



Go Global:

Becoming an International Worker

Preparing for International Work

The Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada
Global Ministries

As believers, our lives speak of the One we worship. When those of us with an international calling live in another culture, others look to us as leaders. As you move toward ministry overseas, here are some things that you can do to prepare:

1. PRACTICE DISCIPLINE IN YOUR LIFE

- Develop a regular habit of Bible study and prayer
- Ask a mature Christian to be your mentor
- Read books on spiritual discipline like Ruth Haley Barton's *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*

2. GROW IN WHOLENESS AS A PERSON

- Identify your weaknesses and develop a plan to grow in those areas
- Meet with your pastor to discuss steps you need to take to deal with unresolved issues in your life
- Seek personal, marriage, or family counselling
- Begin a habit of regular exercise

3. BECOME ROOTED IN A LOCAL CHURCH

- Participate in the life of the church; get involved!
- Support church leadership and build strong relationships
- Seek confirmation of your calling

4. DEVELOP MINISTRY SKILLS

- Discover and use your spiritual gifts
- Equip others for ministry

5. DEMONSTRATE SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN YOUR HOME CHURCH

- Accept new levels of leadership responsibility
- Serve on a leadership board or missions committee

6. SEEK APPROPRIATE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Meet with your pastor or a mission leader to evaluate your training needs
- Initiate next steps in studies or training; take the Kairos Course or Perspectives Course
- Establish a regular pattern of reading and reflection
- Build a solid foundation of biblical and theological knowledge
- With a few exceptions, the C&MA in Canada requires an undergraduate degree and sometimes graduate studies

7. GO ON A SHORT-TERM MINISTRY TRIP IN A CROSS-CULTURAL SETTING

- Seek to go to an area of possible long-term interest by taking a trip to an Envision site
- Spend as much time with nationals as possible
- Try to speak the language

8. IF YOU ARE SINGLE, CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHOM YOU WILL MARRY. IF YOU ARE MARRIED, STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

- Don't be afraid to remain single if God calls
- Be sure of a potential spouse's values and call to missions
- Be honest with a prospective spouse about your heart's desire and calling to international ministry; spend quality time discussing your dreams
- Seek out a counsellor to review your marriage to date; be willing to uncover real issues as these will be revealed as cultural stresses mount when overseas

9. TARGET A SPECIFIC PEOPLE GROUP OR NATION FOR RESEARCH AND PRAYER

- Explore Operation World by Patrick Johnstone
- Find books on your people group or region of interest
- Complete internet research on your target people group or area
- Write to an international worker currently working amongst your target group



Qualifications

When you think about qualifications for serving, you might ask, 'If God has called me, why can't I just get on a plane and go serve?' To respond to this question, it is helpful to explore the life of Paul, someone who knew a lot about working cross-culturally.

We're familiar with the story of Jesus appearing to Paul in Acts 9. Talk about a clear and compelling call! What's very interesting to note is that at least 7 years passed between Jesus appearing to Paul and when he was sent out from his home church in Antioch on his first missionary journey.

What was Paul doing during those years? How was God preparing him? Paul was involved in loving God and actively serving. It was also a time in which God prepared Paul for the demands and challenges to come. Paul spent three years (Gal. 1:17 – 18) in Arabia, likely devoting himself to times of meditation, prayer, and a complete reworking of his knowledge and experience of God. After these three years, he became actively involved in the church in Antioch. While there, he lived in such a way that he quickly gained respect and became a leader in the church. Only then, in Acts 13, is Paul called, alongside Barnabas, to embark on a cross-cultural journey. At this time, the church saw clear evidence confirming this calling. We believe that God works the same way today as He did in the first century when preparing people for cross-cultural ministry.

International workers, regardless of ministry track, are expected to evidence the following:

- **Spiritual and Character Maturity** – individuals must evidence spiritual conversion, baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit, lived out through a vibrant Christian life.
- **Confirmation by the Church Community**– support and affirmation by local church leaders and community.
- **Knowledge of God, His Purposes, and Mission**– Cross-cultural workers need a thorough grounding in God's word and the ability to articulate the scripture story.
- **Ministry Track Record** – Individuals must evidence involvement in the ministry of a local church, sense a God-given call to international ministry and be affirmed by their church leadership.
- **Adaptability** – Individuals must demonstrate evidence of being able to adapt to new relationships, environments, and living conditions.
- **Willingness to Suffer** – the world will become an increasingly dangerous place to be a witness for Christ. The individual must be convinced of their calling and, that in the sovereignty of God, they may experience personal risk and loss.

In addition to the qualifications mentioned above, a person desiring to serve as an international worker with Global Ministries of the C&MA in Canada will need to fulfill the following:

- **Go Global Application process with the C&MA in Canada** – Complete the application, licensing, and screening process.
- **Citizenship** – Individuals must have Canadian citizenship (Landed Immigrant status may be accepted in specialized cases).
- **Physical and Psychological Health** – Sufficient to withstand the rigors of diverse environments.
- **For Married Applicants** – Global Ministry views a spouse as a full partner in ministry. Married candidates will be appointed after careful consideration of the suitability of both husband and wife.
- **C&MA Commitment** – Individuals must be members of a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church and be in agreement with the Statement of Faith of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.
- Appropriate Formal Education, Vocational Training, and Job Experience



Things to Think About

Self-knowledge is important in the process of discerning God's call upon your life. Some of the questions we may ask in determining a ministry fit for you are:

- How have your ministry gifts been used until now?
- How have those around you affirmed your ministry gifts?
- What do you well? What do you like to do? What drew you to what you are presently doing?
- Are you more comfortable in an urban or rural context?
- How is your relationship to your local church?
- To what extent have you been involved in your church?
- What feedback has church leadership given to you?
- If you could design the perfect ministry position, what would it be?
- What aspects of ministry excite you?
- How did you become interested in missions, and what led you to this point?
- What hurdles do you have to overcome to become involved in missions? (e.g., financial, work, children, health)
- Are you liable for any debts? (e.g., loans, car, mortgage)
- How do you plan to finance your mission involvement? (fully-supported through the Global Advance Fund; partially supported; self-supported through your vocation)
- Ideally, when would you like to transition overseas?
- Do you have a conviction and understanding that you may experience personal risk and loss, as you are a witness for Christ?