

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: MISSIONS



Over the past **10+ years**, Mission of Christ Network has sent more than **100 mission partners** to **25 different countries** with the help of **3,000 financial supporters**! Each week these mission partners share the Gospel with **2,000 people**. Praise be to the Lord of the Harvest who does immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine!

But this is only the beginning. Our overseas partner organizations are asking us to send more missionaries to serve alongside them, and our board is praying and planning to have more than 100 mission partners in the field.

How could your church help raise up these people?

10 Traits of an Effective Missionary

#1 Passion for sharing the Gospel	Do you see members who look forward to teaching Sunday school, have faith conversations with non-believers during the week, or look to share stories of God at work in their lives?	<i>"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2</i>
#2 Desire to serve the Lord	Do you see members who are not just "busy" in the church but who have oriented their lives around God and His service, no matter the cost?	<i>"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24</i>

#3 Seeking of God's approval, not man's	It is so tempting to be dissuaded when other people question why you would serve in missions or to feel superior about your willingness to go. Do you see members who seek to follow God rather than please people?	<i>"Not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man." Ephesians 6:6-7</i>
#4 Eagerness to invest in relationships with others	Note: This is not the same as being an extrovert. :) Introverts and extroverts alike can be effective missionaries. Do you see members who listen well, put relationships before tasks, and invest in deep relationships inside and outside the church?	<i>"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8</i>
#5 Personal Bible study habits	Do you see members who make personal Bible study a priority, as well as group study and worship, and who have hidden God's Word in their hearts?	<i>"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts." Colossians 3:16</i>
#6 Knowing God's power brings results not our effort	Do you see members who pray before they act and whose trust is in God's power not their own plans or goals?	<i>"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:7</i>
#7 Willingness to do any tasks (even humble ones!) in God's service	Note: Oftentimes mission work involves serving in ways a person might not see as their gifts but which God will equip them for. Do you see members who are willing to do whatever is asked of them or whatever they see needs doing regardless of their personal preferences?	<i>"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28</i>

#8 Openness to learning and being corrected	Do you see members who are eager to learn new things and who ask for the advice or wisdom of others?	<i>"Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor." Proverbs 15:32-33</i>
#9 Flexibility to adapt to the host culture	When you have a chance to observe members cross-culturally (on a short-term trip or in a community event), who is willing to accept cultural differences and be flexible in diet, habits, or attitudes toward time or schedules?	<i>"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22</i>
#10 Trust in God's good plans when life is uncertain and plans change frequently	No matter what you plan for or imagine life on the mission field to be, it will never be exactly that. Do you see members who can hold plans loosely but hold God's promises tightly?	<i>"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28</i>

This may seem like a list of super qualities. As in all matters of sanctification, none of us reflect these qualities perfectly, and all of us rely on the Holy Spirit to continue to mold us into the image of Christ! Don't see this list as a checklist for disqualification but rather as a picture of Christ-like qualities to keep an eye open for in others.

What then?

When you see someone in your congregation who you think may have the gifts for overseas mission work, you play an important role in encouraging them and helping them discern God's call. *Most people who end up serving as missionaries do so because of the specific influence of those they respect and with whom they have close relationships.*

Talk and Grow

- The first step is to tell someone you see these gifts in them! **Be specific** about what you have observed and how you think these gifts could be used in the mission field.
- **Pray, pray, pray.** Pray with the person you are encouraging. Pray for them. Encourage them to engage in prayer both about this opportunity and for the needs of mission fields around the world.
- **Share information** about Mission of Christ Network. Visit the Serve page of the website, look at Mission Partner story videos from @missionofchristnetwork on YouTube, or email recruiting@missionofchrist.org for print materials.
- Invite the potential missionary to learn more about opportunities with MCN through **connecting them to MCN Mobilizers**, Emily Belvery and Kourtnie Watt (email: recruiting@missionofchrist.org). We would love to share more information through:
 - Email updates
 - One-on-one conversations
 - Summer week-long Mission Explorer program
- Continue the conversation. It can take someone years to go from considering overseas missions to making the decision to go. **Don't give up** on them! Keep checking in, praying for them, and encouraging them to keep exploring the possibilities.

Connecting Your Church to MCN

- Support a current Mission of Christ Network mission partner through prayer and financial support. Invite them to visit and share with your congregation while they are on furlough.
- Celebrate a missions-themed service with MCN Sunday materials. Help your congregation from kids to adults understand God's Mission and our role in it.
- Use resources from the MCN website for Bible study, Sunday School, prayer groups, worship materials, and more!
- Take teams on short-term mission trips, especially where you can have long-term connections and serve alongside long-term missionaries. Talk to us about possible places to serve or training materials.

Connect with MCN!



Emily Belvery

We would love to talk, pray, or answer questions any time!

Email:

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