

CALL TO MISSIONARY SERVICE

Do you believe God is calling you to missionary service? Consider the following questions:

- ▶ Are you passionate for the one true God to be acknowledged and glorified among all nations?
- ▶ Are you burdened at the thought of the billions of people on earth who face a Christ-less eternity?
- ▶ Do you have a deep desire to do something about those lost souls?
- ▶ Are you currently active in the ministry of your church?
- ▶ Are you adaptable and willing to make significant changes in your lifestyle?
- ▶ Do you have an interest in other lands and cultures?

If you can answer Yes to these questions then you may want to begin serious, prayerful consideration of dedicating your life to missionary service. God may not call you to another country through a dramatic encounter as He did with the Apostle Paul. Instead, He may place a steady burden on your heart that will not go away. If you feel this burden, read further and see if Things to Come Mission (TCM) might be the organization with which God wants you to serve.

SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE

All potential missionaries should exhibit a high level of spiritual maturity which can be measured in the following ways:

CONVERSION – A prospective missionary must have had a definite salvation experience through faith in Christ and have complete certainty of his/her relationship with God.

CONSECRATION – An individual considering missionary service should be fully committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and be willing to yield every aspect of his/her life to His will.

DOCTRINAL AGREEMENT – The potential missionary must know, understand, wholeheartedly

believe and be able to articulate TCM's doctrinal position as outlined in its doctrinal statement.

ACTIVE COMMITMENT – A missionary candidate should be actively involved in a local church before considering going to the foreign field.

CALL – Anyone considering missionary service should sense a deep conviction of personal responsibility for the work of God in the world.

SERVANT ATTITUDE – A potential missionary must see him/herself as a servant of God with compassion for others, and must be willing to make the necessary changes in lifestyle in order to effectively minister to people of a different culture.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR FULL-TIME MISSIONARY SERVICE

AGE AND EXPERIENCE – Things to Come Mission will accept adult applicants of any age. We believe that a person with a sincere desire to serve Christ will be enabled by Him to overcome any obstacles which advanced age might create. We do, however, request all potential applicants to seriously consider the affect that health, attitudes, family responsibilities and other factors may have on their work on the foreign mission field. TCM also recognizes that young adults have a longer potential time of service and generally adapt more easily to the complexities of language acquisition and cultural adjustment. Therefore, we encourage young people to make a commitment to missionary service early in life.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS – Things to Come Mission recognizes the value of education and encourages its missionaries to have formal training, but we do not feel that the call of God to ministry is dependent upon academic degrees. It is only necessary for an applicant to demonstrate that he/she has the knowledge and ability to perform the work they will be required to do. Typically, applicants are required to have the equivalent of at least two years of full-time Bible training, or one year of full-time Bible training combined with one year of mentorship by a pastor.

ACCEPTANCE OF COUPLES – In the case of married or engaged candidates, both the man and the woman should be convinced of their call to cross-cultural service. Each member of the couple is required to submit a separate application, and the classification of *Missionary* applies to both of them. Both members of the couple should possess the spiritual qualifications required of a missionary. TCM also recognizes the biblical role of the wife and mother and gives her the freedom to carry out those responsibilities while on the field.

PERSONAL INDEBTEDNESS – Normally candidates should be free from debt before beginning their service. Student loans are allowable up to a maximum of \$12,000 per person. Mortgages are allowable if monthly payments are covered by rental income. The TCM Board may, under certain circumstances, consider applicants with other types of debt, but this is not generally the case. After an applicant has paid off personal debts, he/she may reapply and be considered for missionary service.

STEPS TO THE MISSION FIELD

1. INITIAL INQUIRY – This can be done by filling out and mailing in the application form (available for download from the TCM website: www.tcmusa.org); by contacting the TCM Development Director, by contacting the TCM office or by talking to a TCM missionary or representative visiting your church. TCM will send you some introductory information that will give you an opportunity to learn more about the mission and for TCM to know about you.

2. PERSONAL COUNSELING – If you are interested in carrying the inquiry process further, you will be contacted by a TCM Director who will inform you about the ministries of TCM, personnel needs and how you can fit into the picture. We will direct your interest toward one of our existing fields or, if you have a burden for a country where TCM is not working, you will be able to discuss the possibility of pioneering a new work.

3. REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PRACTICE OF TCM – The next step is for you to study the TCM constitution and policies to be sure you are in

agreement with the mission's philosophy of ministry, particularly our financial policy. Once again, a TCM Director will be available to answer your questions and explain the rationale behind the mission's policies.

4. FORMAL APPLICATION – If at this point you believe you want to work with TCM, you will need to complete an application and submit it to the Director, who will in turn submit it with a recommendation to the TCM Board. The information you provide in your application will make it possible for the TCM Board to make a decision about your ministry with Things to Come Mission.

5. BOARD INTERVIEW – You will be invited to an interview with the TCM Board at their first meeting following receipt of your application. During this interview you will have an opportunity to meet each member of the board personally. They will seek to gain an understanding of your burden for ministry and assess your readiness for missionary service.

6. ACCEPTANCE – Once the TCM Board approves your application as a missionary candidate, and you have met any additional qualification requirements, you will be officially accepted as a TCM missionary and formally assigned to a field of service. You may then begin preparation for your departure.

7. PRE-FIELD ORIENTATION – The TCM Development Director, our home office personnel and/or our 2-month GTCM training program will help acquaint you with the field you will be going to and how to prepare for a smooth transition into a new culture and ministry. You may be encouraged to enroll in outside training in language acquisition and cross cultural adjustment.

8. ORDINATION – All full-time missionary personnel serving with TCM are ordained (men) or commissioned (women) through Things to Come Mission. This is a public confirmation by responsible and qualified elders of your gifts and calling as a missionary.

9. DEPUTATION AND SUPPORT-RAISING – As a missionary candidate you must raise up a prayer

and support base. This is primarily done through visiting churches and individuals and informing them of your plans and ministry. TCM will help you contact churches and schedule meetings. TCM does not demand that any set amount of support must be guaranteed before you are allowed to depart for the field. When you are comfortable with the level of your support you may leave and begin your ministry.

10. ACQUISITION OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS – Before departing for the field you must obtain a passport or have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your expected arrival date on the field. You must also meet the legal entry requirements of the country where you will serve. Usually, this will require applying for a visa. You will also need to purchase tickets for travel to your destination.

11. DEPARTURE - When you have raised adequate support and made all necessary preparations, you will store and/or pack your belongings, travel to your assigned field and begin your missionary service.

THINGS TO COME MISSION



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PASSPORT TO SERVICE



STEPS TO BECOME A MISSIONARY WITH

THINGS TO COME MISSION

