

18.26 Network

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Vocational Missions FAQs FOR MISSIONARIES

Some *frequently-asked-questions* (FAQs) and concerns that may come to mind when you consider working with vocational missionaries:

How would this work? Are they MTW missionaries? Are they part of our MTW team?

Vocational missionaries are not MTW missionaries but serve in partnership with the team at their invitation. Vocational missionaries' first ministry is to be faithful workers and excellent members to their community. The US State Department estimates that over 9 million Americans live and work internationally. We want to see more of them serving intentionally with mission works in the place they live and work. So, the 18.26 Network connects people with current reformed mission works by helping them develop a memorandum of understanding between the vocational missionary and the mission work.

What is the relationship of the vocational missionary to the team and MTW leadership?

Since the vocational missionary is not directly under the authority of MTW the relationship is one of mutual respect and accountability. The vocational missionary agrees to be under the MTW leadership in regard to ministry. That means their ministry is to compliment and promote the MTW team's ministry. The vocational missionary will participate in Bible studies and worship services as they are able. They will invite people to activities and services of the team.

What are the negatives for a team to have a vocational missionary serve with them?

Of course, having another person that will need help and some oversight adds to the leaders' work. It means there's another relationship for the missionaries to develop and maintain. It may mean that the vocational missionary and possibly their family will not understand how difficult living in another country is, thus it will mean more care and helping of them.

How will vocational missionaries be helpful to mission teams and global partners?

There are many benefits of having vocational missionaries and here are a few: they make contacts with people that the team probably would not; they arrive on the field within months after communicating with the 18.26 Network about their desire to serve. Because they have a job and their company helps them some, the mission team doesn't have to help them as much as they do new missionaries or interns.

What training and preparation to serve in a foreign country will they have?

We are preparing a series of video trainings including webinars on 7 vital areas. All training will be virtual and interactive. Vocational missionaries will be able to access and watch videos as they needed in their cultural adaptation. They will be encouraged to watch all of our training videos and answer questions related to the teaching material.

1. Spiritual Foundations: how to keep your spiritual life vibrant and active
2. Cross-cultural Skills working in a different culture,
3. Developing a ministry plan that includes understanding MTW's core values,
4. Biblical and theological essentials by partnering with Third Millennium,
5. How to work with a team including church planting values and biblical conflict management,
6. Evangelism basics in a foreign context,
7. Language Acquisition Skills