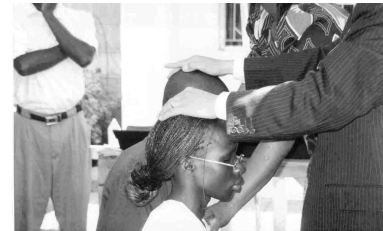




Chapter 3: Steps and Regulations to a Missionary Commission

Although there are hundreds of other greater mission agencies in the world, we at EAPTC found the following system somehow work best for us. By all means we do not assert the following procedure to be perfect for missionary preparation and commission, however, you may find it helpful since it has been tested and proven effective on our fields in Africa for years.



REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSIONARIES

If you are interested in going into missionary service, EAPTC requires three things:

1. You must have graduated from a School of Mission. Plus, we highly recommend you to study a theology at least to a degree level before missionary commission. The more you learn the more you get equipped.
2. You must have gone through the entire course of Missionary Candidate Training offered by EAPTC.
3. A whole-hearted recommendation from your pastor or overseer in which he/she details areas of ministry where you have served in your local church. God's chosen tool for spreading His kingdom here on earth is the church. If you have not been faithful serving right where you are at home church, there is no reason to believe you would be faithful serving on the mission field.

STEPS TO THE FIELD

Perhaps you feel called to missionary service but do not know how to get started. We will be willing to walk through the process with you, however, the following steps will be basically the road to the mission field we recommend you to follow:

Trainings at School of Mission / Missionary Candidate Training

The courses offered through School of Mission and Missionary Candidate Training will equip you firsthand to become an effective minister of the gospel. This is the primary step you should take. Your missionary calling can be also discovered and refined as you go through the courses at the institute.

Explore opportunities

If you do not yet have a calling for a specific ministry and/or location, there are many resources available. As a start, we suggest that you examine and pray through the Operation World book written by Patrick Johnstone.

Vision trip

If a need arises, we can help you find a vision mission trip opportunity. We may organize vision trips for you to visit and to serve with current EAPTC missionaries or EAPTC-affiliated foreign ministries. Or you may choose to visit any other missionaries' fields upon our consent. This will give you a foretaste of the mission field to see if it is really for you.

Application submission

Once your missionary call is confirmed by the Executive Board of EAPTC, you are ready to submit your missionary application (See Appendix 1).

Limited term internship

After evaluating your application, the board may arrange additional training experiences for you through a limited term internship (e.g. pastoral ministry, open air evangelism, cell church planting, lecturing practice, etc.) should they see a need of such kind of training in your missionary preparation. Duration of such opportunity may be determined according to your status, your internship program and your mission field, however, 1-6 months are normally suggested. In this case, good recommendations must be given from your supervisors at the end of your internship (See Appendix 2).

Supporter-raising

Once your missionary application has been approved, *you will be responsible for raising of your own prayer/financial supporters*. EAPTC can, however, assist you in your supporter-raising effort in the following ways:

- By producing a missionary's support-appealing flyer (See Appendix 3)
- By helping a missionary arrange his/her speaking opportunities at the local churches
- By bridging a missionary with prospective supporters at home and abroad

Ministry proposal paper submission / Dedication service

Your mission supporters and partners will come and witness the blessed occasion of dedicating you and your family as missionaries with EAPTC. However, this dedication service is different from the actual missionary commission service, which will take place later on. You will be also required to submit your ministry proposal paper to the EAPTC Executive Board before your departure to the mission field.

Research missionary work

You will be required to research the field and to set up a foundation of your missionary work for this period (3-6 months recommended).

Commission ceremony

Once the research period is over, you will be ready for the missionary commission ceremony either by returning to the EAPTC head office or by EAPTC Executive Board member visiting you on the field. A missionary commission certificate should be issued to you at this time.

Short-term / Long-term missionary service

EAPTC defines its missionaries who stay in the field over three years as the long-term missionaries and less as short-term missionaries.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ON MISSIONARY COMMISSION

Communication

The essence of any relationship is communication. We cannot help you or rejoice with you if we do not know your needs and triumphs. If you have a need, share it with us so we can be in prayers for you. If you are facing opposition, do not wait until it overwhelms you to the point of no recovery. E-mails and cell phone SMS (Short Messaging Service) are commonly available all over the world nowadays. Please keep in touch. Part of the communication channel is a monthly ministry report that we ask you send to the head office at the close of each month. This report serves two purposes:

1. It keeps us informed as to your needs, victories and goals so we can pray for you and at the same time share them with your supporters.
2. It serves as a record of your ministry activities. The accountant and audit team may want to have assurance that we are not supporting professional tourists or some terrorists on the field.

Team ministry

EAPTC strongly believes in a team ministry on the mission field. A single missionary is generally suggested to go on the missions after marriage (excluding research missionary work) unless one has the 'special vow' made to the Lord as mentioned in Matthew 19:11-12. In such cases, EAPTC will pray for matching a partner missionary of same sex for you before the commission.