



Discerning Your Call to Mission

*An interactive guide and discernment tool
to prepare you and your family in pursuing
a call to missionary service*

Introduction to Mission

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him. Psalm 37: 23 (NIV)

Welcome! You are embarking on an incredible journey. What a joy and comfort to know that God has an incredible plan for each one of us! We know it takes courage to step out in faith and allow your steps to be ordered by God. It takes even more courage to step out with a family! We often hear the call and do not fully understand the assignment or we may feel ill-equipped to prepare ourselves or our families for the journey ahead of us.

You're not alone! We invite you and your family to spend the next five weeks listening, praying and discussing the call to mission. Using Scripture, stories and activities from our retired and active missionaries, we hope this guide will prepare you and your family to start thinking about life as missionaries.

This resource is divided into five sections that focus on different aspects of missionary service. Take your time and give each section the proper time to reflect and respond to the different materials. We hope this is only a starting place for you and this will be a springboard for ongoing conversations with your church leaders, trusted friends and family, and others as you journey deeper into mission. [Click on the cloud download icon to access the content for each week.](#)

Our team of selection specialists are happy to walk with you on this discernment journey. If you have questions along the way or would like to talk with our staff, please reach out to us at missionaryinfo@umcmmission.org.

May the Lord bless you in this discernment process!

Mission Topics:

- **Week 1: Call to Mission** – *We will look at our relationship with God and consider the privilege of responding to a call to serve in mission - serving as we follow the example given by Christ.* 
- **Week 2: Cost of Mission** – *We will examine how understanding the cost of leaving home and comforts presents challenging situations and develops our resiliency to serve in a different capacity.* 
- **Week 3: Contribution to Mission** – *We will evaluate our skills and gifts while exploring how these skills can contribute to mission opportunities.* 
- **Week 4: Culture of Mission** – *We will assess our openness to other cultures and beliefs and gauge our potential to embrace a new community.* 
- **Week 5: Connection to Mission** – *We will reflect on how our current leadership and life experiences can equip us for the journey of transitioning into mission.* 

Each mission component will offer you a different way to engage with the material and is tailored to accommodate different learning styles both in children and adults. You do not need to complete every component every week, only what is most helpful for you and your family. Each topic will allow you to engage in the following ways:

-  **Learn** – *Global Ministries missionaries will share insights on the topic, drawing from what they have learned in their own discernment and time of service*
-  **Engage** – *Hands-on activities will be offered to help your learning take on a different dimension; use these ideas as a springboard for your own interests and skills.*
-  **Reflect** – *Questions that build on the teaching and other activities will allow for deeper, personal reflection while providing ways to include influential supporters in the discernment process with you.*
-  **Connect** – *Missionaries will share personal experiences from their time of service when they learned how to connect the theoretical with the reality of their context.*
-  **Explore** – *Additional resources will be given for further reading; these resources will give you a broader exposure to the topic and practical ways to continue discerning your call.*



Thank you to our missionaries who contributed to this resource.

Additional Contributors:

- Alma Navarro, Global Missionary from the Philippines, serving in Taiwan, 2014- present.
- Charles Mulemena, Global Missionary from Zambia, serving in Belize, 2015-present.
- Gail Quigg, former Global Missionary from New Jersey, USA, served in Africa and the USA, 1979-2019.
- Greg Henneman, former Church and Community Worker from New Mexico, USA, served in Ohio, USA, 2014-2017.
- Joel Hortiales, Racial Ethnic Plan Missionary from Mexico serving in California, USA, 2018-present.
- Ken Cruz, former Global Missionary from the Philippines, served in Cambodia and South Korea, 2011-2021.
- Kristi Painter, former Global Mission Fellow from Georgia, USA, served in Pennsylvania, USA, 2018-2020.
- Leah Magruder, former Global Missionary from Texas, USA, served in DR Congo, 2020-2022.
- Richard Navarro, Global Missionary from the Philippines, serving in Taiwan, 2014-present.
- Wesley Magruder, former Global Missionary from Texas, USA, served in DR Congo, 2019-2022.

References

"Holy Bible" New International Version (1984)

Frost, Robert (1991) "The Road Not Taken: A Selection of Robert Frost's Poems."

Hiebert Paul G. (1985) "Anthropological Insights for Missionaries. Baker Academic" p. 9-10

Thank you...

for taking the time to discern with us.

