you want to be (Region)

How you want to serve (Ministry)

What you're good at (Descriptive Tags)

How long you want to go (Length)

When you find an opportunity you're interested in, fill out the contact form. A missions coach will get in touch with you to see if it's the right fit for you — and help you discover where God is calling you to serve!



Find Missionary Opportunities

<p>Search Terms</p> <input type="text" value="Search..."/>	<p>Region</p> <input type="text" value="All"/>	<p>Length</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Short Term (up to 8 months) <input type="checkbox"/> Mid Term (9 months - 2 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term (more than 3 years)
<p>Ministry</p> <input type="text" value="All"/>	<p>Descriptive Tags Choose as many as apply:</p> <input type="text" value="Select Tags..."/>	

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Explore the
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Applying with agencies and raising support takes time. But when you give to TEAM, you don't have to wait to make a difference. You partner with workers already on the field to share the Gospel as quickly and effectively as possible. And that means, while you wait to go, you'll already be reaching people who desperately need the Good News.

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Do you need internship credit for school? Do you have a heart for the nations?

Merge your academic pursuits with the Great Commission.

Internships by TEAM gives you the chance to explore your calling and experience a taste of life abroad.

Talk to a missions coach today to get started.

Visit team.org/missionscoach.

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