

Cross-Cultural Mission Training



Stage 3: Go

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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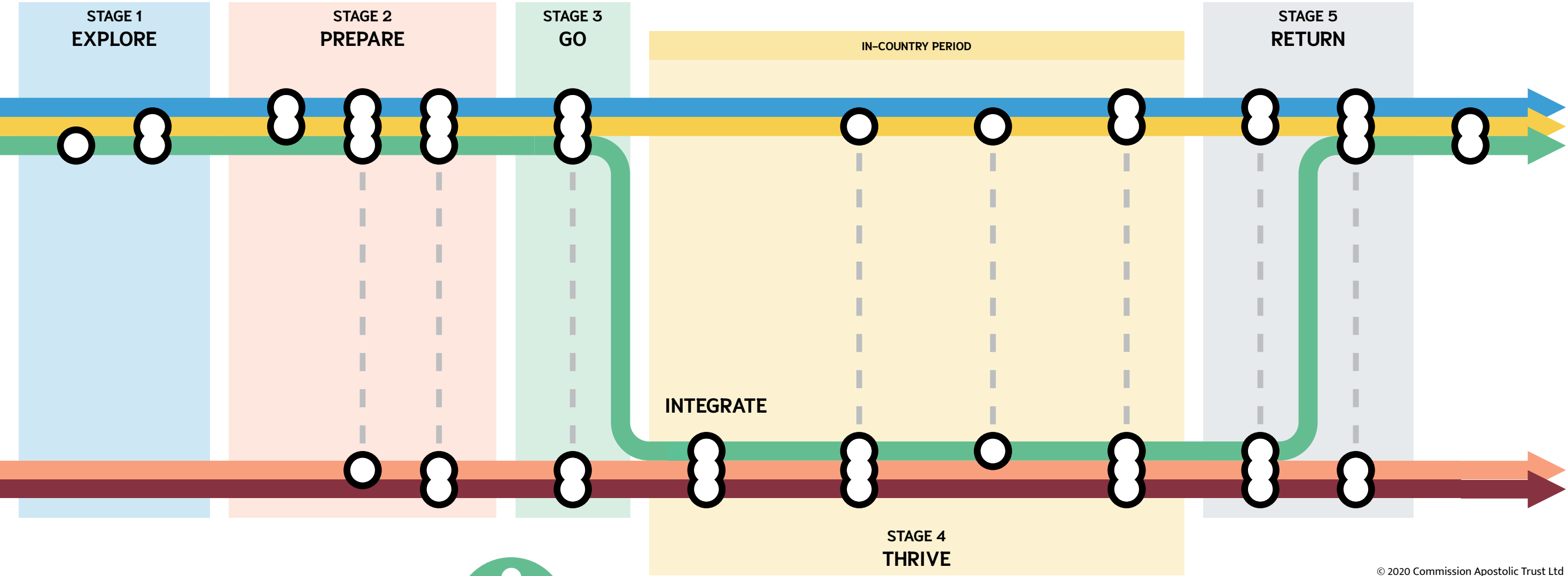
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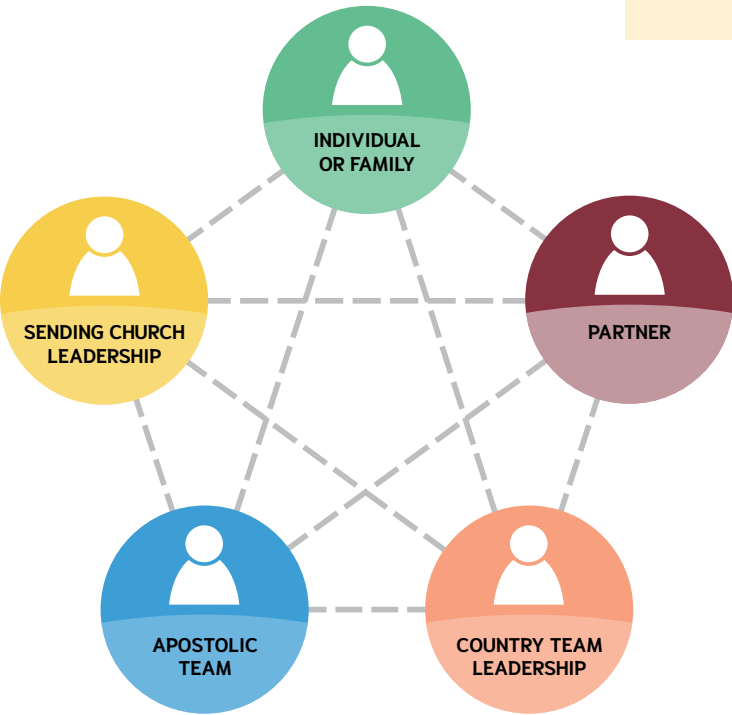
Your Journey



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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.



Stage 3: GO



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For we live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5: 7 (NIV)

Go!

This stage is all about the practical details. There is a lot to think about, even if you are going on a short-term trip for a couple of weeks. If you are packing up a home and moving your family overseas, there is enough to make your head spin.

Take action

This will help you think through some of the practical detail from developing a Home Support Team (HST) to preparing a budget, with handy checklists to make sure nothing is forgotten!

By now you should have worked through the 'Explore' and 'Prepare' stages and you should be well on the way to putting a roadmap in place for your departure. This should be discussed with your church leader, apostolic team and country leader.

This material will not contain every single thing you need to remember before you leave. It covers the broad headings of what you should be thinking about but cannot cover every detail. Talk to a buddy (someone who has gone to this location before) if you have one, so that they can talk through anything you may have forgotten. There is room at the end of this section to make notes and add in any extra details.

Visa and work permits

This may be one of the biggest issues to resolve. It can take more time and finance than you may originally think. You need to find out as much as possible about the different visas that are available for your location. Talking to people who are already in-country will be an enormous help.

If you are travelling to a new location and blazing a trail for Commission, there are likely to be people who have been there before as part of a mission agency or other employment.

Prayer will be a vital ingredient in the visa/work permit application process. Make sure you have others praying for key interviews and appointments.

Notes

Language and culture

Depending on the context, you will probably need to consider language tuition and cultural training. Even travelling to an English-speaking culture will present huge cross-cultural challenges.

- ▶ Do I need to think about learning another language?
- ▶ Talk to the country team leader or my 'buddy' about the best way forward concerning language.
- ▶ What training do I need to consider?
- ▶ What reading do I need to do?
- ▶ If a partner is involved (e.g. employer, charity or NGO, etc.), what are the expectations on you regarding language, training and cultural orientation?

Notes

What questions do I need answers to?

Finance

This will be one of the biggest areas to sort out and needs to be approached with a mixture of faith and wisdom when discussed with those involved in sending you.

Agree with partners how your budget will be funded. It is vital to have a clear understanding of expectations at this stage. This may take time to agree, as other discussions will need to take place (e.g. with elders in the sending church).

Ideally, there should be general agreement amongst partners that the individual or couple should be sent, before finance is discussed more formally. However, the individual or couple can do a lot of preparatory work before any discussions take place. Where possible, this should involve those who have travelled to the location previously, ideally in the same context (i.e. if a family are travelling, the 'buddy' should have experience of taking a family overseas).

Key questions

1. How will I support myself financially?

2. How much money do I need to live in this new place?

See 'Putting together a budget' overleaf.

3. Am I planning to ask other people to support me? If so, have I considered how to go about this?

4. What financial ties will I still have to the UK?

5. Have I looked into bank accounts and foreign financial laws (including how to access money and pay bills)?

Consider using a bank account that allows international payments and overseas cash withdrawal at no additional cost.

Consider giving Power of Attorney to a responsible person in the UK.

Putting together a budget

The following will need to be considered:

One-off/moving costs

- ▶ International flights.
- ▶ Preparation trips.
- ▶ Apartment deposit / fees.
- ▶ Furniture.
- ▶ Car.
- ▶ Cross-cultural training.
- ▶ Visa. *(e.g. may be recurring)*
- ▶ Shipping.
- ▶ Crisis budget.
- ▶ Holidays.
- ▶ Home Ministry Assignment.

Monthly costs

- ▶ Rent.
- ▶ Living costs. *(e.g. food, clothes, sundries, etc.)*
- ▶ Mobile / Broadband.
- ▶ Utilities.
- ▶ Travel.
- ▶ Education.
- ▶ Insurance. *(e.g. medical, liability [if appropriate], etc.)*
- ▶ Medical care.
- ▶ Pension.
- ▶ Training costs. *(e.g. language lessons)*
- ▶ Professional membership fees.

Income

Consider the income you could expect from the following:

- ▶ Rental income.
- ▶ Support from church family and friends.
- ▶ Employment.
- ▶ Other sources.

Advice

There is lots of advice available, e.g. tax, setting up voluntary National Insurance contributions, pensions, housing (e.g. renting out), etc.

See Resources section of Commission Standard of Care manual.

Income on return

If you know at this stage that you intend to return home, the final thing to consider is how you would generate an income when you come back. This will vary, depending on the context, but if financial support is being given from a local church or Commission, this should continue for a defined period after the individual or couple return home.

Notes

Things before you go

- ▶ If I have property, what arrangements will be put in place?

If renting, contact HMRC to register as a non-resident landlord.

- ▶ What things need to be arranged?

Tax arrangements, mortgage, utilities, council tax, contracts, etc.

Actions

- ▶ How involved are the wider family (e.g. parents) with plans?

Do the apostolic team and sending church leader need to meet with them to allay any fears, etc.?

- ▶ Has a will(s) been made or updated, in light of the new circumstances?

- ▶ Has consideration been given to what would happen in the event of the death of a spouse, or even both spouses?

- ▶ What about guardianship of children in the event of death overseas?

Is this clarified in the will(s)?

- ▶ Do my sending church and Commission have my emergency contact details in the UK?

This should form part of the 'Country Specific Security Plan' (CSSP).

Things for overseas

This section looks at what you will need to think about in the first few weeks of living overseas. Don't wait until you get there though. Try and get the answers before you go.

- ▶ Accommodation in-country – where will I live?
- ▶ What about education for children?
- ▶ How do I set up a bank account (if necessary)?
- ▶ Have I registered with Stewardship (to facilitate any financial support, arrange gift aid donations, etc.)?
- ▶ How do I get a driving licence (if appropriate)?
- ▶ How do I ship goods overseas?
- ▶ Checklist of information to keep to hand (photocopy all these and keep copies in the sending country):

- ☐ Birth Certificate.
- ☐ Marriage Certificate.
- ☐ Driving Licence.
- ☐ Evidence of no claims for car insurance.
- ☐ Insurance policies, medical and dental records, etc.
- ☐ Any naturalisation papers, adoption/guardianship records, etc.
- ☐ 12 months of bank statements.
- ☐ CV, references and relevant certificates.

Continued overleaf...

...continued

- ☐ School records.
- ☐ Power of Attorney, key financial papers, contact details of doctors, etc.
- ☐ Lawyers and other key professionals.
- ☐ Will(s).
- ☐ Emergency contact details.

Notes

Pastoral support

Support from home is vital. You should try and put together a Home Support Team (HST) who will be part of the team yet stay at home. This should not necessarily be the church leader but someone who also carries a passion for what you do. More information on the HST can be found in the Standard of Care.

Have I got a ...

- ☐ 'Buddy' to help prepare and return?
- ☐ Home Support Team?

► What would help me in terms of support from home?

What ideally would I like?

For example, a visit once a year, prayer support, a monthly/termly Skype, news from home and church, help when we have home country leave, someone to remember birthdays, etc.

Notes

Health

A really important consideration! Here are a few key questions to ask yourself as you prepare:

- ▶ Are there any ongoing health issues (physical or mental) to resolve or investigate further before I go?
- ▶ Have I spoken to a travel specialist?
- ▶ Have I looked at insurance cover?
- ▶ Have I allowed enough time to get vaccinations?
- ▶ Do I need to attend a First Aid course?

Notes

Security and safety

There should be a Country Specific Security Plan (CSSP) in place in the country you are working, if you or any member of the team is living there for more than 6 months.

There are also standard Security and Safety Procedures in place to help protect those overseas and to help manage any critical incidents.

- ▶ Have I read:
 - ☐ Outline Security Policy
 - ☐ Security and Safety Procedures
 - ☐ CSSP
- ▶ What concerns or issues do I need to resolve before I go?
- ▶ Are there any security courses that I need to attend prior to leaving?

Notes

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The MoU is written agreement stating understanding of responsibilities for each of the partners. It also outlines expectations relating to communications, finance, home ministry assignments and annual leave. More details can be found in the Standard of Care that accompanies this training series.

It should be put together with the sending church leader, apostolic team lead, individual/couple and the country team leader.

- ☐ Draft version of MoU
- ☐ Final version complete
- ☐ Shared with all partners

Notes

Final preparation

- ▶ Do my local church and the Commission office know my emergency contact details?
- ▶ Is the MoU finalised and all partners aware of responsibilities?
- ▶ Have I arranged a 'sending' service with my local church?
- ▶ Is the HST in place?
- ▶ What other final preparations are needed?
- ▶ Have I arranged for post to be redirected to a friend or relative?
- ▶ Have I sufficient local currency to cover initial costs?
- ▶ Have key expectations for the first six months been defined?

Notes

People to inform

The following people or amenities may need to be informed before you leave:.

- ☐ Family and friends.
- ☐ Work colleagues.
- ☐ Electoral register.
- ☐ DVLA (Car tax, licence, etc.)
- ☐ HMRC (Tax, Tax Credits, Child Benefit, etc.)
- ☐ Insurance companies.
- ☐ Banks.
- ☐ Utilities (Gas, Electric, Water, etc.)
- ☐ TV Licence.
- ☐ Local authority (Council Tax).
- ☐ Phone provider (Mobile, Broadband, Landline, TV).
- ☐ Subscription providers.
- ☐ Gym membership.
- ☐ Providers of rented or credit goods.

Notes

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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