

5 C's: Calling

Calling is a strong desire to spend your life doing a specific task. A missionary candidate should be driven and devoted to the task they are pursuing (not being motivated by a negative sense of duty). Every believer is called to make disciples. The question is no longer if we are called; the question is only where and how.

Key Scriptures: Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:13-15, 1 Timothy 1:5.

Personal and Congregational Leading

- Key Quality 1: Demonstrates a clear direction from the Spirit and Word to move overseas.
- Key Quality 2: Has a deep sense of “ought to” about moving internationally.
- Key Quality 3: Has clear affirmation from the local body of Christ that this is the right direction at this time.

Resilience

- Key Quality 4: Has a healthy understanding that life/ministry is not easy and is going to be intensely hard in many ways.
- Key Quality 5: Maintains both an abiding trust in God and ability to ask honest questions about God in times of suffering; the challenges of being a missionary require both.
- Key Quality 6: Possesses a courageous spirit that is willing to embrace the “pruning” God will do in these times of holistic, intensive ministry.
- Key Quality 7: Has the clear “fire within” to develop mature disciples of Christ in their context and is relationally skilled to do this even amidst ongoing hardships.

Key Questions: Listen for qualities 1-7 in the applicants answers to these questions.

- Why do you want to be a part of this trip or why do you want to be a long term missionary?
- Would you say God is calling you to do this?
- Does your family support your desire to be in this program?
- If Married: Ask spouse (and children) in a setting separate from applicant about their level of enthusiasm and concerns regarding a move to the mission field.

Green Light

- Understands the Biblical mandate to make disciples of all nations.

Red Lights

- The applicant does not seem joyful and enthusiastic about planting churches.
- The applicant seems grandiose in their ability to be an effective missionary.
- The applicant's spouse or children's passion for church planting is significantly less.
- The applicant's faith has not had the opportunity to be tested during a season of difficult suffering.

