

XPLORE

Discover God's Word, God's World and God's Work

For the Alliance ordination/consecration candidate:

Please complete the seven-lesson guide, *XPLORE: Discover God's Word, God's World and God's Work*, answering the questions in the guide as well as the question for each lesson indicated on this document. Please report your answers back, sending the answers to Omar Niebles, oniebles@metrocoma.org and CC: bdaniels@metrocoma.org. This is best done in the context of community. We encourage you to take a small group or the missions team at your church through this resource as you do it for the Metro District.

Devotional Study guide: *XPLORE: Discover God's Word, God's World, God's Work*

LESSON 1: "God's Word: God's Heart"

Value: "Lost people matter to God, and he wants them found"

Complete Lesson 1 then respond to this statement:

Read the Global Partnerships Team document: *Mission-Hearted Church*

Jesus states in the 2nd half of Acts 1:8: "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- What does it look like to view this mandate holistically?
- What are you doing in ministry right now that shows your engagement for the lost on a local and global scale?

LESSON 2: "God's World: THUMB"

Value: "Achieving God's purposes means taking faith filled risks. This always involves change."

Complete Lesson 2 and then respond to these items:

Watch these short movies about access:

- <https://www.cmalliance.org/resources/missions/mcpc14/>
- <https://www.cmalliance.org/resources/missions/mcpc15/>
- Read the resource explanations on the same page as the video.

In what ways is God opening and challenging your understanding of access to the gospel?

As a leader in the Alliance, what do you believe is a proper response to this need?

LESSON 3: "God's Work: Praying"

Value: "Prayer is the primary work of God's people"

Complete Lesson 3 and then respond:

Go to resource page and download this image:

- <https://www.cmalliance.org/resources/missions/mcpc15/downloads/map-pray-for-peoples-24x36.pdf>
 - How can you pray and engage others to pray for these people who are without proper access to the Gospel?
- Go to this page: <https://www.cmalliance.org/pray>
 - How can you pray and engage others to pray for these specific needs?

LESSON 4: "God's Work: Sending"

Value: "Everything we have belongs to God, we are His Stewards"

Complete Lesson 4 then respond to this statement:

"I am a local pastor, not a global worker."

- What is off or incomplete about this statement?
- When is it an appropriate time to "send" workers?
- List all of the ways that your church is a sending church.

LESSON 5: "God's Work: Welcoming"

Value: "We will Love, Proclaim, Reach, Launch" (J. Stumbo)

Complete Lesson 5 then respond:

Ten percent (~60,000) of all foreign exchange students that come to the US each year will come to the New York City/New Jersey region. Research your immediate area—township, city, county—where are these students?

- Go to <https://envisionnyc.org/>
- Go to <https://internationalstudents.org/> and learn about their ministries

What are the first steps to take to reach out to exchange students or immigrants?

LESSON 6: "God's Work: Going"

Value: "Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every devoted disciple"

Complete Lesson 6 then respond:

- Go to <https://cmalliance.org/serve> And <http://camaservices.org/our-work/serve/>
- Read some opportunities that interest you noting the qualifications and requirements. Choose one that seems to fit you best.
- What would you need to do to prepare for this?

The C&MA places high value on partnership with International Workers.

- Read Global Partnerships Team Documents:
 - *Five Partner Activities*
 - *What Missions Hearted Churches do to Increase Mission Engagement* and give your church a grade for each of the six points as relates to your partnership with C&MA international workers.

LESSON 7: "God's Work: Mobilize"

Value: "Without the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we can accomplish nothing."

Complete Lesson 7 then respond:

Read the Global Partnerships Team documents:

- *Growing a Mission-hearted Church; Mission Leadership Team Job Opportunity*
- What are your next three steps to engage you and others in your church in the Mission of Christ to the world?
- Who will spiritual partner with you to make these steps happen?

MISSION-HEARTED CHURCH

A mission-hearted church is different from a mission-minded church. A mission-hearted church is one whose very core is centered upon who God is, what God is actively doing around the world and how the church can partner with Him. A mission-hearted church believes that the work is finished when there is full representation of every tribe, tongue, nation and people at God's throne room (Rev. 7:9) because this church believes this is what God is doing around the world.

A mission-minded church is one that addresses God's global heart with only her rationale. It is wrapped around what makes sense cognitively. There is a tangible need the church can see, a physical check the church can write, and even a physical location a church can visit. This is not bad and is neither a wrong place to begin, but what Jesus is after is much more.

The mission-hearted church describes a group of followers of Christ whose posture and service are formed by Acts 1:8. These are a people who serve Christ as His storytellers wherever the Holy Spirit leads them, encouraging one another to maximum effectiveness in the Acts 1:8 spheres of influence. While serving their Jerusalem, they do not lose sight (or heart) of the ends of the earth. While engaging the ends of the earth, they do not ignore their Samaria. Can I ask you a question? Where would you church land—mission-hearted or mission-minded?

Explanation

Christ followers believe that the most important guideline Jesus gave for His Church is summarized in his final words (Mathew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:44-49) where he describes the worldview of each disciple. This world view is composed of three core convictions.

1. *We believe that Jesus gives His Holy Spirit to empower each follower.*
 - i. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."
2. *We believe that Jesus gives each follower His Story to tell.*
 - i. "my witnesses," "all that I have taught you"
3. *We believe that Jesus has a place of service for each follower.*
 - i. These places are spheres of influence to which Christ sends his followers for the purpose of telling His Story.

Jerusalem (M-1): describes the local community our church serves as well as the people we engage through the jobs we have and the friendships we develop. These are the people who are most culturally like us (speak our language, understand our mindset, eat our foods, etc.)

Judea-Samaria (M-2): describes the larger region and country that surrounds us. "Judea" speaks of people who are culturally like us. "Samaria" speaks of people who are different from us, and may be people we would not normally befriend, but they live in our region. Although some in our group may be called by God to live in M-2 regions, He calls the rest of us to find ways to impact M-2 people who live near us through our prayer, service, and financial investment for cross-cultural workers who serve within our national borders.

The Ends of the earth (M-3): describes regions beyond our national borders. These are cultures that are not like ours and speak a different language. Although some in our group may be called by God to live in M-3 regions, He calls the rest of us to find ways to impact M-3 people who live near us or through our prayer, service, and financial investment for International Workers.



Five Partner Activities

We connect the international work and the North American church through FIVE partnering activities. A partnering church should aim to provide all of these activities with the partner work. However, to begin, the church and international work may start with one or two that are easiest to succeed at, and then increase their involvement over the subsequent years as the partnership strengthens. The Mission Leadership Team (MLT) should develop a plan describing how they will increase and improve the congregation's involvement in these areas so that "The Mission" becomes a 365-day per year consciousness.

1. Partner Care

As you take on a partnership relationship you will adopt one or more Alliance workers in your chosen country. You will discover ways to care for their emotional, spiritual, and physical needs while on the field or back at home. We encourage you to find creative ways to do this so that every age group in your church can get involved in this process.

2. Strategic Prayer

Through ongoing contact with your partners, you'll discover the spiritual issues and barriers that you can bring before the Father in prayer. You can get past "God bless and protect the missionaries," and make prayer into a deep personal relationship.

3. Going There (Short-Term Trips)

Travel to your partner's location and work on a strategic project that advances your international worker's ministry. Repeated trips back to your partnership country will deepen your heart connection and spiritual understanding of the region. In some regions, it will also be possible for the church-partner or international worker to visit your congregation.

4. Staying Aware (Connections)

Get information from the region and your partner and find ways to take advantage of technology and other creative means to keep in contact with your partner while on the field and while they are stateside. Look for opportunities to arrange a Vision Trip for your pastor and key church leadership and explore ways that Alliance workers in your chosen region can visit your local congregation. It's all about building relationships. Plan a "Mission Festival", no less than once per year, to keep people aware. Plan three to five days to connect with an International Worker and build your "staying aware" relationship with your partner work.

5. Doing our Share (Financial Resourcing)

Alliance partnerships clarify strategic ministry and advance ways that you and your church can "fund the vision." After prayer, this is the easiest way that a US church of any size can build a global impact. This is the major avenue for supporting Alliance partnerships financially:

A. Great Commission Fund (called "GCF")

This is the historic way by which North American Churches and individuals can support the work of missionaries and their projects through the C&MA.

- a. **General Fund:** The contribution is given to the GCF fund without a specified name or project. This will support the bread and butter ministries of international workers, their rent, travel costs, children's school, ministry expenses, etc.
- b. **Designated worker support:** A donor can give to the support of a specific C&MA missionary. The gift designated "Support of _____", goes to that person's support: Axcess, marketplace, Envision
- c. **Project:**
 - i. This is a list of Approved projects to which a donor can designate a gift to an approved project. This is a "restricted giving" account because the donor must specifically designate the project. For example: Check is written payable to the C&MA, and in the memo line write "Hospital—Mali".
 - ii. Also used to find an Envision work with whom you desire to partner.
- d. **Relief and Development (CAMA)**
 - i. CAMA is the relief and development branch of the C&MA. This account supports the worker's salary and living expenses. When there is a major catastrophe requiring special offerings, it is given to CAMA, designating in the memo the country and project for the disaster or development need.

- B. This call all be done online at <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>

Some churches feel that they are "too small" to do anything. However, in obedience to Jesus' Great Commission, any congregation of any size can begin with the one or two of these five actions that is easiest. Rather than wringing our hands in despair because of what "we can't do", we need to make first steps towards Christ's desire, even if they are small. The Corinthian believers were applauded for giving "out of their poverty"—so can we! (2 Cor 8:2)

What Missions-Hearted Churches Do to increase Missions Engagement

Discussion Paper on:

1. How we can still encourage support of the Great Commission Fund?
2. How we transition from what we have been doing (once a year conference) to a year-long emphasis on prayer/interest/connection with what God is doing globally?

Introduction:

Our Global Link Team members have been engaged with hundreds of churches in all districts in the US over the past 15 years. Here are 6 things we have observed that missions-hearted churches do enhance greater engagement from their congregations in Alliance missions and the Great Commission Fund.

Point 1: In missions-hearted churches, the Senior Pastor is 'leaning in' to Alliance missions. The Senior Pastor's passions are generally the direction that the congregation will also go.

- The senior pastor is personally passionate about being an Acts 1:8 church. He promotes connection with our Alliance "ends of the earth" efforts and personally supports this integral part of our mission.
- The senior pastor speaks about and encourages the congregation to support Alliance missions.
- One thing you can do is assist your Senior Pastor and Pastors to intentionally and personally be engaged.

Point 2: In missions-hearted churches, a key point person or persons take the lead in promoting Alliance Missions.

- Senior pastors can only focus on a few key things as leader. He cannot do this alone.
- Missions engaged churches have a key point person and/or Missions Team/Committee to handle the details of the missions conference and who also present interesting and challenging promotion of Alliance missions throughout the year.
- Be an active committee to make Alliance Missions attractive to your congregation.

Duane A. Wheeland, Former Church Liaison, the Global Link Team, The Alliance

Adapted: Omar Niebles, Engage Team Lead, Metro District

Point 3: Missions-hearted churches present frequent information on Alliance work around the globe. Not just once a year.

- Most of these strongly supporting Alliance ministries have at least a monthly missions moment during the service. Some have 3 weeks out of a month.
- People like to know that they are not just not part of an individual church but a global ministry family network.
- Consider using Alliance Video Magazines (see www.cmalliance.org for resources), Zoom, and sharing of e-mail prayer requests from International Workers. The length can be as short as 1 to 2 minutes and up to 5 minutes. Frequency more than length is critical!

Point 4: Strong missions-hearted churches make missions personal – People want to give to people and projects.

- Congregations love to connect personally with a few International Workers
- Connecting with these workers in emails, stories, and Skype connections
- Praying for these workers
- Making short term trips
- Consider these things by developing a more personal connection with a few International Workers.

Point 5: Strong missions-hearted churches are intentionally engaged in making missions a priority.

- Use the Faith Promise Pledge cards effectively. Create fresh ideas of presenting Great Commission Fund to the congregation.
- In some churches, leadership determines a Great Commission Fund goal for their congregation and puts it into bulletin and keeps it in front of their congregation.
- Other churches determine to tithe from their general fund and this amount goes directly to the GCF.

Point 6: Strong missions-hearted churches build missions into their DNA from the beginning.

Duane A. Wheeland, Former Church Liaison, the Global Link Team, The Alliance

Adapted: Omar Niebles, Engage Team Lead, Metro District

GROWING A MISSION-HEARTED CHURCH

“creating global movement that impacts Great Commission fulfillment”

The “mission-hearted” church describes a group of followers of Christ whose worldview and service is formed by Acts 1:8. These are a people who serve Christ as His storytellers wherever the Holy Spirit leads them, encouraging one another to maximum effectiveness in the Acts 1:8 spheres of influence.

The Mission Leadership Team (MLT) grows a vibrant Acts 1:8, mission-hearted church as they educate, inspire and mobilize all members and age groups about God’s opportunities to reach the unreached “here, there, and everywhere” (M-1, M-2, M-3). The team’s role is “to make ‘mission a normal, regular part of congregational life... [so that] mission is both intensive and extensive” (The Mission Leadership Team, D Mays, pp. 19-20).

The following steps will get the team started:

- Form the Mission Leadership Team (MLT) recruiting influencers in the congregation.
 - Who are the influential people of all age group ministries to invite to serve on the MLT?
 - (Documents: *Mission Hearted Church, Mission Leadership Team* and *Mission Mobilizer Coach*)
 - (Books: *The Mission Leadership Team*, by David Mays; *Building Missionaries* by Glenn Hanna)
- Lead the MLT to develop a mission statement describing the kind of Mission-Hearted Church you seek to build.
 - Sample mission statements:
 - “Growing the Acts 1:8 vision to influence others for Christ”
 - “Inspiring Christ-followers to finish the Great Commission”
- Develop a strategic plan for how the mission statement will be fleshed out either with the MLT.
 - The action plan describes how this mission will be achieved through all age groups.
 - Describe how each congregational/age group activity will do this.
 - Include measurable Acts 1:8 outcomes for each activity.
 - Feel free to include the “5 Partnering Activities” guide.
- Be sure that the strategic plan answers these questions:
 - What existing activities and age groups of the church need to be included?
 - How do we keep all groups educated, inspired, and involved in the global Acts 1:8 areas of influence? (Jerusalem, Judea/Samaria, Ends of the earth)
 - How do we develop a “giving by faith” heartbeat?
 - How do we develop prayer partnership for M-1, M-2, M-3 with all ages and groups?
- With the MLT, plan out a 12-month schedule of activities—Include in calendar:
 - Scheduled Mission Festivals to which international workers or regional workers from M-1, M-2, M-3 areas will participate.
 - Variety of publicity venues to keep people informed and praying for needs, challenges and praise for victories.
 - Example: Moment for Missions, Kids on a Mission, bulletin inserts, bulletin board, Kids club, women’s groups, men’s groups, etc.
- Delegate and distribute responsibilities to each MLT member in keeping with their ministry and spiritual gifts. Remember, that authority to fulfill a responsibility must accompany the job each person has. Clarify lines of authority and the types of decisions team members can make.
- Purchase resource materials for each group/event: go to www.cmalliance.org and choose “resources.”
- MLT Lead is the key contact point for all International and National workers that come to speak at Mission events. Others on the team take responsibilities for travel arrangements, publicity, lodging for guest speakers, etc. Your mission festival goal is “building relationships with the Int’l Worker.”
 - Special Note: the MLT chairperson does not do all the work. He/she involves each team member in the planning and the work.

Mission Leadership Team

Job Opportunity

Definition: the Mission Leadership Team (MLT) is composed of selected members of the local church whose team goal is to educate, inspire and mobilize the church's membership & participants in Acts 1:8 focus—telling Christ's story [through word and deed] "in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The MLT nurtures an environment of outward looking people who are excited about serving God in the three areas of Acts 1:8 influence. The reason the MLT does this is so that every tribe, tongue, nation and people are represented at God's throne room (Rev. 7:9).

Membership: the MLT is composed of members of the local church who have been selected by the church leaders according to the bylaws of the congregation.

Duties of the Mission Leadership Team:

- I. CONNECT the church to Alliance International Worker partners
 - a. Connect every age group and small group of the local congregation to Acts 1:8 ministries through information, relationship building events, news, prayer letters, short term ministry teams, etc. (See form "Five Partnering Activities" for information on partnership ministries).
 - b. Jerusalem: the immediate community of the congregation, called "M-1."
 - i. Ex: Pregnancy Counseling Center, local prison, after school ministries, ESL, etc.
 - c. Judea & Samaria: the region and the country, called "M-2." Samaria refers to the people groups that may not always welcome your presence.
 - i. Ex: Kingdom Mercy & Justice initiatives, Metro District new church plants, Envision NYC, Katrina Project, Native American ministries; etc.
 - d. Ends of the earth: people and regions beyond our borders, where there is a cultural and geographic change; called "M-3."
 - i. Ex: C&MA workers in Kosovo, Lebanon, etc.
- II. TRAIN the congregation
 - a. Train a mission-hearted coach for each key church ministry (children, youth, men, women, Sunday School, worship, small group leaders) who will keep his/her "congregation" informed and up to date on the news of the events in the three areas of mission influence.
 - b. Plan and oversee mission events so that these events are available and attractive to all age groups. "Mission Conference/Festival" takes place for two to five days during which a worker in one of the M-1, M-2, or M-3 regions informs and challenges the believers to invest personally and financially in God's work outside of their normal life experience. This kind of event can take place as frequently as is desired—quarterly and at least once a year—and needs to touch every age group.
- III. GO and SEND
 - a. Research and discover opportunities for service in M-1, M-2, M-3 where believers can serve. This includes ENVISION for youth, and short-term service trips for adults with international and local C&MA partners.
 - b. Mentor and coach youth and adults who respond to God's call to ministry, helping them to reach their vision for service. Provide a safe environment for youth who commit their lives to Christian service, so that they are encouraged to follow through with their decision all the way to the point of service.
 - c. Inform each support group in the congregation of news and needs of M-1, M-2, and M-3 workers whom our congregation sends.

- IV. INVESTING in Kingdom causes
- a. Inform all age groups of ways that they can financially invest in God's work in M-1, M-2, and M-3.
 - i. Ex: Go to www.cmalliance.org to get Faith Promise Plan for children and adults.
 - b. Prayerfully set investment goals for the different age groups that will encourage and motivate them to financially invest in selected ministries. Inform investors of the progress toward those goals.
 - c. Ensure adequate publicity about how investments to the selected ministries are effectively using the funds that were sent to them.

CONCLUSION: The Mission Leadership Team creates an environment and congregational culture of outward looking people who are excited about serving God in the three spheres of influence—they are “champions” for the global Kingdom of God.