

Learn and Serve

Cross-cultural missionary service is tremendously important and fulfilling. It is a great privilege to see people who do not know God's love and grace experience the transforming power of the Gospel. New missionaries often arrive on the field with a great deal of energy, passion, and vision to see God's kingdom extended in their field of service. The mentoring program is designed to encourage and equip you for effective service on the field.

This zeal for ministry can be a great asset to a team. However, if passion for ministry is directed into areas that are not culturally appropriate or are not sustainable in the cultural context, it can actually hinder the growth of the church. So, how can new missionaries be most effective? By combining their passion for ministry with the wisdom and guidance of experienced missionaries.

So, how can you, as a new missionary, be most effective? Take on the role of servant and learner.

Servants...

- seek to promote the agenda of more experienced missionaries.
- look for ways to serve others on their team and church.
- willingly give credit for the success of their work to others.
- view other's agendas as more important than their own.

Learners...

- recognize that what worked in the U.S. may not work in a cross-cultural context.
- seek to understand others' viewpoints.
- ask good questions and listen carefully to answers.

- willingly attempt new ways of doing things that may not feel comfortable.

As you go through the mentoring process, try to take on the values of a servant and learner. God will bless you as you humble yourself in his service.

"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28