

Cross-Cultural Mission Training



Stage 1: Explore

by Miles Jarvis and Karen Todd

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Excerpts from “Cross-Cultural Mission Training - Stages 1-5:
Explore | Prepare | Go | Thrive | Return” by Miles Jarvis and Karen Todd

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Stage 1: EXPLORE



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In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.

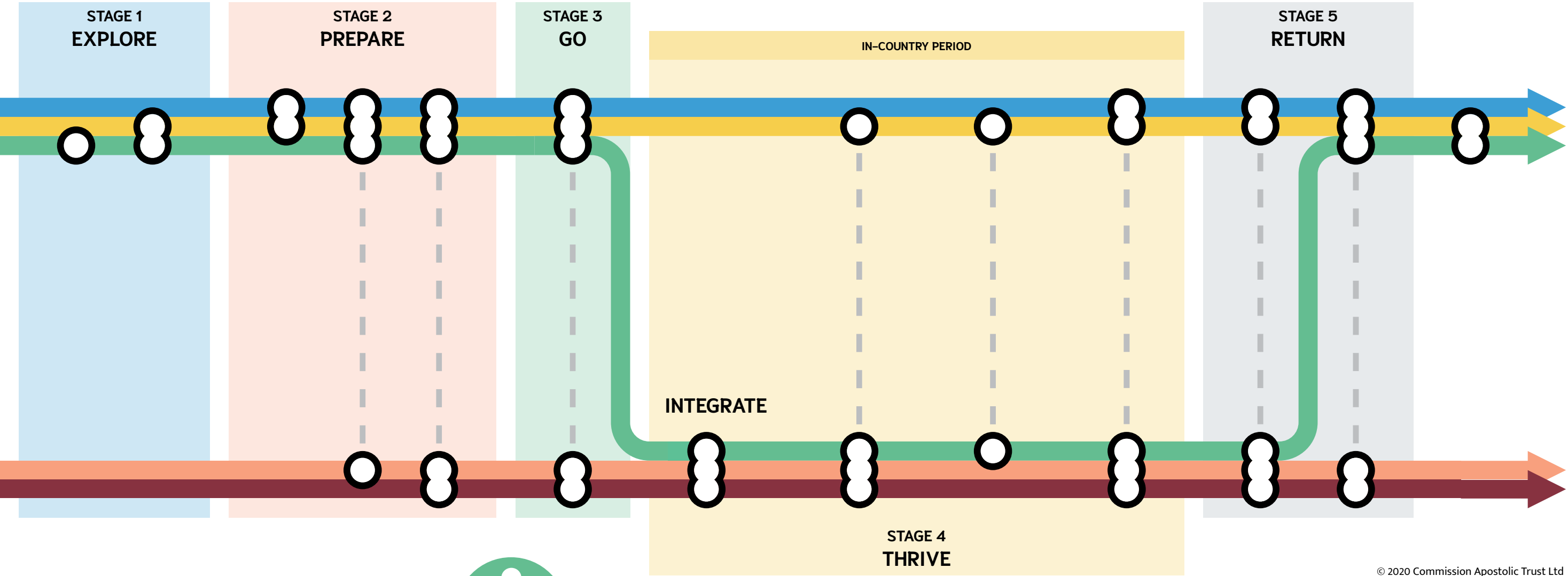
Proverbs 16: 9 (NIV)

Introduction

This material has been designed to support you at every stage of your journey in cross-cultural mission. There is an accompanying Standard of Care manual, which details how Commission works together with you, your local church and the country team leadership.

- ▶ **EXPLORE** - Is God calling you into cross-cultural mission? Through asking relevant questions, this stage will help you begin to understand and unpack whether God is calling you to be involved in cross-cultural mission.
- ▶ **PREPARE** - Preparing well to go on cross-cultural mission is essential. This stage will support you in the preparation process, helping you build authentic relationships with the leaders in your sending church, who will play a significant role in your journey.
- ▶ **GO** - Worried about the practicalities? This stage will help you think through some of the practical detail, from developing a home support team to preparing a budget, with handy checklists to make sure nothing is forgotten!
- ▶ **THRIVE** - In order to thrive it is important to remain accountable to your team leader, sending church and apostolic oversight. This stage is designed to ask key questions to see how things are going and to help keep on track.
- ▶ **RETURN** - Returning to your home country can be challenging regardless of how long you have lived in a different culture. This stage will help you through the transitional process of returning and moving forwards.

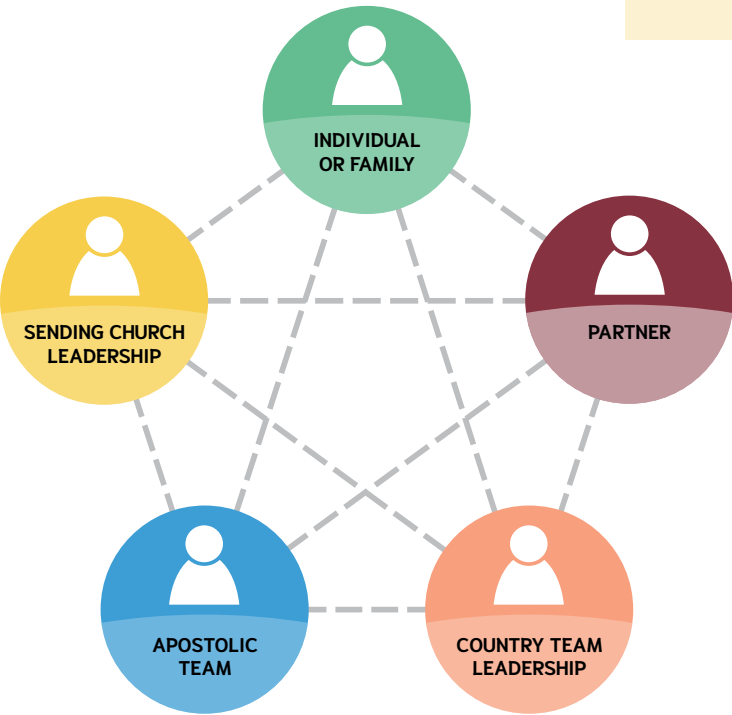
Your Journey



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Interaction
e.g. Visit, Meeting, Skype, Email, etc.

Points of Contact



Based on a City Transit Map design, this diagram illustrates the stages of the journey in sending and supporting overseas workers, from the perspective of all key groups of people involved.

Significant points of contact are shown to ensure clear communication and clarify expectations. It is not representative of the frequency of points of contact or the duration of each stage, as this will vary for each situation.

On your marks!

If you are reading this, you are hopefully already feeling stirred about cross-cultural mission. As you work through the questions, discussing them with your church leader, our hope is that you clarify the next step of your journey.

God's plan

God speaks in different ways and at different times, even when He has plans to use a group of people in the same area. Behind the scenes, God can be preparing many people to get ready to go. He does this in various ways, unique to each of His children. These initial questions give you an opportunity to start unpacking your next steps.

As we learn to walk by faith and be obedient to God, we often need to face our fears and overcome our limitations. God will use these lessons to impact your character, often in a way that is more profound than first anticipated.

Be accountable

It's an important first step to be in fellowship with others when preparing to go, to ensure you aren't taking your eyes off God and being distracted by the sole goal of fulfilling 'your call'. Following your call should never be more important than following your Saviour. He must remain the most important focus in your lives. Let's be real; God can fulfil this mission with or without us, but in His goodness and grace, He chooses to include us in His plans. Wherever you are on your journey, embracing these questions will help you to be proactive, prayerful and accountable.

How to use Stage 1

Get started on your own

The material is designed to give you plenty of space to record your thoughts, ideas and plans.

Initially, answer the questions in the following sections by yourself or with your partner:

- ▶ Working out your call.
- ▶ Clarifying the call.
- ▶ Facing fears.

After this, arrange a time to meet and discuss your answers with your church leadership.

Meeting with your church leadership

Discuss your answers with one of your church leaders and work through the questions on pages 19 & 20 of this stage. This will help to determine the next steps you will need to take.

Working out your call

1. What do you feel passionate about?
2. Do you feel you have a specific calling, people group or country to explore?
3. Can you summarise this calling?

4. How soon do you think this might happen?

5. How long do you think you might go for?

Clarifying the call

1. How do you know this is from God?

2. Who have you spoken to about it?

What did they say to you?

3. What confirmations have you had?

4. Have there been any relevant prophecies?

5. What specific skills do you possess that tie in with the call?

6. What relevant experience do you have that ties in with the call?

7. How are your relational skills suited to being part of a team?

Facing fears

1. What might happen if you act on this call?
2. What are some of the risks or dangers you face?

3. Are there any barriers that impede you?

4. If you are part of a couple, do you both feel the same about the calling?

5. If you have children, how do you feel about the effect on them if you pursue this calling?

Have you spoken to your children about this? How do they feel about it?

6. Are there any cultures, people groups or situations with which you would be wary of getting involved?

Working with leaders

1. What do your church leaders think about you pursuing cross-cultural mission?
2. In what ways do they support your call?

3. How can you work together to take the next steps that get you going?

4. Are there any issues you feel you need to work through before you actually go?

My next steps

Having discussed this with my church leader, my next steps are going to be:

1.

2.

3.

Here are some suggestions:

- ▶ Attend a cross-cultural awareness day.
- ▶ Find out what opportunities exist in Commission / Newfrontiers.
- ▶ Read 'Commission Standard of Care booklet'.
- ▶ Read 'Foreign to Familiar' (by Sarah Lanier).
- ▶ Start to work through this material - Stage 2: Prepare.

Notes

For more information or questions, please email:

office@commission.global

This interactive workbook will take you through five key stages in your journey in cross-cultural mission:

- ▶ **Stage 1: Explore** - Understand more whether God is calling you to cross cultural mission.
- ▶ **Stage 2: Prepare** - Go deeper with challenging questions examining character, faith and relationships.
- ▶ **Stage 3: Go** - Think through some of the practical questions as you prepare to leave the UK.
- ▶ **Stage 4: Thrive** - Assess how things are going and focus on positive steps to move forward.
- ▶ **Stage 5: Return** - A structured reflection on your experiences as you return to the UK.



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