

How to Choose a Mission Board

Finding a ministry to work with is somewhat like finding a mate; compatibility is important! As you seek God's direction, working through the following questions can help you objectively analyze your options concerning vocational missionary service:

I. Evaluation of mission boards

- A. What is their doctrinal position (what do they believe)?
- B. What is their mission statement?
 - 1. Is their purpose for existing valid (biblical, practical)?
 - 2. Is their vision for the future well-defined?
 - 3. Are their goals objectively measurable?
- C. What is their methodology?
 - 1. What do they do?
 - 2. Are they working toward their stated goals?
 - 3. Are their practices biblical and ethical?
- D. What is their history and "corporate culture?"
 - 1. Testimony in the Christian community
 - 2. Testimony in their target community?
- E. Who are their personnel (administration, staff missionaries)?
- F. What are their requirements for staff membership?
 - 1. Spiritual (e.g., minimum time a believer)
 - 2. Educational
 - a. Formal Bible training
 - b. College degree
 - c. Candidate school, boot camp, or internship
 - 3. Physical/emotional/psychological
- G. What are their financial practices?
 - 1. Salaried or individual support
 - 2. Support levels (dollar distribution)
 - 3. Benefits
 - a. Insurance
 - b. Retirement
 - c. Vacation policy
 - d. Financial "track record" (e.g., timely payments)
- H. Where are their fields and who determines placement?

II. Examining God's will for my life

- A. What are my spiritual gifts, abilities, and experience?
- B. Do I sense God is leading me into vocational Christian service?
- C. On what is my burden for a people/location based?
- D. Do others (e.g., parents, pastor) affirm me in my decision?
- E. Is affiliation with a mission board desirable?
- F. Is there a mission board where I "fit" (using the criteria from #1 above)?
- G. Are there other options?
 - 1. Short term
 - 2. Part time/associate staff
 - 3. Partner/volunteer