

Missionary Training Curriculum

The Core Training Modules

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~ based on available missionary profiles and existing training programs ~

The Core Training Modules:

- 1. Spiritual Formation**
- 2. Interpersonal Relationships**
- 3. Culture**
- 4. Language**
- 5. Church Planting Methodologies**
- 6. Translation**
- 7. Administration Skills**
- 8. Practical Skills**

These eight modules correspond to competency skills that need to be acquired in order to be effective in cross-cultural ministry. Each module can be delivered in one week or 36 hours. Each module has eight to ten unit topics as outlined below:

1. Spiritual Formation

- Biblical and Theological Foundation
- Bible Study Tools and Methods
- Exegesis and Interpretation Skills
- Personal and Corporate Relationship with God
- Dependence on the Bible (authenticity and applicability)
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Church Structure and Function
- Moral and Ethical Integrity
- Understands Spiritual Warfare

2. Interpersonal Relationships

- Relationship to Self (awareness, assessment, and adjustment)
- Relationship to Family
- Relationship to Co-Workers – interpersonal skills and counseling
- Relationship to Sponsoring Churches
- Relationship to Existing Churches in Host Society
- Relationship to New Church in Host Society
- Relationship to Partnering Organizations and Ministries
- Relationship to Local Community

3. Culture

- Culture Anthropology – basic theories and categorizations
- Ethnocentrism and Cultural Adjustment (identification and incarnationalism)

- Culture Investigation Methodologies – how to do and record ethnographic research
- Culture Analysis – what does it mean?
- Worldviews – core assumptions where teaching is directed
- Folk Religions/Animism
- Critical Contextualization (the form/meaning correlation)
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Language Acquisition (language must always be seen as “culture derived,” thus inextricably joined to culture)

4. Language

- Introduction to Language and Communication
- Phonetics – articulators (primary and secondary), sounds, symbols, and nonverbal systems
- Language Acquisition Methodologies – language learning preferences
- Language Learning Techniques – planning (goals and objectives), working with a language helper, exposure (in and out of context), elicitation skills, listening skills, tracking skills, mimicking skills, transcription skills, practical expressions, phonetic and grammar drills (electronically recorded), and working with text material
- Phonemics – orthography
- Grammar
- Data Processing – recording and organizing or use of software suites
- Linguistics – phonemic analysis, grammatical analysis, text analysis, and discourse analysis
- Key terms and concepts related to church planting

5. Church Planting Methodologies

- Pre-Entry – research and sponsorship
- Exit Strategy – the key
- Pre-Evangelism – culture and language acquisition, bonding, foundations, worldview tension, discipleship from day one, minimizing paternalism
- Evangelism
- Narrative as the Missiological Methodology (storytelling, chronological Bible teaching, chronological Bible storying)
- Spiritual Formation (corporate and individual)
- The Church in the Host Society – a kingdom community
- Leadership Development and Changing Roles
- Curriculum Development – easily reproducible
- Transformational Community Development
- Phase Out

6. Translation

- Prerequisites for Translators
- Principles of Translation – language structures, construction of meaning (explicit/implicit, denotative/connotative), the role of symbols, lexical markers, figures of speech, and the translation process (methods and procedures)

- Translation Checking
- Use of Software

7. Administration Skills

- Administration Principles and Practices – management and leadership, leadership styles, cross-cultural leadership and followership, organization, motivation, delegation, and the use of goals and objectives (planning)
- Decision-Making – cross-cultural implications
- Problem-Solving – cross-cultural implications
- Conflict Management – cross-cultural implications
- Time Management – cross-cultural implications
- Group Development and Dynamics
- Communication Skills
- Facilitation Skills

8. Practical Skills

- Health, Hygiene, Medications, and First-Aid
- Technology – photography, radio, computer, solar, chain saws, generators, refrigeration, wiring, boating, outboards, small engines, and motors
- Music
- Field Medicine
- Community Development – agriculture, livestock, water, natural resources, sanitation, health, food handling and storage, small business, and micro-enterprise
- Fishing and Gaming
- Contingency Plan – hostage, military or political crises