



Missions Mentoring Handbook

Adam Road Presbyterian Church

June 2017

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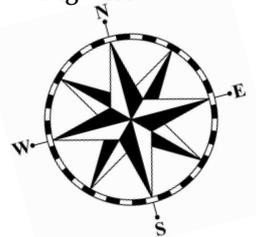
A journey with your mentor to grow spiritually together, while identifying the areas of training.

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Helpful books and articles for further reading and reflection.

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Definition of Missions

At Adam Road Presbyterian Centre (ARPC), we seek to make mature disciples of Christ through active participation in **God's Mission**. This Mission is God's plan for the redemption of the world, which started with the promises to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 to bless all nations, and will eventually culminate with a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, and language, praising God before His throne (Revelation 7:9-10).

However, our participation can only be done through the gift of God's grace in our lives, which drives us to do the good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do



Missions is not just for a select few, but for all disciples of Christ to participate in.

(Ephesians 2:8-10). By His grace, we carry His message of His love to the nations in love. By surrendering our lives to Him, we are empowered by His Spirit to make disciples of all nations.

This is the responsibility for all believers; Missions is not just for a select few, but for all disciples of Christ to participate in. Together as a

Body of Christ, we prayerfully send workers to proclaim the Gospel (Romans 10:13-15) to the people groups who have not yet heard it. And this work can take place both locally (in Singapore) and globally (overseas).

In ARPC, **cross-cultural missions**, is thus defined as:

Compelled by God's love and empowered by His Spirit, Missions is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a cross-cultural context, making disciples of all nations. So that the recipients of the Gospel will also carry the message to the ends of the earth.

Introduction to the Handbook

This handbook is designed to help a person who sense God's guidance into cross-cultural gospel ministry, and would like to embark on a process to prepare him/herself for such work.

The main content of this handbook is divided into 3 sections:

- I. **Mentoring Process:** explanation of the Training Framework for missionary candidates at ARPC.
- II. **Spiritual Review:** a series of self-assessment questions for growth in godliness..
- III. **Reflection Questions:** questions organised in a series of topics that will help guide discussions with the mentor. Each topic will include:
 1. Questions (relevant to the topic) to help to REFLECT on your current walk with God,
 2. Discussion questions with your mentor on the things you learnt through the Missions Roundtable (EDUCATION),
 3. Wholistic assessment (from your individual Spiritual Review, Reflection and Education) to help determine which ministry area you could consider being involved in, in order to be TRANSFORMED into a greater degree of Christlikeness.

The Mentoring Process

Introduction

One of the avenues we have for God's people to be equipped as a cross-cultural worker sent out by ARPC is the mentoring framework. *"Mentoring" means different things to different people, but in this context we are looking at relationship that encourages transformation by God's Spirit as the mentor and mentee journey together over time.* Rather than seeing the mentor an expert about mission or life in Christ, the ARPC Mission Mentor is someone who is first committed to God and his people, and is willing to serve God by being available to journey with people seriously considering becoming a missionary. This is more of a "coming alongside and learning together" role than a "top down share all your knowledge" role.

We are providing a series of topics for the mentor and mentee to consider together, related to "Being Christlike," "Knowing Christ's World," and "Doing Christ's Work." (see *Training Framework, page 6*, for more information). Rather than seeing these as topical bible studies, they are selections of scriptures, readings and questions that will help the mentor and mentee reflect on the various topics.

Finding a mentor

Finding a mentor is something many of us think about, but how can we go about finding someone suitable? A mission mentor does not necessarily have all of the experiences that a cross-cultural worker may face, but first and foremost they are someone learning to walk with God, seeking to love and serve God with all their heart, souls, mind and strength. Likewise, they are seeking and learning to love their neighbours as themselves.

We will be promoting mentoring for mission to ARPC leaders, including pastors, elders, deacons, DG and other ministry leaders. At same we know that mentors and mentees are not "interchangeable parts." People will work better with some people more than others. While we're not necessarily looking for someone we are "comfortable" with — we do want to be stretched, we do want to find someone with whom we think can grow in relationship with over time.

How to Start?

So where do we start in finding a mentor? Here are three steps to consider. Prayerfully consider yourself, prayerfully consider others, and ask.

Prayerfully consider yourself: In many respects you are looking for a discipleship-type of relationship. Ask God to search your heart and ensure you are serious about intentionally growing in pursuing Him first and foremost, and then whether you are serious about intentionally being prepared for cross-cultural ministry. Are you willing to work, pray and be

lovingly challenged as you consider areas for growing in character, knowledge and skills? Are you willing to be vulnerable before the Lord and with a trustworthy mentor?

Prayerfully consider others: We may not be able to find a “Paul-Timothy” type of relationship, but we can and should ask God to raise up someone with whom we can connect well with (relationally and practically, including schedules) and journey with as we learn together.

Ask someone: This might be the most difficult step, perhaps because we are afraid of being rejected! In reality, taking the initiative and approaching others for all kinds of things is a key part of missions — it may be one of the most unappreciated skills there is. It’s also a key part of growing in Christ. Learning from others requires intentionality, humility and courage. Proverbs 18:15 reminds us that “an intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.” And of course the bible doesn’t promote mere knowledge collection, but the wisdom and knowledge that lead to personal transformation. This most readily happens in a relationship with another person who is seeking to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Who should you choose?

When thinking and praying about whom to consider as a mentor at ARPC, the following considerations may be helpful. In looking for a mission mentor, you’re looking not for someone who has all of the experience and all the answers, but someone who is committed to journeying with you as you consider together the Word of God as it touches some key areas of preparation for mission. You’re not looking for someone who is perfect. Rather you’re looking for someone who is committed to growing in Jesus and his grace and knowledge. Together you’re seeking to receive and be transformed by the wisdom and power of God. “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!” (Proverbs 16:16).

Advice for both mentors and mentees:

Look for someone who is eager to grow in grace, and is open to being challenged by God through a Word-based interpersonal relationship.

Look for someone who has a heart for God and his glory being declared among the nations. Are they already involved in mission in some way (Missions Committee, short-term mission trips, prayer meetings for missionaries, serving among internationals here, etc)? If not, are they open to being involved in mission.

Look for someone you respect as well as lovingly and humbly disagree, or at least question. If you’re overly intimidated by someone (not the same as respectful of someone) you may be slow to dig deeper about issues and the meaning and application of biblical truth in life.

It can be helpful (though not essential) if the mentor/mentee is interested in a similar people group, country or type of ministry that you are interested in.

Plan on meeting regularly for 1.5-2 hours every four to six weeks. Pray for each other regularly, and perhaps share any insights you glean over WhatsApp at other times.

Advice for mentees:

Look for someone who is a little more mature and experienced in life, their walk with God and ministry (whether formal or informal ministry).

Look for someone you do not feel you need to impress. Rather, look for someone you can respect but not be intimidated by. You're looking for someone who can challenge you, even someone you may want to emulate in terms of their Kingdom commitment, service and love for others.

Be committed to the relationship. Prepare well for meetings, keep appointments and be in prayer for the mentor, the meetings, what God wants to teach you and how to apply lessons to your life now.

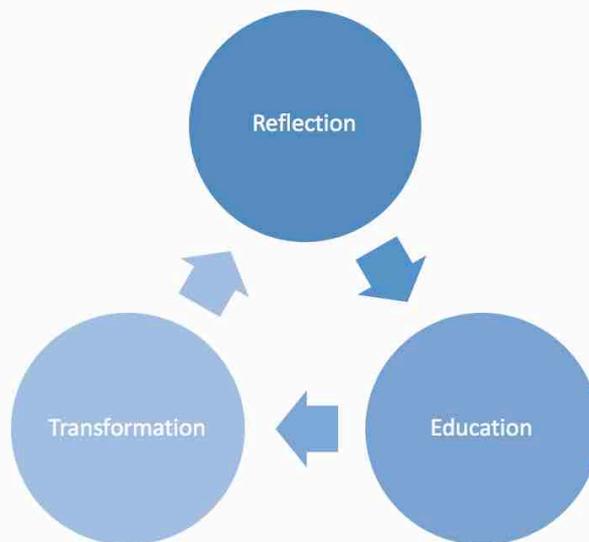
Be questioning — cultivate a listening ear to what God may be saying to you. Don't be afraid of the difficult questions, and don't insist on trying to find all the answers now.

Advice for mentors:

Don't feel like you have to have all of the answers. Be ready to admit when you don't know answers, or are puzzled by things God does (or doesn't do). Be inquisitive together with the mentee.

Be committed to journeying with the mentee, open to learning from the Lord through them, as well as sharing your own understanding of the Word, experiences and insights. At the same time, be willing to share your ups and downs, successes and failures that reveal the mercy and grace of God — perhaps through his chastisement as well as his encouragement.

Encourage the mentees to dig — don't be too quick to give answers or your opinion.



Training Framework

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

ESV Romans 10:13–15.

We, the church, are God’s chosen instruments to bring his Gospel to the ends of the earth. Just like any other work we do, training and sufficient preparation are crucial.

And more than any other form of Gospel work, missionaries serves in the context of cross-cultural environment. In view of these challenges, the following mentoring framework has been set up to address them.

Missionary Training is a life-long, iterative process of **Reflection, Education** and **Transformation**. This process is applicable from the moment a person considers long-term cross-cultural missions, or during Ministry Apprentice Program (MAP), or while studying in Bible College or serving in a cross-cultural context as a missionary.

Reflection

How am I growing in my walk with Christ? What are my strengths and weaknesses?

As we can be caught up with our commitments and busy schedules, it is important to take time to reflect on our growth in Christlikeness through ministry (Ephesians 4:11-14). At the same time, while we reflect on our progress, an honest assessment of our strengths and weakness will give us clarity on the areas we need to work on. This handbook is designed for this purpose. The aim here is to **BE Christlike**.

Education

What should I be aware of, and how can I be equipped for it?

Because of the complexity of cross-cultural missions work, a missionary candidate should learn what are the significant issues happening in the world of missions, so that he/she would not be caught unaware. It is important to **KNOW Christ’s World**. The Missions Roundtable (quarterly meetings) was set up as a platform to raise awareness of

these issues, and to have speakers to share their relevant experience, and for participants to discuss on the topics.

Transformation

How can I apply my newly gained knowledge, and so be transformed into a greater of Christlikeness?

Finally, together with the mentor and the Missions Committee, the missionary candidate can explore various ministry platforms within ARPC and with our partnering missions agencies, to apply the lessons learnt. It is only through living out the lessons and experiencing them firsthand can a person be transformed. All this takes place while we **DO Christ’s work**.

Since this is a life-long process, **ARPC will focus on the areas/topics which the missionary should be trained in during his/her time with the home church**. This will then complement the other training components offered by the partnering missions agency and theological college/ seminary.

Our hope is that through this training framework, we can prepare our missionary candidates for long-term fruitfulness, both in their lives and in the ministry that are given to them by the Lord. **And to be fruitful in this process, we hope that both the Mentors and Mentees should embark on this together.**

4. What areas of ungodliness do you struggle with? e.g. lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, pride of life, anger, malice, gossip, laziness, ingratitude, selfish ambition, sexual impurity, greed, discontentment etc

Growing in Ministry:

1. Church Ministry: What are the ministries that you serve in ARPC? Be specific about the role you play in each of them.
2. Workplace Ministry: What are your main roles in your workplace? How do you see God using you to serve him in your current job?
3. Home Ministry: What are your main roles in building up your family's walk with God, and life under God?
4. Which of these areas mentioned bring you much joy, and why?
5. Which of these areas mentioned bring you much heartaches or disappointment, and why?
6. Which ministry do you wish to stop serving in? What are the reasons (lack of gift, people issues, lack of time etc)

