

Unfinished

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The Fellowship of the Called

Examining the great adventure of mobilizing for God's service

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Cover photo:
Missions interns Brian Monda and his wife, Jessie, spent a life-changing year in Peru. See their story on page 25.

Want to unlock your church's potential?

WE HAVE THE KEY.

Scores of churches have discovered that the 6.5 hour Global Outreach Workshop has been the catalyst for connecting the uniqueness of their own congregation with God's global mission. You too can discover principles, plans, and tools that will set your church on a path of increasingly impactful ministry at home and around the world. The results will be more strategic ministry, greater involvement of your congregation, deeper mission partnerships, and increased funds for outreach.

For more information or to schedule a workshop at your church, contact the church ministry department at The Mission Society at 800.478.8963, ext. 9048, or email us at cm@themissionsociety.org.

"It's been 13 years since God in His sovereignty brought the Global Outreach Workshop and The Mission Society into our congregation. The seed planted in that one weekend is still bearing kingdom fruit in Grace Church these years later. It will change your church and your life!"

**Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor
Grace Church, Cape Coral, FL**

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—Acts 26:16, TEV



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FROM THE OFFICE

The Mission Society's headquarters named the H. T. Maclin Center for World Mission

In a ceremony on August 19, 2014, The Mission Society's headquarters was officially named The H. T. Maclin Center for World Mission in honor of the Rev. Dr. H. T. Maclin, The Mission Society's founding president and president emeritus, who passed away on April 14, 2014. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Maclin's wife, Alice, and their children. *See more on page 31.*

81 missionaries attend the H.T. and Alice Maclin Mission Training Institute

"When I came to this training, struggling with my cross-cultural ministry in North India, I was about to quit and go home. I was so discouraged. However, the session on 'Overcoming Culture Shock' helped me understand what I was going through and, now, by God's grace, I see a way forward."

These are the words of a young Indian missionary from South India, serving in the North. He attended The Mission Society's H. T. and Alice Maclin Mission Training Institute, July 1-19, 2014 at the CEO Centre at the South Asia Institute for Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in Bangalore, India.

This year, attendees included seven Mission Society missionaries and 74 Indians who serve as cross-cultural missionaries within India.

Mission Society staff members and missionaries taught lessons including cross-cultural challenges, discipleship, spiritual conflict, core ministry strategies, preparedness, Jesus

movements, cell-group ministry, mission shock, the theology of mission, spiritual warfare, and prayer. Several SAIACS staff members also led sessions.

Darrell Whiteman, Ph.D., The Mission Society's vice president for mission mobilization and training and resident missiologist, commented on the annual training event, saying: "If doctors and lawyers were to practice their trade without adequate training, they would be accused of malpractice. We feel it's just as critical that missionaries be prepared thoroughly in their discipline—in the art of communicating and living out the gospel across cultural and language barriers."

Mission Society founder awarded rare honors, meets Pope

In recognition of his important efforts promoting Christian missionary work, the Pontifical Urbaniana University awarded Dr. Gerald Anderson an honorary Doctor of Missiology degree, and he delivered a lecture titled "A New Missionary Age." It was the first time in the Catholic university's 400-year history that it had endowed such an honor on a Protestant.

Dr. Anderson, who served with his family in the Philippines in the 1960s, is a founder of The Mission Society and the former director of the Overseas Ministries Studies Center, a post from which he retired in 2000. He has co-authored and edited more than a dozen books. *See more on page 31.*



Left: Missionary Billy Drum walked much of the Camino de Santiago alongside Didier, a disabled Frenchman, who made the pilgrimage in search of healing. Middle: Civil engineer, Nick Griffiths, helps provide clean water in Kenya. Right: English students in Thailand.

FROM THE FIELD



Missionary walks miles, reaches out to those in search of 'something'

The ministry of Billy and Laurie Drum, missionaries in Spain, includes outreach to and discipling of the many immigrants to Spain. Recently, Billy spent five weeks walking 791 kilometers of the “Camino de Santiago,” listening. The Camino de Santiago is considered an important pilgrimage route. Some walk it as a religious pilgrimage to the grave of the Apostle James. Others walk in search of something, a something that they can’t exactly express. “I walked the Camino in order to reach out to those who walked in search of something,” said Billy. “There were a lot of hurting hearts on the pilgrimage, and a lot of people who needed to talk and to have someone listen.”



Evangelism and social justice converge

The American evangelical world has been at times somewhat divided on the topic of social justice, “but the two camps of evangelism and social justice are being integrated in Latin American churches,” says Steve Wilson, regional consultant for that area. “For Latin American churches and their leaders, evangelism is of great importance. At the same time, it is becoming more common to find churches combining evangelism and social justice work outside the walls of the church. May we all learn how to better present the essential elements of a holistic gospel to the world!”



Discipleship on the rise through ministries of 'human dignity'

Mission Society missionaries serve in nine African nations and their ministries are holistic, comments Mary Kay Jackson, regional consultant for that continent. “Human dignity and justice are important parts of the discipleship equation here. The Kipukes (Togo) help educate vulnerable young women, who often marry at age 12 or 13, giving them job skills and a future. The Stotlers (South Africa) teach computer skills by—among other things—having students type Bible verses. The Griffiths (Kenya) bring safe water to Samburu villages. Whatever the needs, as we serve people, understand their challenges, and help them envision a better future, we see communities transformed by the love of Jesus!”



'Coffee and conversation' opens Buddhist hearts

Missionaries in Thailand offer “coffee and conversation” hour as a chance for students to practice speaking in English. “Those who come are primarily of the Buddhist faith, and have a great desire to speak English,” tell missionaries Todd and Pam Attaway. “We decided to make our first topic 'Love' and selected 1 Corinthians 13 as our guide for each week for several months. During our conversations we could feel the Lord working and planting seeds for these students, opening their minds and hearts. We witnessed the ability of the Living Word to speak Truth, even to those who do not yet know him.”



You have a calling that might surprise you

Your unique place in mission may have to do with someone else's call.



"As I look back on my ministry, I realize that my own calling was a process of a series of events. . . Wonderful men and women encouraged a mixed-up young adult to serve and grow," writes President Max Wilkins, shown here at his ministry ordination with Dr. G. Odell Miley and Dr. R. Earle Rabb who, remembers Max, "were significant pastoral mentors for me."

"Do you think God might be calling you to the ministry?" I'd only been following Jesus for a few months and yet this was the fourth person to ask me the same question. To be honest, I wasn't sure what to make of it. On the one hand, since Jesus was now my Lord, I wanted to be obedient to whatever He wanted from my life. And I already had a vague sense that all Christ followers were "called" to ministry. On the other hand, this question seemed to point towards something more. How could I discern? Was God supposed to speak to me in a burning bush? Was I supposed to have some undeniable divine revelation? And what about the plans I had for my life? To be honest, I wasn't at all sure I wanted to be called to the ministry!

In a moment of sincere prayer over

the issue, I did a seemingly frivolous thing. I said to the Lord, "It's 1981. If you want to call me to the ministry, please call me on the phone!" Assuming that would settle the matter, I prayed for a bit longer and then went calmly to sleep.

Betty calling

The next day around noon, I received a call at work. I was working as a chef at the time, and it was highly unusual to receive any calls, especially at lunch time. I actually thought to myself, *What if this is God!* Instead, it was Betty Leavitt, a wonderful Christian woman from the church I attended who led a musical outreach ministry called "Commissioned." She apologized for calling me at work, but explained that

the members of Commissioned wanted me to become their "spokesperson." She said, "We want someone who can share between songs, do some teaching, lead the commitment time at the end of our concerts, and maybe even share some pastoral ministry with the members of the group. In fact, I guess we're sort of asking you to be our group's minister."

I was really taken aback. I asked Betty why she was calling me now. She said that the group had met late the evening before and "the Lord just put your name of our hearts. We felt like God was telling us to ask you." So, at the same time that I had been praying, somewhat facetiously, asking the Lord to call me on the phone, God was prompting a whole group of people I hardly knew to call me on the phone. It seemed close

enough for me! I accepted the position with Commissioned and began pursuing ordained ministry as a “calling.”

Of course, I would later learn that God uses a multitude of means to call people. And it is rarely ever a singular event that points to a calling. Henry Blackaby, whose *Experiencing God* study has impacted countless thousands of Christ followers, says, “God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.” And it is almost always a combination of all of these areas that affirms the call of God in someone’s life.

Jesus calling

The Bible certainly asserts that all believers are called to ministry. In the Great Commission Jesus says, “Go and make disciples. . . .” The command in this passage is not to go; it is to “make disciples.” A more accurate translation might be, “As you are going, make disciples.” Jesus simply assumes that all of His followers will be going, ministering, serving. In that sense we are all called. But the specifics of the calling vary from person to person. Thus, the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-12, “And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ. . . .” Some are called to be pastors and teachers, some evangelists, and some clearly are called to the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ.

But the body of Christ also has a significant role in helping people discern their call, in affirming that call, and in helping to mobilize and deploy people for kingdom service. Hebrews 10:24

says, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. . . .” Interesting that we are called to “spur” one another on!

Community calling

I had the amazing opportunity earlier this year to accompany a group of working cowmen as they drove cattle across a large ranch in southwest Florida. I was given a very well-trained horse to ride. He almost always knew what he was supposed to do with very little direction from me. There were only three situations that required me to lightly spur

“The body of Christ also has a significant role in helping people discern their call, in affirming that call, and in helping to mobilize and deploy people for kingdom service.”

the horse. He needed to be spurred to get him going. He needed to be spurred when his pace had started to lag, and he needed to be spurred on occasion when his own interests would cause him to want to divert from the path.

Clearly the author of Hebrews understood that the community of believers sometimes needs to spur one another on in ministry and mission. We need to help each other get going, help each other keep up the pace, and help each other stay on the right path, focused on the right mission. That means each of us will sometimes be the one being spurred

on, and at times be the one encouraging and spurring on the others.

The Mission Society exists to mobilize and deploy the body of Christ, globally. The role of mobilizing is one we share with all believers. We are the community of the called and the calling.

As I look back at my ministry, I realize that my own calling was a process of a series of events. My father dedicated my life to the Lord when I was still an infant. A pastor modeled a wonderful, sacrificial ministry when I was a small boy. An older man, a total stranger to me, put his hand on my shoulder in church when I was only 14 years old and said, “I believe the Lord wants you to preach His Word.”

Another pastor said, “I think you should listen; the Lord may be calling you to be a pastor.” Wonderful men and women encouraged a mixed-up young adult to serve and grow, and others invested resources in that growth. And then, Betty Leavitt called me on the phone. (Or was it God calling?) I’m so grateful for all who were involved in the process.

Are you wrestling with the call of God in your own life, sensing a vocational ministry or a career in mission might be in your future? I encourage you to pray and discern the Word, but also to submit to the spurring process of the body of Christ. Are you already walking out a calling in your life that you know is from the Lord? Remember that you are also called to be a mobilizer. Won’t you join us as we mobilize and deploy the body of Christ globally? After all, that is a calling we can all be sure we have from the Lord! †

The Rev. Max Wilkins is president and CEO of The Mission Society.



Blessed Unrest

*Discerning the call of God along life's journey:
An interview with Dr. David Seamands*

Scripture is packed with stories of people set in motion for particular tasks. Consider Moses, Nehemiah, Rahab, Peter, and the list goes on and on. God is all about mobilization. As such, The Mission Society is too.

Mobilizing God's people is a sacred work. There is much involved—listening, interpreting, trusting. Discerning God's call can seem complicated.

Several years ago, we interviewed the now-late Dr. David Seamands on the sometimes troubling business of discerning God's call. Since then, this interview has become a resource for those seeking divine guidance. If you or someone you know is at a fork in the road or sensing a disquieting of heart, don't miss this.

"I wanted to be a doctor. But after my conversion (in my early teen years) there began to be a deepening inner conviction—the voice of the Holy Spirit—that I was called to be a preacher, an evangelist, and in India! Oh, and I did not like the idea of India, so I battled with God for several months. But from the moment I yielded, there was a peace and a certainty in my life," says Dr. David Seamands, speaking about his call. A missionary to India for 16 years, Seamands would later serve for 22 years in pastoral ministry and for eight years as professor of pastoral ministries at Asbury Theological Seminary. He passed away in 2006.

Why do we Christians talk about callings? Is there a biblical basis for God's calling people to a particular task?

First of all, God has a general call for all people and that is to salvation; God calls all people to Himself. Then all Christians have a call—to be a witness. But beyond that, some people are called by God into a particular service. Look, for example, at the way Paul begins nearly all the epistles. Romans 1:1 says, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God." I Corinthians 1 reads, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." In Galatians 1:1: "Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities—but through Jesus Christ and God the Father." In Colossians Paul begins, "Paul, an apostle by the will of God." Paul was set apart; he had a particular call on his life.

Why are people called of God?

God's method of doing things in this world is to bless the many through the few. We can see this with the story of Abraham. God called Abraham and said to him, "Your spiritual descendants are going to be like the stars in

the heavens." God set Abraham apart and blessed him in order that He could bless many other people through Abraham. God reaches through one—or a few—to everyone. Of course, the ultimate example of this is God's working through one, His only begotten Son, Jesus, to bless the whole world.

What have been God's biblical methods for calling people?

There are examples in the Bible of God's speaking directly to a person or communicating in some dramatic way, like Moses' burning bush experience or Paul's Damascus Road experience.

"The idea that God has only one thing in mind that you can do—that if you miss that you've missed everything—is one of the most damnable ways of thinking. God is far more ingenious, creative, and original than that."

—David Seamands

But there is also biblical precedence for an individual's being called by their realizing a need and responding to it. I think of Nehemiah, the cupbearer of the king, who heard the terrible stories of what was happening in Jerusalem, how the walls were all broken and the gates were burned. Realizing the need is what impelled Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. The need became his call. Then you have illustrations of God's calling individuals to a particular task before they were born, like Jeremiah.

Do you believe God still uses some of those methods for calling people?

Yes. In fact my father's missionary call was like the Apostle Paul's. My parents were missionaries to India for 40 years, and my father was called to be a missionary in India before he was even converted. He was an engineering student at the University of Cincinnati, and he was visiting a holiness camp-meeting—Camp Sychar. It was missionary day, and the missionary speaking was a bishop from China. He told about China's need for roads and bridges, how engineering there was so backward. And my father, who was sitting in the last row, thought to himself, "I know what I will do; I will go to China, and I'll make a million dollars building roads over there." And then, my father says, in an instant, up in the air, over the platform, there appeared in silvery letters I-N-D-I-A.

My father was so angry he got up and left the service. But that vision never left him. He became a civil engineer, was converted, and went to India and became the great builder in the Methodist Church in South India. He led thousands to Christ, and he built hospitals and schools and more than 100 churches.

Lesslie Newbigin's call was more like Nehemiah's. Newbigin, a contemporary of my father's, was a young student in Britain when someone told him about the need for a young person to go to India just for a year for a particular task. Newbigin thought travel to India would be a good experience for a year, so he went. And he ended up spending his whole life there. He became one of the great British missionaries to India. In fact, he became one of only a handful of foreigners who was elected bishop of the Church of South India. His call was completely different. He went and saw the need, and that became his call.

5 WAYS GOD GUIDES US

1 Commanding scripture
2 Tim. 3:16
Ps. 119:105, 130-133

2 Compelling spirit
John 10:3
Acts 13:1-3
Phil. 2:13
1 Sam. 3:4-14

3 Common sense
Ps. 32:8-9
2 Tim. 2:7

4 Counsel of the saints
Prov. 12: 15; 15:22; 20:18

5 Circumstantial signs
Prov. 16:9
Acts 16:7
1 Cor. 16:9

Taken from *Why am I here? Is there more to life than this?*, the Alpha Guide, published by Alpha International and Holy Trinity Brompton Road, London.

How can a person discern God's call?

I remember some Christian saint using the illustration that the secret to sailing a ship into a harbor at night is to line up certain lights. The captain doesn't just say, "There's the harbor and I'm going in." The captain lines up the lights. What are those lights for us as we're seeking guidance? The answer: The Word of God, the open and closed

doors (our circumstances), the inner voice of God, our particular gifts and talents, and the corporate wisdom of the body of Christ. I think that is very important. Remember Paul's reminding Timothy that "this gift was given to you by the laying on of hands." The church obviously had a part in the selection of Timothy.

Is there any way to test or confirm a call?

I think the ultimate confirmation is when there is great joy in carrying out the call. I didn't say there would be great success, but there will be great, great joy and a feeling like you are exactly where you belong, even in suffering.

When what we feel we are being asked to do is something we don't want to do, is that a way we can be certain it's God's calling?

I think we must be very careful about this. I've counseled many people who, unfortunately, ended up on the mission field out of a sense of guilt and with the idea that in order to please God, they had to do something they didn't want to do. To think that God calls us to make us miserable would be a wrong concept of God; we would be saying that God is only happy when He's making us unhappy.

If an individual doesn't respond to God's call (or if doors start closing), has he or she "blown it"?

No, that's a very false notion. The idea that God has only one thing in mind that you can do—that if you miss that you've missed everything—is one of the most damnable ways of thinking. God is far more ingenious, creative, and original than that. He's got a million ideas, and He and you together can work them out. God will ultimately accomplish His work, maybe even more creatively.

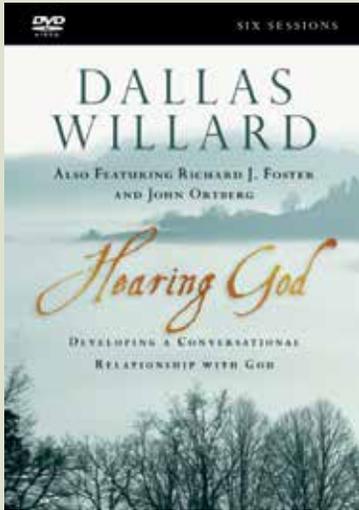
My life is an example of that. I was called to be a missionary to India when I was about 15 years old. Helen, who would become my wife, also had a call to missionary service. And so once we were married, we went to India and served there for 16 years. But a medical situation in our family made it necessary for us to end our career there and come to the States.

When I said goodbye to Helen and my son in the Bombay airport (I would be coming to the States in a several months), we hugged and wept, and Helen said to me, "I don't think you can ever be happy doing anything except being a missionary in India; that is your calling." To which I very piously and seriously answered, "Yes, honey, I think you're right. I will never be happy doing anything else but being a missionary." But if the Lord laughs, I'm sure it was one of those times when He was laughing His head off.

I arrived home on May 26, and on June 8, I was appointed by the Kentucky Annual Conference to be pastor of Wilmore United Methodist Church. And the next 22 years serving in the pastorate in Wilmore, plus the following eight years teaching in the seminary, were among the happiest years of our lives.

So can an individual have more than one calling?

If someone would have told me 50 years ago that I was going to end up in counseling, I would have said, "You're crazy. That's impossible for me. I have no talent for that." God called me to be a preacher/evangelist and a missionary to India. But in India he prepared me for another calling in pastoral counseling. You see, for the first 10 years of our time in India, we were in village evangelism—preaching, baptizing new believers, and planting congregations. But for the last six years of our time in



For your next small group: *Hearing God*

A six-session, small-group study on Dallas Willard's classic, *Hearing God*, is now available on DVD

How do we hear God's voice? How can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own subconscious? What role does the Bible play? What if what God says to us is not clear? The key, says best-selling author Dallas Willard, is to focus not so much on individual actions and decisions as on building our personal relationship with our Creator.

In this DVD, you and your group can listen in as John Ortberg and Richard Foster dialogue with Dallas Willard on the themes of his book, *Hearing God*. A small-group discussion guide is also included, making it easy for group leaders to lead discussion after the video. Read Willard's book, *Hearing God*, together, and then bring Ortberg, Foster and Willard to your next meeting.

Hearing God, DVD, is available at Christianbook.com and Amazon.com. A sample video is available on YouTube. Search: *Hearing God*, DVD.

India, we were sent to the great city of Bangalore, which is today a center for the computer industry.

This is where God pushed me into pastoral counseling—absolutely pushed me with a forklift and a Caterpillar tractor. The people there began to come to me with marital problems, emotional problems, mental problems. I was unable to help these people. It hit me like a ton of bricks that my more or less oversimplified gospel, which communicated very well in the villages, just didn't work here. So in desperation I ordered scores of books from the States, and I began to study the writings of Christian counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists. That study prepared me for the way God would use me next—in pastoral counseling.

So you think if we are seeking to be obedient to God's direction, He will use all of who we are—our gifts and talents and experiences?

He will use everything you are and everything that has ever happened to you. Dr. Brand is the famous Welsh doctor who was a missionary to India. He became the world specialist for reconstructive surgery on lepers and

a noted expert on the human hand. But before he went to medical school, he worked as a carpenter for five years. In his book, *Pain: the Gift No One Wants*, he tells that for many years he thought he had wasted five years being a carpenter. But he would come to realize it was his early experience as a carpenter that

"If our gospel does not free the individual up for a unique life of spiritual adventure in living with God daily, we simply have not entered fully into the good news that Jesus brought."

—from *Hearing God* by Dallas Willard

was the key to his being able to invent the prosthesis for restoring the lepers' hands and feet.

So you want to say to every Christian that if you are obedient to what you understand to be God's leading,

He will use every bit of who you are for His glory?

Absolutely. Including the bad experiences. I call that 50/20 vision. That comes from Genesis 50:20. After Joseph had been thrown in the well by his brothers, sold into slavery, unjustly accused by Potiphar's wife, languished in a dungeon, had spent 13 years of trial after trial, he became prime minister of all of Egypt. In this verse he says to his brothers, "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God has turned it for good, for the saving of many lives." That's 50/20 vision. That is the best vision—seeing that God is able to take everything and use it as grist in His mill, to make us into what He wants us to be for His glory. †

The late Rev. Dr. David Seamands was instrumental in the beginnings of the Evangelical Missions Council, which would later give way to The Mission Society, and is one of its founding board members. This interview, conducted by Ruth A. Burgner and first published by The Mission Society in 1996, became a resource distributed to those inquiring about missionary service.



May your
love live on

For help on how to include The Mission Society in your will, please contact your attorney/tax advisor or Denny Brown, Vice President for Mission Advancement, at 1.800.478.8963, ext. 9037, or dbrown@themissionsociety.org.



Living life with purpose

While helping missionaries discern God's guidance, mobilizer Kate Hilderbrandt discovered that "calling" might be only one piece of a larger picture.

God crashed into my 15-year-old heart during a team worship session on a short-term trip to Guatemala. We were singing "Amazing Grace," when someone started on the third verse. My first thought was, *Who sings the third verse?* Growing up in a semi-traditional Methodist church, we had only ever sung verses one, two, and six of this hymn. After a second, I focused in on the words:

*"Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."*

It was then that I heard God speak directly to my heart for one of the very few times in my life. These words resounded: "Your life with Me will never be easy, but I promise it will be a great adventure." I was puzzled. These were not the words I expected to hear on my second trip overseas. I was hoping for something more like, "Stay in Guatemala forever!" or "Congratulations! You're a missionary!" I wanted to know that I was called. My heart longed to know my place in the world. Instead of my idea of a "calling," all I got in that moment was an assurance that my life would be a hard, great adventure.

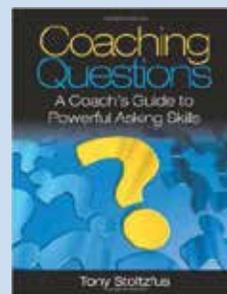
Purpose bigger than a calling

Calling is important. But what if calling were just one part of something even greater that God is shaping in us throughout our life story?

As a part of a two-year coaching certification program, I've spent some considerable time looking at "life purpose." Designed by Tony Stoltzfus, a master life and leadership coach, the program takes a broad view on life purpose. The model looks at four areas: design, preparation, passion, and calling. Purpose is found at the center, or convergence, of the four.

Allegiance: Whose am I?

It is almost impossible to look at purpose without looking to God. (Those who recognize their lives in connection with God and His purposes for the world will see a very different picture than those who do not.) When determining your allegiance—which encircles the four areas of purpose—ask yourself these questions: *Who is really in control? When it comes to money, recognition, relationships, and self-image, whom do you trust most?* Review your identity in Christ and remember that trust is a process. Place yourself in God's care, knowing that He wants good for you.



Several Mission Society missionaries have been trained in coaching and engage in peer-to-peer coaching even across many time zones. If you would like to learn more about coaching, check out: ***Coaching Questions: a guide to powerful asking skills.***

Design: Who am I?

I believe the most beautiful thing about our God is how creative He is, in the universe, but especially with humans. He creates each one of us with so many unique attributes, gifts, and talents. These are meant to be our unique contribution to the body of Christ and to the world around us. What are your unique gifts and strengths, your personality preferences, your values and quirks? Ask God: How does the way He created you reflect who He is in the world? How does your individual makeup allow others to understand His heart for them?

Passion: Why do I desire this?

Passion may ebb and flow throughout different seasons of your life, yet passion is a very important clue to purpose. Your passions come from a deep place in you that is connected to your own design and life experiences. Passions are often released as a response to your values coming up against the problems or injustices in the world. What energizes you or drains you? What values matter most to you and what injustices incite you to movement? What are your big dreams and what are your “soapbox issues”? The answers to these will point you to your passions.



Preparation: What has my life prepared me for?

In order to discern what your life has prepared you for, pay attention to themes and messages. Themes may show up as groups of acquired skills, or experiences, or even knowledge and expertise in a certain subject. Messages may come clear as you remember what God taught you during a particular season of work or ministry, how He showed Himself to you or shaped you during that time. As you process your preparation, be sure to notice jobs and tasks in which you felt you excelled. Looking back on your life so far, what experiences stand out to you and how are they connected? Do you see a theme? How have those experiences shaped you?

Calling: Where is the Master sending me?

“Where” can be both literal and metaphorical as you look at calling. Calling can come as a one-time event (as with David in 1 Samuel) or as a slow unfolding of what one is to do and become (like Abraham). It comes through different channels and at different ages, yet it almost always takes many years of preparation to come to full fruition.

This graph is inspired by the Life Purpose Model in *A Leader's Life Purpose Handbook: Calling and Destiny Discovery Tools for Christian Life Coaching*, by Tony Stoltzfus, published by Coach22 (2009).

Great adventure

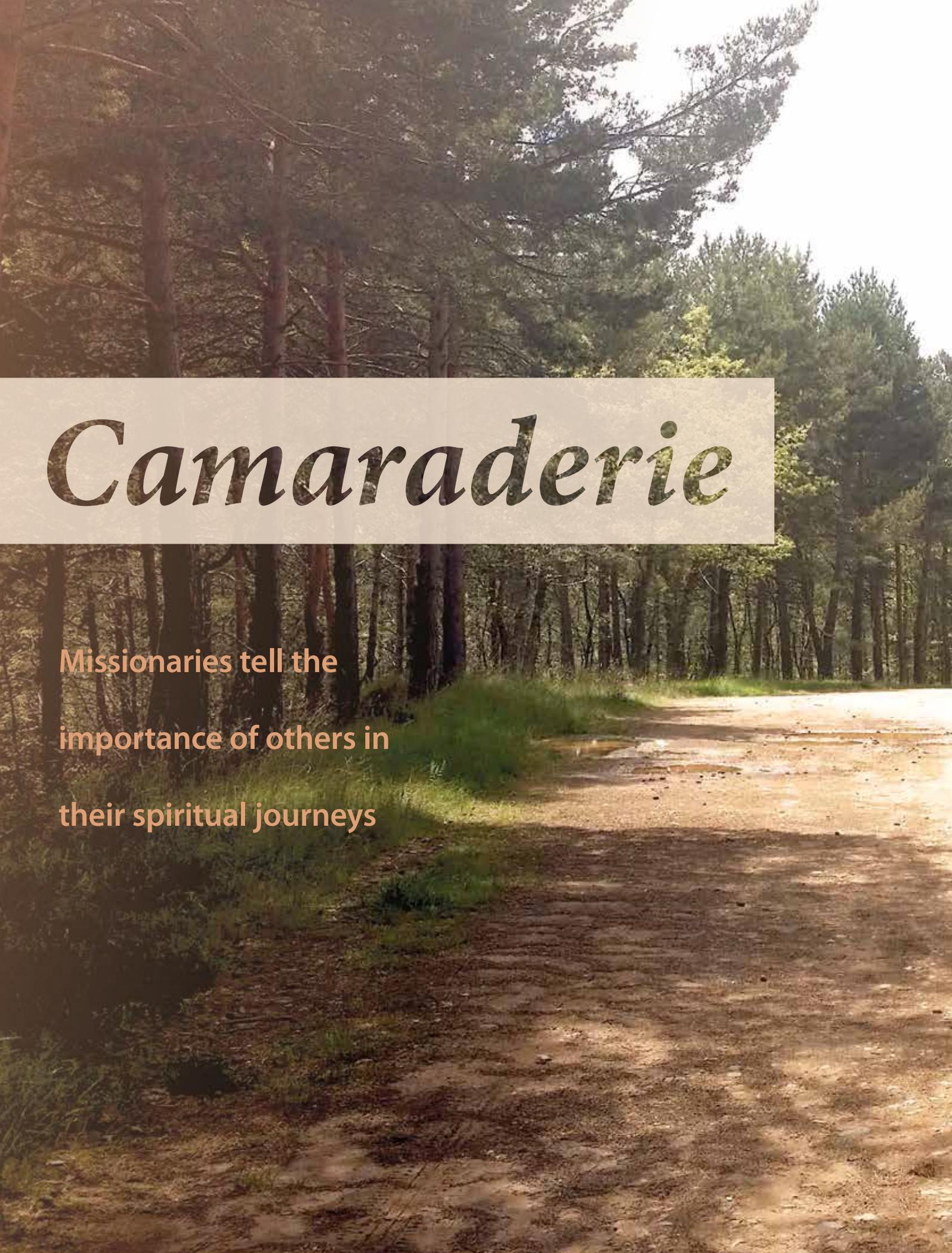
The coaching program responsible for developing this chart mostly serves mission organizations and missionaries—people who are generally searching for their “calling.” As I’ve used this model to guide coaching conversations, it has been a privilege to hear story after story of missionaries more fully understanding, not only their calling, but their larger purpose. Lives—including my own—have been transformed, as we come to better understand that God has designed, prepared, given passions to, and called each of us to be a unique reflection of Him to the nations as we do various tasks over a lifetime.

My life has been, and continues to be, a great adventure. My calling has not looked like I thought it would, but it has been exciting to see it unfolding. I’m smiling to myself while

writing this—a 31-year-old sitting in a coffee shop in Norcross, Georgia. I never thought that this is where I would be, helping many others along the process as they look for their purpose and calling in the next season of life. I’ve crossed the country twice to get here, and I’ll probably be crossing oceans before I’m done. I look forward to where my purpose will take me, the people I will get to know, the tasks I will be called to do and, most importantly, how God will form me in the process. †

Kate Hilderbrandt is The Mission Society's coordinator of mobilization and candidacy and is a certified, professional life-coach, through Coaching Mission International.



A photograph of a dirt road winding through a pine forest. The road is in the foreground, leading into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with green needles. The sky is bright. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the title.

Camaraderie

Missionaries tell the
importance of others in
their spiritual journeys



We are made for connection. In fact, we are fashioned in the image of a community—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But when it comes to major junctures in our life journey, we can sometimes think we have to figure it out alone, forgetting that the community around us is a resource.

We asked some of our missionaries to tell the story of their call to missions, and how they were helped by others—or helped others—in recognizing God’s direction. May their stories inspire us to stay in the company of God’s people as we walk along our life’s way.

“Want to come along?”

I’m pretty sure that’s how it all started. That’s how almost anything we do starts.

Thomas Couch (*see page 17*) was a college student who spent time working with our church’s youth group. We had two adolescent sons in the youth group, so we were acquainted with Thomas and the other youth workers.

One year, we were getting ready for our summer trip. Our family had spent several years doing mission work on the Texas-Mexico border. For three months every summer, we would pack up and

About the photo: This summer, missionary Billy Drum walked Spain’s Camino de Santiago, which is considered one of the most important and most traveled pilgrimage routes in history. See Billy’s blog about his journey at <http://tinyurl.com/n26nvsp>.



Laurie and Billy Drum lived among the Quechua Wanca people in rural Peru for five years. They now live in Spain where they serve the immigrant population while working alongside the local Spanish church. The Drums—both certified teachers, trainers, Christian life and leadership coaches, and counselors—also serve other cross-cultural witnesses through member care and leadership development.

move to the border. We (Billy and Laurie Drum) were in charge of the college-age summer internship.

Mexico summers

College students would volunteer to spend their summers helping to facilitate mission teams. It is a tough job for these kids—5:00 a.m. mornings preparing for the day, working all day in the 104 degree Mexican desert, then back to base camp where they ran an evening program of music, worship, and Bible teaching, finally falling into their bunks at midnight after prepping for the next day. There aren't too many college kids who volunteer to work that schedule all summer!

Through a few casual conversations, we knew that Thomas had a heart for serving and a huge heart for God. He also had nothing substantial planned for his summer, so we said, "Want to come along?" And he did! Thomas committed to try it out, so we set him up for a two-week, get-your-feet-wet period.

Our job as intern directors was to walk alongside these students as they worked all summer. We had morning devotional time together. We spent most of our hours in the day together. We wrestled with the things that they wrestled with. Every evening, we debriefed the day and talked about where God was in it, and also about where we were with God in

the process of our own lives as disciples. We did a lot of laughing together, and we did a lot of crying together.

Thomas' two-week period flew by, and we asked him if he wanted to continue through the rest of the summer. And he did!

Peru visits

That was so many years ago, I honestly can't figure it out to count it. Thomas became a part of us that summer, and has remained so to this day. We stayed close and we continued to learn and grow in Christ with him. When we joined The Mission Society and headed out to Peru for our first term of service, we asked Thomas to serve on our home team as an anchor for us in Texas.

Thomas married his incredible wife, Karen, while we were in Peru. We had known Karen for a while as well, as she had also been a college-age youth worker in our home church. She was now the youth director of that same youth group. They came to Peru to visit us and spent two weeks learning about our work and the country. For the next two years, the

Couches brought a team of youth to work with us.

We have watched Thomas and Karen's hearts grow deeper and deeper in their faith and in their love of God and of service. For the past couple of years, Billy and I would look at each other and wink and say, "One day, they'll take that step and be in full-time mission service."

Full-time missions

When we were back in Texas for furlough last year, we taught a six-week intensive mission class at our church, as well as a separate six-week inductive Bible study on missional scriptures. Thomas and Karen were the first to sign up. And each week, Thomas met with Billy for lunch and coaching. Somewhere during that time, the words finally came. "We think we're ready. We're thinking about full-time missions."

I'm pretty sure it all started with, "Want to come along?" †

More to know: Rise of Spanish-speaking missionaries

Billy and Laurie Drum are among 31 Mission Society missionaries who reach or teach Spanish-speaking peoples in eight countries. They are involved in everything from child evangelism to missionary training. All of them work alongside or under the leadership of national believers, using their gifts and skills to invite their Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters to "come along" or, as Jesus put it, "Come and see" what it means to follow Jesus to the ends of the earth.

It is estimated that by 2020, there will be 32,000 Iberoamerican missionaries serving cross-culturally (COMIBAM III Research Project).



Thomas and Karen Couch were commissioned as Mission Society missionaries in 2013. They—along with their daughters—plan to use their training and skills in civil engineering, ministry, and music to share the message of Jesus among the community with whom they will live.

When the dream starts to seem daunting

God's call to missions can cause apprehension. For this young couple, mentors in missions remarkably reappeared in their lives—and coached them through the scary part.

Prior to our meeting in college, while working at our church, Karen and I were both involved in various short-term missions, both locally and internationally. Karen had been invited on a trip to Guyana and ended up going back twice during her college years to teach worship through music. I took a week-long trip to Mexico as a youth volunteer, which Billy and Laurie Drum helped organize. They quickly convinced me to join them for the summer with a mission organization, running week-long camps at the border. So Karen and I had each had a taste of what it was to devote our lives to sharing the good news of Christ, and we were hooked.

During our dating relationship, full-time mission work was a non-negotiable for both of us, but because we didn't know the details of how this would work itself out, full-time missions remained a distant dream.

Regular living

After college I took a job as a civil engineer.

Karen became the head youth director at our church, and we sought out how to bring glory to God in our day-to-day lives (Karen, generally, with more success than myself). Because we were members of the Drums' support team, and since Karen and I are adventurers at heart, it was only natural that we would visit the Drums during their time as cross-cultural workers in Peru. Billy and Laurie's love for the people captured our hearts, and the following two years we brought a team of high school students to Peru to join in missions with them and experience Jesus movements in another culture.

We received momentary glimpses of the joy of following Jesus in His mission full-time. But maybe because of the Spirit's nudging or maybe because of some fear on our parts (probably some of both), we felt the time had not yet come to make a major change in our lives.

Living the dream

Not long afterwards, the Drums were back in the US during a time of transition from Peru to Spain. Despite their busy schedule

of training, planning, and paperwork, they spent time pouring into the people of our church—into us. Billy and Laurie led a six-week class on the movements of God in “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” It was eye-opening to see how people were turning to Jesus in unexpected places and ways, while in other parts of the world where Christianity had once thrived, Jesus had become a faint memory.

Our eyes were being opened to see how God was preparing people groups all over the world to know the good news of Jesus. We could not put off the call to join Him full-time in His mission. Billy and Laurie continued their support by coaching us through our decisions—helping us to sort out our thoughts, hopes, and fears, and to take an objective look at where we were, where we've been, and what comes next. We are currently in the training process to be cross-cultural workers and are seeking the Lord to see where our passions line up with the mission of our great, Redeemer God. †

More to know: Our missionaries' diverse ministries

Whether you are called to stay or go, the purpose, writes Thomas Couch, is still the same—to “bring glory to God in our daily lives.” Many Mission Society missionaries serve in engineering, medicine, accounting, counseling, education, and agriculture to “bring glory to God” in places around the world.

Eleven more missionaries currently preparing to serve internationally, like the Couches, will use their vocational skills to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of people in India, Africa, and Eastern Europe.



Natalie Brown has just returned from a one-year term in Haiti, where she taught English as a second language and assisted the staff of Living Hope missions, managing projects and helping to host short-term teams. She is shown here with Haitian young men who, she tells, “became like my sons.”

When many years go by

A conversation with a missionary at a women’s retreat changed Natalie’s life. For 17 years, she held to the missions call. When she finally got to the field, she realized why it had taken so long.

Seventeen years ago I was invited to a women’s retreat with my sister. I could never have dreamed that that retreat would be a life-changing experience. While there, I met a woman who was on her way to Africa for five years with her husband. Then I realized that the Lord put us in the same room. (We were bunk bed mates!) The first night she talked about being a missionary, about raising support, and about how this would change her children’s lives. We talked about her buying clothes that were appropriate for Africa. In fact, we talked about a little bit of everything concerning missions that night. I remember lying in my bed and soaking up every word and storing it in my memory because, even though I had been following Jesus for years, I really did not have a clue about international missions.

No doubt

As I prayed over the next few days of the retreat, I went home knowing without a shadow of a doubt that the Lord was calling me to missions—and not just local missions. (I had always been involved locally.) Now God was calling me to a faraway place.

As the years went by, my life hit some rough spots. After 16 years of marriage, I

found myself in the middle of a divorce with four children to raise, ages 15, 11, 9, and 3! Even through this hard time, I never gave up on my call to be a missionary. I researched and read about missions for days, months, even years, always believing that someday I would be a missionary.

But there were times when I did not understand why nothing seemed to work out for me concerning missions. I applied to different organizations with little to no response. I must admit that sometimes my faith would waver, because years had gone by with nothing. My family would hear me talking about being a missionary; my years of journals are full of notes to myself, encouraging myself, reminding myself of what I knew to be true! I continued to raise my children and speak life to myself.

No hesitation

Then finally, seven years ago, the Lord opened a door for me. A friend asked me if I wanted to go on a missions trip to Haiti. Without even knowing where Haiti was, I said *yes!* I visited Haiti twice before the Lord told me this was the place where I

would serve.

I began to look for a sending agency, and I discovered The Mission Society. There, I found a home.

Five years ago I was approved to serve with The Mission Society; still, it took me years to finally reach the field. Seventeen years after I felt God first calling me to missions, the Lord finally told me why it took so long for me to get to this point. He showed me that raising my children was my first ministry. After the divorce, they needed my love and support more than anyone else. All four of my children are now happy, healthy, God-fearing adults.

No matter what

Today I am serving a one-year term in Haiti. My journey to this point has been a long but fulfilling one. No matter what life throws at you, if you know that you are called, stand on the promises of the Lord—no matter what! No matter how long it may seem, the Lord has not forgotten you! ✠

More to know: The first American missionary

The first American missionary was an African American. George Lisle’s calling as a preacher was affirmed by a white Baptist church which licensed him, and by his “master” who freed Lisle from slavery so that he might better serve Christ. But when others tried to re-enslave Lisle, he and his family sailed to Jamaica in 1782, where he did what he’d been doing in the US—preaching to slaves and planting churches.

Besides Natalie Brown, four African American missionaries serve with The Mission Society. They minister in Paraguay, Namibia, and Kenya.



Josh and Bekah Hiltz will serve in Bangkok, Thailand, where they will love and minister to those who are exploited through Thailand's sex industry. "Our aim is to see enslaved men, women, and children freed to follow Jesus and to walk with them on their journey of becoming His life-long disciples."

When you don't want to wait

They sensed the call and felt the urgency to go, but the word from mentors was "not yet." Without that word, they tell, "we may never have made it."

While I (Bekah) was in Bible College, I heard a message from a cross-cultural worker who lived in Asia among women and children who were subjected to sexual exploitation. While listening to the stories of brokenness and injustice, God's Spirit tenderly spoke to me, "Bekah, My precious sons and daughters whom I created in my image are being deceived, abused, and oppressed. What is your response to this?"

The clear call

Following graduation I resolved to move to Bangkok, Thailand, to serve and live among the vulnerable. During that same year, my then-boyfriend (now-husband), Josh, moved to Australia to continue his studies in ministry. While Josh was in Australia, the church he attended started a campaign to spread awareness about the issue of sex trafficking.

Throughout that season Josh and I communicated back and forth, discerning what we sensed our roles as Christ-followers should be in regards to this injustice. The deeper our community connected with those who were being exploited, the more clearly we saw ourselves in their stories. We realized more acutely that we, like them, are broken, scarred by shame, and in des-

perate need of Jesus. We prayed continually during that season and felt God impress in us His calling to build our lives together among the exploited.

The pause

In 2011, after marrying, I was ready to return to Thailand in a heartbeat. But when we sought the wisdom of our pastors and mentors, they spoke to us saying, "Wait. Wait a year before you go on the mission field." *What?! I thought to myself. Wait? But we are ready to go now!* Truthfully, if it weren't for this wise counsel, we may have never made it on the field.

Our mentors were right. That first year of marriage was a huge transition and, honestly, God had much pruning to do in our lives. We needed that first year to grow together, be on our knees, and learn how to minister to each other before serving overseas.

The all-clear

Exactly one year later, on our first anniversary, we attended the Passion Conference with our church community. It was here

we felt God had released us into ministry. In 2013, we took a vision trip back to Thailand; we rented a small room above a Thai market and went on outreach in the Red Light districts. We rekindled our friendships with several street kids and women we knew from the past. Each night we prayed through Isaiah 58. God clearly exclaimed to us, "This is what I want from you—remove the chains of injustice; set the oppressed free; share your food with the hungry; bring the wanderer in; clothe the naked."

If it weren't for the wisdom and encouragement from our mentors and our communion with God, we would not have felt released to go back to Thailand. We look forward to being back in relationship with our Thai friends, and joyfully anticipate our return in the spring of 2015. ✠

More to know: Preventing sex trafficking in Thailand

One out of 236 people is a victim of human trafficking. Twenty percent are children, although in parts of Africa and Asia, children make up 100 percent of trafficking victims. In Thailand, famous for sex tourism, 90 percent of these children come from the northeast region of Issan. To Mission Society missionaries in Thailand, these are not just statistics; they are neighbors. These two missionary families work in Issan to prevent trafficking by providing education, godly family role models, and by showing the love of God and sharing the power of the gospel with the vulnerable children of Issan.

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair and black-rimmed glasses, smiling warmly. She is holding a white ceramic cup of coffee with a latte art design on top. The background is dark and out of focus.

JAVA POWER

How a cup of coffee and an hour with a friend can make a difference in the world

While my job is to oversee the mobilization efforts of The Mission Society, I am not the only one who does the work of mobilization. In fact, most of the candidates who come through my department are not people I actively recruited. It's true. The work of mobilization requires a team effort.

You've 'bean' invited

I invite you to join the mobilization work of The Mission Society. You don't have to be an extrovert, and you don't need to travel across the country. You don't even have to stand at a display booth and pass out candy. God can work through you right where you are within your existing networks. After all, it is through existing relationships that most of our missionary candidates come to us.

'Espresso' your love by listening

Let's say that you've accepted this invitation. Now let's get you equipped. First things first. Remember your aim. God desires that people all over the world would come to know Him, love Him, and worship Him. Thus, your work is ultimately for Him. Every mobilizer must know that God Himself is the Lord of the harvest, and He is the one who raises up laborers. Keeping this in mind, you can play a very valu-

"I invite you to join the mobilization work of The Mission Society. You don't have to be an extrovert, and you don't need to travel across the country."

able role. Assess your relationships: family, friends, fellow churchgoers, coworkers, etc. Think of people who are constantly and consistently growing in their faith; aware and interested in people, cultures, and the world around them; and teachable (life-long learners). These are the kinds of people we would like to see partner with The Mission Society.

When you identify a person with these qualities, engage that person in conversation and listen to her (or his) story. Although she may not explicitly talk about a call to missions, do you see within her the gifts and graces to be a missionary? If so, let her know about the ways she may

possibly be a good fit for the ministry of The Mission Society. Remember, your goal isn't to be a "recruiter" for The Mission Society. Mobilizers don't consider themselves recruiters. "Recruiter" calls to mind someone who does what is best for the company even if it might not be in the best interest of the individual. "Missions coach" or "mobilizer" conveys a different message. Our work is to help God's people discern their calling, and we will do everything in our power to help them find the right opportunity, even if it's not with our organization.

'Latte' us help you

Since this is teamwork, let us know how our mobilization team can support you in

your efforts. We can send you a gift card to take that person out for coffee. We can supply a list of questions to help as you engage your friend in conversation. We can even come to you, if you can gather a group of people who are interested. In other words, you are not alone in this.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to partner with the mobilization department. Together, we can help in God's work of mobilizing His workers for His harvest. †

Richard Coleman is The Mission Society's senior director of mobilization and candidacy. You can contact the mobilization team at Mobilization@themissionsociety.org or 1.800.478.8963.

Choices

Options for missions service with The Mission Society

Mission Explorers

are cross-cultural witnesses (missionaries) who commit to serve for two years on a Mission Society field. Minimum age for applying is 21.

Career Missionaries

commit to a minimum of five years. The first five-year term includes language and culture learning (year one), as well as up to a year for partnership development on home assignment. Minimum age for applying is 21.

GreenLight Interns

(ages 19-25) enter into a 2-18 month mentoring relationship with one of our career missionaries or other ministry partners. For more about GreenLight, see pages 22-27.

Global Resource Team

(GRT) members are based in the US. They have specialty skills and use their expertise globally, directing efforts or collaborating on projects with other ministries.



Go explore >>>>>>>>>>
the GreenLight Internship.



This new internship program is helping mobilize long-term missionaries and shape tomorrow's Church.

The Mission Society's GreenLight Internship Program officially launched in January 2013. Designed for people ages 19-25, this ministry offers interns an experience in a cross-cultural setting for 2-18 months.

Different from earlier programs (that simply offered opportunities to anyone wanting to experience cross-cultural missions for a short period), the GreenLight Internship focuses on young people seriously exploring a life in missions, pairing them with mentors committed to speaking into their lives.

"These changes have resulted in many positive outcomes," says Kate Hilderbrandt, GreenLight director. For example, a few interns who have done two-month internships have returned for longer internships in order to experience more fully cross-cultural life and ministry. Three of these GreenLight interns have since applied for long-term mission ministry (two years or more).

Even interns who choose not to continue in full-time missions come away from their experience with life-shaping values. One couple, who learned discipleship training from their mentor, now hope to influence American churches toward higher levels of discipleship, especially among people of their generation. Another intern, now back in the States, works in children's ministry and teaches her kids about missions. Another now teaches Spanish and ESL in Chicago. She hopes to serve as a Mission Society missionary in the future, training missionaries in ESL techniques so that they can be even better prepared.

In the following, some former interns to India, Peru, Kenya, and Thailand tell how their short-lived experiences have been used of God to shape their lives for the long run.

Grounded

Culture shock hit early. Surrounded by unfamiliarity, this intern to India realized more fully her solid foundation.

Newly married, Mary and her husband (also a former Mission Society intern), plan to one day minister internationally. Presently, she is a caseworker in a mental health facility and he is a pastor in The United Methodist Church.*



I first became interested in Indian culture by reading post-colonial Indian literature and interacting with Indian students at my university in the fall of 2010. I was becoming enthralled by their culture and beginning to get a glimpse of how much I could learn from it. However, I would soon learn that it's difficult to grasp any aspect of a culture so different from your own until you step into it.

I was blessed to do an internship with The Mission Society in India. It was not until then that I realized how much culture shapes our perception of the world around us. Upon arriving, I was overwhelmed with the hospitality I encountered. I was falling in love with everything around me, and then the language barrier hit me like a ton of bricks.

The cook where my roommate and I were staying only spoke Telugu. We sat down to have our first meal, and I made sure to ask if anything had peanuts, since I am extremely allergic. I thought I had made it clear enough, so I began eating the most delicious dosas and chutney. Not long after the meal, I realized we had not communicated as effectively as we thought. Long story short, I ended up going to the hospital on my very first day in India!

"If I had not been equipped with the knowledge to understand what was actually happening to me, I doubt I would have had the amazing experience in India that I did."

It wasn't long after this that I realized how difficult being in another culture could be. Culture shock began to set in, and I felt like an infant with no idea how to maneuver in the world around me. Small things like social cues became difficult chores to process and remember, and when I asked some friends about the meaning of certain gestures, I would get different answers from different people!

Thankfully, I was surrounded by people who were patient and willing to teach me. I leaned on the wisdom I gained from the

wonderful staff at The Mission Society during my intern training. If I had not been equipped with the knowledge to understand what was actually happening to me, I doubt I would have had the amazing experience in India that I did. Being able to put a label on my confusion and frustration gave me hope. I could use the tools I was given in training to begin working through the culture shock and focus on serving Jesus and those around me.

I currently work as a caseworker in a mental health facility, and my time in India definitely influences how I interact with my clients. I learned how everyone is influenced by their culture, experiences, religion, and language, which helps me to have empathy for those with whom I currently work.

I also learned that Jesus is the only solid foundation on which we can ever stand. He transcends cultural barriers and yet also uses culture to demonstrate His many wonderful qualities. I am thankful to Him that He led me to India and taught me all that He did. ✝

**A pseudonym is used, because Mary and her husband may serve internationally in an area where security is a concern.*

Extreme discipleship

Discipleship is thrilling and sometimes dangerous, observe this intern couple whose lives were altered when they saw a town and jungle village transformed.



Having served a year in Peru, Brian and Jessie Monda are back in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Using the discipleship training they received and their passion for sharing Jesus, Jessie now works in children's ministry at La Croix United Methodist Church and Brian serves in community ministries.

As I write this, it was a year ago, almost to the day, that Brian and I arrived in Peru as part of the Greenlight Internship Program. We arrived with little expectations, a mixture of emotions, and a desire to see how God was working in Peru. Most importantly, we were going as learners. Brian and I wanted to learn more about discipleship and how it affects lives. Never did we expect to witness discipleship the way we did.

A definition of “discipleship” is: “An act of teaching and training others how to actively seek and follow Christ.” As we were being trained in discipleship and being discipled ourselves, I learned that it is much more than “teaching and training” others. It is thrilling! Lives are changed; sometimes lives are even risked, and the kingdom of God continues to grow because of it.

We saw discipleship at work when we visited the town of Iscos. A group of young ladies had opened a preschool in the hopes that they could use the school to share Christ with the children and their parents. The children started sharing with their parents different things they were learning at school. The parents started asking questions, and soon, parents were surrendering their lives to Christ. Now families all over the community are being discipled by these teachers, and the community is transforming. The families are excited. They

have seen their lives changed. And they continue to share with others so that the kingdom continues to grow.

We saw discipleship at work when we visited the Ashaninkan people in the village of Boca Anapati, deep in the Amazon jungle—a village with a history of violence, hatred, and anger. After a year of local missionaries living in the village and discipling the Ashaninkan people, the Ashaninkan people are loving and caring, and living every day for the Lord. They are no longer trapped in the hatred, violence, and anger that was living in them. And now they are risking their lives every day by sharing the gospel to other villages, so that the kingdom of God continues to grow.

Brian and I believe that discipleship is about training and teaching others how to actively seek and follow Christ, and we believe that to be a disciple is to be a learner. We also believe that to follow as disciples is to seek and follow the call of God, and that there is a cost. Discipleship calls you to a radical and risky life, but a life worth living. We saw this in the teachers in Iscos and in the people of Boca Anapati.

Brian and I are now moving back to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where we will bring what we have learned in Peru to our church family at La Croix United Methodist Church. ✠

“Discipleship calls you to a radical and risky life, but a life worth living.”

»»» A new stirring

A nudging from God stayed with her. A church mission event finally convinced her. After “testing her call” in Kenya, her life path now seems clear.

Having just completed her degree in social work, Amanda Haynes now serves as the assistant children’s director at First United Methodist Church in Alcoa, Tennessee. She plans to pursue a master’s in divinity and counseling with an eye toward one day serving overseas.



to go out with the teams as they served the community of Kinangop.”

“I had been so afraid to leave my family in Tennessee, but God had already established a family for me in Kenya. God demonstrated His love and grace for me repeatedly in Kenya through so many situations. He assured me that if

“I had felt like God was calling me to international missions since my senior year of high school, but I was too afraid and had plenty of excuses for why God had obviously picked the wrong person,” said Amanda. She was active in her local church and pursuing college, but her call to cross-cultural missions kept pulling at her heart.

After her church hosted a Global Impact Celebration with The Mission Society, “I knew that I couldn’t run anymore. I finally surrendered and told God that I was willing to go wherever He wanted me to go.”

She completed the application process with The Mission Society. “I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but the mobilization consultants at The Mission Society were wonderful. They suggested that I serve as an intern. It definitely put me at ease knowing that I could go somewhere for a couple of months and explore my call to missions.”

Amanda boarded a plane to Kenya and spent the summer serving with Into Abba’s Arms (IAA), an orphanage in Kinangop. “I was so nervous because I was the only American. I lived in the dorms with the kids and worked with the IAA staff. I helped care and play with the children, cleaned the dorms, and helped with some of the office work that needed to be done. My primary role was working with the short-term missions teams who came to serve through IAA. I helped the staff and teams communicate and plan, and got

He were going to send me somewhere, He already had it all taken care of. I just need to be obedient.”

After the internship ended, Amanda returned home. She helped her church plan their next Global Impact Celebration (GIC). “It was important for me to participate in planning the GIC this year because I want my church family to get what God has given me. I was raised in the church, and I accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of seven. But I have never experienced the awesomeness of God like I had during

my time in Kenya! It is not until we truly step out in faith that we get to experience the amazing power of God. It is incredible how much you learn about God’s power and love when you can’t rely on your own strength and resources anymore.

“Through helping with the GIC, I was able to see what God is doing in my church family. God has also shown me that what He is calling me to does

not begin or end based my going to another part of the world. God can use me while I am here at home!”

“If you really feel God is leading you to cross-cultural ministry, do it. Do it despite your fears and concerns. Do it because the One who is calling you has so much more in store for you than you could have ever planned for yourself! Do it so that you can experience God the way we are intended to experience Him—completely and totally reliant upon Him!” †

“If you really feel God is leading you to cross-cultural ministry, do it. Do it . . . because the One who is calling you has so much more in store for you than you could have ever planned for yourself!”

Just say 'yes'

Writing from Thailand, these interns tell of the life-changing discoveries unearthed from simple obedience.



"After learning much more about who God is and what He is doing in Thailand, my current plans are to finish my degree at Texas A&M and attend seminary for counseling following graduation," writes Kelsey Gaines (right). Melissa Mitchell (left) will graduate from Georgia Southern University in December and begin school for occupational therapy. She writes, "After this, I plan to pursue medical missions with a specialization in therapy for children with disabilities—wherever the Lord leads me!"

Neither of us has a background in teaching or a plan to pursue a career in education, and yet somehow we have both found ourselves in southern Thailand doing just that—teaching. We had learned in our intern training about the importance as entering cultures as “learners.” So we decided that our approach should be to spend the months in Thailand as learners, even though our role was that of teachers.

As the first group of students arrived to the classroom, our hosts, Ubolwan and Nantachai, informed us that we would be teaching, even though we had thought we would simply be observing. We didn’t have a lesson planned; we didn’t know how much English the kids could speak or read. The next hour was absolute chaos! One of us was flipping madly through books, while the other was writing various English words on a white board and having the students read them aloud.

In the midst of the insanity, we realized something very important: the skills and talents we had would not be enough. We would have to be dependent on the Lord. He made it evident that this ministry was already established and that, above all, we were to serve our hosts and love their students without an agenda.

"In the midst of the insanity, we realized something very important: the skills and talents we had would not be enough."

We realized we were not here for ourselves. We were here to be used by God as a bridge for Ubolwan and Nantachai (a Thai couple who has ministered for many years among their own people) to be able to talk with their students about the character of the Savior, who loves them greatly.

Approaching this internship as learners has allowed both of us to grow in understanding of God’s character, to abandon our agendas, and to genuinely love those we come in contact with. This internship has given us a time and place to better understand our individual roles in God’s mission for the nations. Through the ups and downs of being immersed in another culture, God has spoken truth into our lives that we can carry forward into our future ministries.

In the beginning, we were not sure why the Lord had us here in Thailand, but our saying *yes* to this opportunity has allowed us to understand the importance of being obedient. Through this, we have experienced a bit of what God is doing in this nation, and we have realized that through our obedience, God reveals His plans for us. †

Do short-term teams mobilize the church for missions?



India, Haiti, Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, and Rwanda (shown here) are among the nations to which The Woodlands presently sends teams.

We posed this sometimes-controversial question to Dr. John Hull, missions pastor of a church that often sends more than 20 international teams a year. Having done extensive research on this topic, John had this to say.

Short-term mission trips have become a phenomenon within our Christian culture over the past 40 years. Churches of all sizes and denominations are sending mission teams all over the world. The American Christian culture has been affected through sending church members to serve in new and unique situations, and the world Christian culture has experienced the dynamics of receiving American Christians.

As with any religious or theological topic, there has been an ongoing discussion as to the effectiveness of mission teams, primarily from the perspective of those receiving the teams. If designed well and led well, a mission team can be extremely valuable to the recipients and provide invaluable assistance.

But what about those who go? And what impact do mission trips have on the sending church? Is there value for the sender as well as those who receive the teams?

Having been a missionary for seven years who received dozens of mission teams, I saw the value for those I served in Mexico and now as a missions pastor at a large church for the past 17 years, I clearly see the value for our church as we send mission teams to other cultures.

Mission trips are life-changing for team members and the church

As a missions pastor, I have learned that my primary responsibility is to communicate the message of missions (spreading the gospel and being the hands and feet of Christ) to those in our congregation, so that the missions ministry can grow.

When I first joined our staff, I thought it would be an easy task. But as Americans, we are so bombarded with information. Our lives and interests are filled to overflowing with activities and busyness. I found that the missions message became a part of a tidal wave of information our church members received each day. I quickly learned that growth

would come through participation. So what are the benefits of mission trips to mobilize a church for missions?

1. Mission trips generate interest

In every church, there are a certain number of people who have either gone on a mission trip or have a desire to go. These people become the seeds from which a strong missions ministry can grow. When they are recruited to go on a mission trip, they return to tell the stories and through their enthusiasm, others want to go.

2. Mission trips increase awareness

We tend to believe that the rest of the world exists and functions similar to our own situation. We see the news and hear reports from other countries and cultures, but overall, our worldview perspective is limited to what we experience on a day-to-day basis.

When church members become part of a mission team, they are literally lifted from their own world into another. They see firsthand the realities that exist in the lives of others. They see poverty and suffering; they see faith lived out under trying and often difficult circumstances; and they see a church that functions in a uniquely different cultural dynamic. Mission trip participants come home with a new awareness and understanding of the depth and the breadth of God's kingdom.

3. Mission trips take members from passive to proactive

On average, most church members are passive participants in the missions ministry of the church. They hear prayers in church services; on occasion they talk about missions in their small groups or Sunday school classes, and they might write a check to support one cause or another.

Participation in a mission trip helps to take them to the next level. A ministry experience in another culture moves them from being passive participants to becoming proactive and personally involved. They actually touch the lives of people who either need to know Christ, need encouragement in their faith, or who are suffering and in need. They actually become one of Jesus' disciples, and that experience changes their lives forever. They now become a proactive participant in the missions ministry of the church.

4. Mission trips deepen faith

Faith is a personal walk with God. From the moment we believe, we begin a faith journey. God's desire is that we move from a simple belief to a deep and abiding faith that will guide us for a lifetime. Mission trips provide an opportunity to lead our church members to a deeper level of faith. The writings and teachings in the Bible all took place in a different culture and worldview perspective. But we all interpret what we read through our own cultural lenses, and we understand the scriptures accordingly.

A mission trip provides a unique and wonderful opportunity for church members to step out of their own paradigm of life and enter into another. By interacting with those they come to serve, by seeing them in their own day-to-day environment, and by studying relevant scripture passages while on site, church members begin to see and understand teachings within the Bible from a whole new perspective. The Bible comes alive in a way they have never experienced before. And when they see faith through the eyes of those they came to serve, their own faith is taken to a new level.

When team members return home, they bring a new theological depth of understanding to the church. As more and more church members go, the church begins to grow and mature in faith and understanding. This new understanding also helps to mobilize the church for missions.

Do mission trips mobilize the church for missions?

Over the past 17 years, the missions ministry at our church has grown exponentially. It has grown in all ways: awareness, participation, support, and giving. We learned that to accomplish this, we had to do so much more than tell, teach, and show pictures. Growth came through participation and activating our church members to become the voices and examples of missions throughout our church. When the church begins to live out missions, missions becomes the heartbeat of the church. We now see it in all of the ministries of our church from children's to women's to youth to men's to our seniors. There is no doubt that mission trips have been a dynamic factor in mobilizing our church for missions.

Wondering how to lead an effective mission experience?

The Mission Society offers an "Equipping Short-term Mission Leaders Workshop."

Among the topics covered are: developing healthy team dynamics, cultural awareness, training and discipling a team, and support raising. For more information about a workshop for your short-term team leaders, contact Doug Cozart at doug@themissionsociety.org or 800.478.8963, ext. 9048. We also urge short-term missions leaders to read *When Helping Hurts*, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, now also available in audio.



John ministering in India

Dr. John K. Hull serves as pastor of missions of The Woodlands United Methodist Church in The Woodlands, Texas. Under his direction, the church and its members have an extensive outreach ministry, both locally and around the world.

A former missionary to San Felipe, Mexico, John lived among the poor. He helped to establish a Christian medical clinic, assisted local churches, and with the help of mission teams, built a small hospital and homes for the poor.

John holds a doctor of missiology degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. His dissertation explored faith development through short-term mission experiences.



Agrimissions' Doug and Becky Neel retire

Doug and Becky Neel served with The Mission Society on the Global Resource Team (GRT) for seven years before retiring in June. Doug served as the director of Agrimissions, a branch of the GRT which focuses on agricultural ministry. Becky served as Agrimissions' administrative assistant.

Doug holds a degree in General Agriculture, a master's in Range Management, and has completed some graduate coursework in World Mission and Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary. Before working with The Mission Society, the Neels served for several years with SIM.

The GRT is a group of specialists in biblical storytelling, information

technology, micro-enterprise, agriculture, medicine, water purification, and business. Using their expertise, these specialists support Mission Society missionaries worldwide, helping to advance existing ministry projects or creating new ones.

We praise God for Doug and Becky, for their ministry and friendship, and for the fruit that remains in places throughout the world because of their faithfulness.

Mission Society founder awarded rare honor, meets Pope (continued from page 2)

The degree was not the only honor Anderson received during his Rome visit. Every Wednesday morning the Pope holds a general audience, and the head of the university arranged for Anderson to be in the front row during that morning event.

"This was held in front of St. Peter's," Anderson explained. An estimated 50,000 people were in attendance.

Anderson was able to exchange words with the Pope as the pontiff greeted the audience.

"We shook hands," Anderson said. "I told him, 'I'm an American Protestant evangelical minister, and you are

my Pope.' Well, he smiled, and took his other hand and put it on top of our hands, gave it a vigorous handshake and said, 'Please pray for me.' I said, 'I will,' and I do."

This article was adapted from an article originally published in "The Whitney Center Observer." Used by permission.

Photo: Courtesy of Fotografia Felici, Rome.



Shown from left to right: Former president, Dick McClain; President Max Wilkins; Greg Maclin (Maclins' son); Susie Maclin (Maclins' daughter); Alice Maclin; Cathie Boyles (Maclins' daughter); Bill Johnson, board member; Denny Brown, vice president for mission advancement.

Naming ceremony for H. T. Maclin Center for World Mission

(continued from page 2)

President Max Wilkins introduced the ceremony, saying, "This is a time of rejoicing and celebrating the ministry and efforts of the Maclin family, especially the legacy of H. T."

Former Mission Society President Dick McClain spoke of Dr. Maclin: "H. T. was a selfless, tireless, visionary leader. It was an honor to know him, to work with him, and to count him as a dear personal friend. He established a foundation on which, 30 years later, The Mission Society continues to build."

They are on their way!

Unnamed missionary family – India (May 2014)

This couple and their children are sharing the gospel with unreached peoples in North India.

Dean and Stefanie Babcock – Malawi (July 2014)

This family is training rural peoples in effective farming methods while sharing the gospel and training national leaders in both farming techniques and ministry skills.

Unnamed missionary couple – Middle East (October 2014)

This couple is in training to lead teams that will effectively reach the unreached in the Middle East through the formation of Christ-following fellowships and health-care among refugees.



Who are the ‘mobilized’?

Unclear about God’s call on your life? This can help.



Mary Kay Jackson, a successful civil engineer in Atlanta, didn’t change her profession. She simply moved her engineering profession to Ghana, where she could assist the church there in addressing the huge need of providing clean water. In Ghana alone, almost five million people lack clean water.

What does it mean for a person to be mobilized for God’s mission? We may assume that “being mobilized” means going on a short-term mission trip or, if the person is truly mobilized, quitting whatever “secular” job he or she has, going to seminary, then moving to another country to serve as a full-time missionary. However, there are some base presuppositions in this which need to be questioned.

Misperceptions

The first is the spiritual hierarchy that suggests somehow it is more spiritual to serve as a full-time missionary than to be engaged in some form of business or trade. As a missionary, I would often hear people say, “I could never do what you do.” While I appreciate the senti-

ment, this kind of thinking has a couple of risks. First, it can put missionaries on a sort of pedestal that ascribes to them a higher spiritual plane—rather than recognizing that they are ordinary Christians who are simply responding

“As a missionary, I would often hear people say, ‘I could never do what you do.’ This kind of thinking has a couple of risks.”

to God’s specific direction. Second, it reinforces the idea that the “ordinary” church-goer really does not have many ways to engage in God’s mission outside of supporting missionaries or maybe going on a short-term trip. (Some-

times people may have the impression that financially supporting ministries provides some sort of penance for their having a so-called “secular” job. There are more problems with that theology than a short article can address. But suffice it to say that this limited understanding risks excluding many people who have much to offer God’s mission beyond simple financial support, as important as that is.)

Thought correction

Being mobilized for mission can simply be allowing God to help you imagine how to use your skills for His kingdom. That could mean using that same skill, but just in a different context. Mary Kay Jackson was a successful civil engineer in Georgia. After visiting friends who

“Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.”

–Frederick Buechner

were missionaries in Ghana—with no intent of serving in Ghana herself—she was challenged by her son to “do something” about the water issues there. Mary Kay did not need to quit her profession, go to seminary, and go to Ghana and preach. (There are plenty of gifted Ghanaian preachers!) She simply moved her engineering profession to Ghana where she could assist the church there in addressing the huge need of providing clean water. Her husband moved his profession as a college professor to a university near Accra where he teaches and builds relationships with students. So, yes, the Jacksons are missionaries, but they also are an engineer and a college professor.

Part of being mobilized involves gaining an understanding of the needs of the world. (By “needs,” I mean not just physical needs, but spiritual, social, and emotional ones, as well as needs for justice.) A well-mobilized person will have an understanding of such needs in a certain area or community. That community could well be the person’s own

community or a community geographically very close. Being mobilized does not necessarily mean traveling to the other side of the world, but it does imply a willingness to go where God sends.

Equally important, a mobilized person needs to understand the issues involved in addressing those needs in ways that are sensitive to cultural and social issues. For example, one water engineer complained to me that there are thousands of unused bore holes in Africa due to the many well-meaning people who traveled there and drilled wells without fully understanding the cultural and social context.

The same can happen in the spiritual realm; sharing the faith without an understanding of the hearer’s culture can actually be counterproductive. (Training is critical for the mobilized person, whether he or she serves with a mission agency like The Mission Society, or independently, or with a local church. Whenever I hear of someone who plans to work cross-culturally, I all but beg them to seek out good training.)

Course correction

Theologian Frederick Buechner wrote that “vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world’s greatest need.” We could say that a mobilized person is one who deeply understands his or her own passions and gifts, has made the effort to learn of the needs in some corner of the world (perhaps his or her own corner), and then makes the commitment to join in God’s mission by engaging with the full power and discernment of the Holy Spirit. God may indeed call a person to make a full-course change—to go into a new job in a new place. On the other hand, He may call a person to continue in his or her profession, but in a different context. Or He may call a person to remain in the same location and profession, but with a different mindset and a new set of eyes. Any one of these can be the result of being mobilized for God’s mission. †

Jim Ramsay is The Mission Society’s vice president for mission ministries.

Consider this: God may call you

a. to go into a new job in a new place

b. to continue in your profession, but in a different location and context

c. to remain in the same location and profession, but with a different mindset and a new set of eyes



Reclaiming an overlooked missions strategy

Step one to addressing the world's needs might surprise you. And it can transform your church.



The enormity of the world's need can seem paralyzing. In addition to hunger, poverty, disease, and war is the fact that billions of people have little or no access to the gospel. What can Jesus followers do to offer Christ? In these pages, Stan Self offers a first step. (Shown here: Iraqi Christian refugees in Northern Iraq. Thousands are sheltering in schools and under freeways in the cities.)

Those of you who fly are very familiar with the pre-departure instructions. “In the event of a decompression, an oxygen mask will automatically appear in front of you. To start the flow of oxygen, pull the mask towards you,” the flight attendant announces, and then, after more operating instructions, tells, “If you are traveling with a child or someone who requires assistance, secure your mask first, and then assist the other person.”

The last line of those instructions seems counterintuitive. Evidently, we're supposed to first take care of our own safety and then turn our attention to our child or someone else needing aid? That can't be right. The child is the helpless one, the needy one. Don't we assume the focus must be on the neediest first?

The greater need

This is not terribly different from the

way we tend to think about missions. In missions, our mind immediately goes to the more helpless among us—those who need our assistance, our compassion, our love and, of course, our Savior. Whether we look at our own com-

“Interestingly, Jesus saw the same needs. He reacted much the same way as we, with one notable exception. Unlike us, Jesus looked beyond the immediate and saw a greater need—a more strategic need.”

munities, our nation, or the world, we see needs—physical, emotional, and spiritual. Interestingly, Jesus saw the same needs. He reacted much the same way as we, with one notable exception. Unlike us, Jesus looked beyond the

immediate and saw a greater need—a more strategic need.

In the ninth chapter of Matthew (vv. 35-36), scripture tells us that, as Jesus was going about the towns and the villages teaching in the synagogues and announcing the good news about the kingdom, He saw the crowds. And He was moved with compassion as He saw their need. The Bible describes these people as confused, aimless, like sheep with no shepherd. The reaction to this scene by our Lord is instructive. He immediately turns His attention away from those who were at greatest risk and towards those who were the most secure—His disciples. Note what He says to them, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” (Matt 9:37-38, NLT)

Interestingly, Jesus' first act, based on His compassion for what He saw, was to tell His disciples to pray. He tells them to pray, not for the lost, but for workers. He tells them to pray, not for the harvest, but for harvesters. Much like the flight attendant's instruction, Jesus seems to be saying that these people are desperate for what we have to offer, but for that to happen we need to address our own need first. We need more workers for the harvest. In fact, Jesus labeled it "a great harvest." The harvest was great then, and it remains great today. It is "white" or ripe and ready for picking—if only we had the workers to send to the fields.

The great harvest

In an article titled, "The Surprising Countries Most Missionaries Are Sent From and Go To" by Melissa Steffan

at www.christianitytoday.com (posted June 25, 2013), it was reported that the United States currently sends roughly 127,000 missionaries. That sounds like a lot, and it is true that the United States sends out more missionaries than any other country. However, when one considers that we send only 614 missionaries for every one million church members, this number is not so impressive. There are more than 350,000 congregations in the country. That means on average roughly two-thirds of all congregations send no missionaries at all.

More than two billion people virtually have no access to the gospel. That's more than 6,900 people groups that lack enough followers of Christ and resources to evangelize their own people. Without outside assistance from missionaries, these people may have no opportunity

to hear the good news of Jesus. Add to that hundreds of millions more who do have access but are just like the Bible described—people who are confused, aimless, like sheep with no shepherd. These are people we see every day as we go about our lives.

Indeed, the fields are white unto harvest. Jesus still commands His followers—His church—to pray for workers. Let's securely fasten our oxygen masks over our nose and mouth by praying to the Lord of the harvest for more harvesters. It remains to be seen the specific ways God will respond to this type of praying in your local church. But you can rest assured that your church and God's kingdom will be better off for it. ✚

Stan Self is The Mission Society's senior director of church ministry.

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What if growing the local church was as simple as aligning the church's priorities with God's priorities? Join us on one of the three dates below as we discuss a process that can move your congregation from:

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Registration is required. To register, go to www.themissionsociety.org and click *Attend a webinar*.



The most important people you'll never know

Working anonymously, mobilizers mark the world profoundly. You can be one.



"Nate" Saint, a missionary pilot to Ecuador, was killed in 1956—along with four others—while attempting to evangelize the Huaorani people. The documentary Through the Gates of Splendor and the feature film End of the Spear tell the story. This photo is courtesy of Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Yo-Yo Ma. Dr. Mae Jemison. Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Larry Bird. All of these people have become famous in their own right. As we marvel at the skills and accomplishments of these esteemed individuals, we rarely think of the people who mobilized them into their respective careers. Who was the person who affirmed Yo-Yo Ma's gift as a cellist and helped him navigate the music industry? Who helped Dr. Jemison to discern her calling to medical research and then to outer space? The contributions of these public figures and so many others we celebrate may not have been realized without a mobilizer.

No glamour

For the sake of giving a definition, a mobilizer is a person who creates an awareness of opportunities/needs, helps others to discern their role in relation to these openings, and then helps those people take practical steps to connect to these opportunities. Simply put, mobilizers are advertisers, coaches, and

connectors. You might even say they are motivators and matchmakers.

The work isn't glamorous. No one ever says, "Let's put together a documentary about the person who mobilized Nate Saint, the martyred missionary to Ecuador." Nor does anyone credit a mobilizer for placing the person who translates the Bible into a little-known language. To be honest, although they may be the face of their organizations, mobilizers don't typically become celebrated heroes.

Big impact

Consider this. The late Ralph Winter once gave an illustration of the work of mobilization. He asked if a great fire were raging, should one person run and pour a bucket onto the fire? Or should that person awaken 100 sleeping firemen? Likewise, knowing the great needs of the world, isn't it possible that God would want some of us to stay behind to mobilize more missionaries? I think so.

In short, mobilizers impact the world

by helping the right people get to the right place (or keep them from going to the wrong place). When individuals sense a calling to a particular work, they need someone to affirm that calling. They need someone to encourage them and help them along the path.

We mobilizers can't do it alone. We need your help. See the article on page 20 for more information about how you can play a role in mobilizing the body of Christ to fulfill Jesus' mission. †

Richard Coleman is *The Mission Society's* senior director of mobilization and candidacy.

We can help you discern

We hope to mobilize strategic and prayerful people for GreenLight Internships and long-term placements. If you are a person who is constantly and consistently maturing in your faith, actively interested in cultures and people both locally and globally, and have a passion for lifelong learning and development, please consider contacting the mobilization department at mobilization@themissionsociety.org or 1.800.478.8963. We will be happy to help you discern the ways in which you can join Jesus in his mission around the world. For examples of current and ongoing missions, visit our website at <http://tinyurl.com/orqt77z>



Go explore. >>>>>

Are you considering a life of cross-cultural ministry? Trying to piece together your education and experience with what God is already doing worldwide? Do you have a passion for people and cultures? But at the same time, are you maybe not so sure where to begin?

A GreenLight Internship of 2-18 months gives you the go-ahead to explore.

Explore what it looks like to live, work, and do ministry with people in another culture. Learn from missionaries with valuable experience and perspective. Make friends and engage in conversations that allow you a glimpse of the gospel through their eyes. Immerse yourself in the story that God is telling throughout the world—a story that is bigger than your own.

We are now accepting inquiries for the GreenLight Internship. If you're ready to explore, contact Kate Hilderbrandt at greenlight@themissionsociety.org.

"I had no idea how much higher and different and better God's plans were for my life. He was working in a foreign place I knew nothing about. He invited me and continues to invite me to be a part of it."

—Jennie Clements, Monterrey, Mexico

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The Mission Society exists to mobilize and deploy the body of Christ globally to join Jesus in His mission, especially among the least reached peoples.

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