



CONSIDERING
YOUR CALLING





WHAT IS GOD CALLING ME TO DO?

It's a question we all ask ourselves. That we all pray about. That we all wrestle with.

This is especially true when you believe God may be calling you to cross-cultural ministry.

We believe that when God calls you to go, he's not calling you to go alone. That's why we're committed to equipping you and investing in you through every step of your discernment process.

This journal is one element of that. We've designed it to give you a place and space to work through your hopes, fears, challenges, and choices.

There's no rush. Take the time you need to process and pray through the questions, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and words.

We're praying for you,

The Encompass World Partners Mobilization Team

PRAYER, PASSION, VISION

What do you believe are your spiritual passions (gifts)?
What part do those passions play in the body of Christ?

Dream and pray about what using your passions in overseas ministry might look like. Describe them here.

You can bring to the table just yourself
and God uses that. That's what mission is.
And being part of his rescue mission
is just extraordinary.

FLORENT VARAK

Director, Encompass' Church Equipping Network




the next step

Spend dedicated time thinking, praying, and journaling through these questions.

But as it is, God arranged the members
in the body, each one of them as he chose.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:18



To know the will of God, we need an
open Bible and an open map.

WILLIAM CAREY



THE BARRIERS YOU FACE

The call to cross-cultural ministry can seem exciting one moment, overwhelming the next.

Thankfully, God understands our emotions—he created them—and knows our questions, fears, and anxious thoughts. They are signals that we have something to bring to him, that he has more to heal in us.

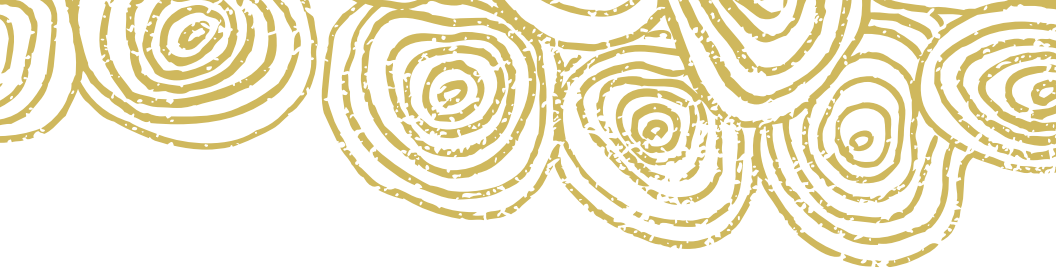
Write down what you see as your top five barriers to cross-cultural ministry. Describe why each one could hold you back.

Pray through each of these barriers, asking God to speak into it. What is he telling you?

*Through prayer, God clarifies next steps.
He rarely exposes the entire road map.*

KENT GOOD

Encompass Missionary



the next step

Spend dedicated time thinking, praying, and journaling through these questions.

Now connect with your Mobilization representative to talk through what God has shown you.

But God gave us a spirit not of fear but of
power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1: 7

God's work done in God's way will
never lack God's supply.

HUDSON TAYLOR



CULTIVATING YOUR COMMUNITY

God makes it very clear throughout his Word: we aren't meant to live this life alone. This is especially true in ministry. You need a community to surround you with prayer, friendship, accountability, mentorship, and guidance.

Dream and pray about what it might look like to have a community of support behind you while you serve in cross-cultural ministry: friends, family, brothers and sisters in Christ, spiritual mentors. Describe what that would look like. How would it impact your ministry? Your life?

How could you ask your community to support you and partner with you? How could you take this risky step, shoulder to shoulder with your band of brothers and sisters?

My experience with Encompass taught me it's about surrender; it's about what God can do through you.

ANNA GNEWUCH
Former Encompass Intern




the next step

Spend dedicated time thinking, praying, and working through these questions.

Ask a spiritually mature Christian you trust—preferably an older discipler—out for coffee. Discuss the possibility of you working in cross-cultural ministry. Request his/her perspective on your readiness. Ask this person to pray with you through the process.

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

ST. AUGUSTINE



It is grace, nothing but grace that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



PARTNERING WITH YOUR SENDING CHURCH

The next step in cultivating community happens in your home church. You've committed and submitted to this local body. It's the meeting place where you partner with others spiritually and missionally, the classroom where you study your faith, the family you pray with and for.

Does your home church have an established cross-cultural ministries arm? If so, what are the steps involved to becoming a part of it?

If not, what steps could you take to initiate one?

God's plan was never that church be a building,
His plan for the church is a living, breathing, body
working together in a coordinated way to pursue
Jesus' mission of 'go and make disciples of all nations'.

PAUL KLAWITER

Director, Encompass' Church Planting Network



the next step

Spend time thinking, praying, and working through these questions.

Ask the missions pastor at your church out to coffee to discuss the possibility of you working in cross-cultural ministry. Express how you see yourself partnering with the ministry/mission of your local church through your calling to work overseas. What are the steps involved in establishing that partnership?

Now connect with your Mobilization representative to talk through what God has been showing you as you've worked through these exercises.

It is just as proper, maybe even more so, to say Christ's global cause has a church as to say Christ's Church has a global cause.

DAVID BRYANT

I want the whole Christ for my savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.

JOHN WESLEY



CHOOSING WHO YOU'LL SERVE WITH

Now that you've worked through understanding your personal and spiritual passions, the barriers you face, God's call on your heart, and the buy-in of your community and church, it's important to choose the right organization to join.

What are the values you'd like to see embodied in a sending organization?

How would you like the organization to support you during your preparation for ministry and while you serve?

Do Encompass' values and support systems align with what you're looking for?

Encompass does a good job of aligning you with the vision of seeing the Kingdom grow. It's a blessing to align yourself with a ministry that follows after God.

NATE PARRY

Former Encompass Intern



the next step

Spend time thinking, praying, and journaling through these questions.

Read through Encompass' support systems and values at [EncompassWorldPartners.org](https://www.encompassworldpartners.org).

Now connect with your Mobilization representative to talk through what God has been showing you as you've worked through these exercises.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

JAMES 1: 15



resources

Prayer, Passion, Vision

Scripture: Psalm 96:3–4, Proverbs 3:1–8, Daniel 9:1–19, Luke 10:2, Romans 10:14–17

Spiritual Equipping for Mission: Thriving as God's Message Bearers by Ryan Shaw

Let the Nations be Glad by John Piper

Red Moon Rising: How 24-7 Prayer is Awakening a Generation by Pete Greig

"Doing Missions When Living Is Gain" by Travis Myers (Article on DesiringGod.org)

"Divine Sovereignty: The Fuel for Death-Defying Missions" by David Platt (T4G Conference 2012, available on YouTube)

The Barriers You Face

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:1–34, Acts 20:24, Ephesians 3:14–20, Philippians 3:12–14, 2 Timothy 1:6–9

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung

"Don't Mortgage the Mission" by Thabiti Anyabwile (CROSS Conference 2015)

Cultivating Your Community

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47, Philippians 1:3–4, Colossians 3:12–17

Radical Together by David Platt

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World by Bob McNabb

Partnering With Your Sending Church

Scripture: Matthew 28:17–20, Acts 1:8, Acts 13:1–3, 1 Peter 4:10–11

Antioch Revisited: Reuniting The Church With Her Mission by Tom Julien

Gaining By Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches That Send
by J.D. Greear

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21

