



CHRISTIAN REFORMED

WORLD
MISSIONS



MISSIONS
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FAQS

When A Member Of Your Congregation Feels Called To Global Missions

Q. One of the members our church is sensing a call to serve God in missions. What are some next steps we as a mission committee can suggest?

A. That depends a lot on the age, experience and education that the person has. For a high school student a one week mission trip can be a great way to begin the journey toward mission service. Youth Unlimited has many such opportunities.

http://www.youthunlimited.org/missions/index_missions.html

A college student could look into a full summer of mission service overseas through CRWM's *Summer Mission Program*, or something similar.

http://www.crcna.org/pages/crwm_smp.cfm

For a mature adult, a one or two week overseas visit through the CRC's Servicelink office could be a means of getting hands-on exposure.

http://www.crcna.org/pages/servicelink_front.cfm

A more personalized answer can be provided by CRWM's Placement Coordinator, Gord Buys, by emailing gbuys@crcna.org.

Q. What sort of education is needed to become a missionary?

A. That also varies a great deal depending upon the person's background and the type of mission service they feel called to. In addition to the experiential learning opportunities above, the person could pursue courses locally, like Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,

<http://www.perspectives.org> or study at a Christian college or seminary.

Those aiming to be relief and development workers could pursue a degree in international development. Those with a calling to do evangelism or church planting would likely need a seminary degree, or college degree with a focus on Bible or missions.

Q. I'm a businessperson with no international experience but a desire to serve. Can you use me?

A. In addition to opportunities with denominational agencies, Partners WorldWide www.partnersworldwide.org uses the skills of business people who want to make a contribution for the sake of the Kingdom, usually on a part-time basis. A group of North American businesspeople connect with Christian businesses in the majority world in order to grow their ability to provide for their families and communities, all in the name of Christ.

Q. Can our denominational agencies use people of various skills?

A. Yes, and if we don't have a spot for a particular person, we have a network of connections with various agencies that can make use of many skill and interest sets. Christian Reformed World Missions, CRWRC, Back to God and Partners WorldWide need very different skill sets. In addition, these denominational agencies connect with other partners, like English Language Institute/China (ELI/C) www.elic.org and Wycliffe Bible Translators, www.wycliffe.org who work in countries and need skills beyond the direct reach of our ministry. Part of our function is to connect CRC who want to serve in missions with a Christian agency that can harness their passion.

Q. One of our members is talking about serving with another mission agency. Do you have any advice for him/her?

A. Many CRC folks serve for shorter or longer periods with a variety of para-church agencies. Many of them are well-run, theologically sound, do great work and serve in places and do types of ministry that our denominational agencies don't. We heartily endorse serving with a number of agencies and even have partnership agreements with some such that CRC people serving with them can be partner missionaries with Christian Reformed World Missions with certain benefits.

Here are a few things to look for:

- Does the agency belong to a broader network of mission agencies like The Mission Exchange (which CRWM is part of) or CrossGlobal Link?
- Does it belong to the Evangelical Center for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or have other means of ensuring that its bookkeeping is handled carefully?
- What is the Statement of Faith? Most are quite generic but some include theological positions, or behavioral boundaries that a Reformed person may feel uncomfortable with.
- What support services do they offer to their missionaries?
- What is their missiological perspective (e.g. missions "to" or missions "with")? The maturity of Christian churches around the world means that North American missionaries must engage with others in partnership to do God's work.

There is also a list of denominationally approved agencies in the back of the Yearbook, along with our own partner organizations, but there are other excellent organizations which are not on that list.

If you have more questions about this area contact someone from our **MISSIONS EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT TEAM:**

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