

# Journey Stages

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# 1

## I heard about missions at my church

### *Steps to take*

Operation World, videos, mission newsletters, workshops,  
Talk to church missions pastor

### *DANGER!*

- Becoming a missions information consumer
- Short cutting into something small, less strategic, shorter term
- Focusing on something local, same culture, 'missional'
- Vast majority of resources go to the already-evangelized

# 2

## I want to know what it would be like to...

### *Steps to take*

Perspectives, Zumwalt, 30-day discipleship challenge, Beyond's Nuggets

### *DANGER!*

- Getting information, not taking the next step (knowing, not doing)

### *Time Expended*

30 days to 15 weeks

# 3

## Where should I go? (Country/UPG)

### *Steps to take*

Prayer, talk to missionaries, talk to agencies, vision trips,  
Needs and job descriptions, explore cultures in my locality

### *DANGER!*

- Making a short term trip into a bucket list check-off
- Spend a lot of money to do something short on the way to long-term
- Vision loss in the face of challenges

### *Time Expended*

1 to 3 months, can run parallel with stage 4

# 4

## Who should I go with?

### *Steps to take*

Review agency websites, talk to agency personnel,  
Talk to people in your circle (mission professors, pastors)

### *DANGER!*

- Endless evaluation (paralysis of analysis)
- Fear of fundraising before it's understood ("could never do that")
- Not knowing how to deal with debt
- Scared off by thought of agency requirements ("super saint")
- Agencies can look good in PR but have poor strategy
- Lone Ranger / I can do this on my own

### *Time Expended*

1 to 3 months, can run parallel with stage 3

# 5

## Agency Onboarding Process

### *Steps to take*

Complete application, references, initial conferences  
View this as an exploration stage: vet the agency

### *DANGER!*

- Like any job hire, this is to help/equip you, and protect the work
- You can feel it's taking too long and get disenchanted with process
- Easier/faster not always good: w/o infrastructure, controls (processes, accountability, leadership) can have lack of support on the field

### *Time Expended*

1 to 3 months

# 6

## Initial Training Phase

*Steps to take*

Beyond: Phase 1 Training (Home)

*DANGER!*

- Lack of sufficient training can lead to lack of effectiveness, sustainability
- Going untrained or 'trained' but ill-equipped to the field
- Training that implies unrealistic expectations of field realities

*Time Expended*

6 to 9 months, runs in parallel with stage 7, Development

# 7

## Partnership Development

*Steps to take*

Training and Ministry Partner Development

*DANGER!*

- Viewing as ‘fundraising’ vs building up a team of ministry partners who are going to give generously, pray fervently, use their gifting, and say ‘not on my watch will we let another generation of a people group go to hell without having heard of Christ’
- Inadequate training and/or perceived inability to raise funds
- Unrealistic budget - build for vision, reduce stress later
- Temptation to go to the field with < 100% funding

*Time Expended*

6 months to 1 year, runs in parallel with stage 6, Phase 1 Training



# 8

## Pre-Field Preparatory Training

### *Steps to take*

Agency-prescribed path toward preparation for life on the field, language acquisition principles, field realities, culture shock, etc (MTI, CIT, other similar programs)

### *DANGER!*

- Choosing a short cut around this: save \$, get to field faster
- “After 2 or 3 years you can tell who went through this training and who didn’t based solely on language acquisition”

### *Time Expended*

typically 1 to 2 months, just before departure

# 9

## Transition to Field

### *Steps to take*

Close down, goodbyes, air travel, arrival, settling in

### *DANGER!*

- Errors in first 30 days lead to inability to adjust
- Bonding with foreigners vs bonding with locals
- Errors you make in leaving & arriving
- Not making the necessary transition, letting go, staying so connected to home, social media

### *Time Expended*

1 to 2 months

# 10

## Language & Culture Acquisition

*Steps to take*

Language Acquisition Program

*DANGER!*

- Not fully acquiring the language will leave you hampered from forming long-term relationships with locals
- Not getting to know the worldview/heart of your people at a deep level

*Time Expended*

1 to 3 years, in parallel with stage 11, Phase 2 Training

# 11

## Phase 2 Training (Cross-Cultural)

### *Steps to take*

Phase 2 Training: apprenticing with existing CPM workers will give key cross-cultural movement starting skills

### *DANGER!*

- Skipping/No training - lack cross cultural ability
- Compartmentalizing - language first, can't do anything until then
- Giving up too soon - ordinary people can do extraordinary things through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Unteachability - be a lifelong learner, be willing to learn from field alumni
- Not being proactive in letting people know what you need - be a team player!

### *Time Expended*

1 to 3 years, parallel with stage 10, Language Acquisition

# 12

## Pioneering a new movement

### *Steps to take*

With coaching, moving to a new location to start a new effort

### *DANGER!*

- Doing all the work, not working with locals, not understanding the role of an outside catalyst
- Not training people to take your place, not planning for reproduction
- Doing things that won't scale, that others can't do

### *Time Expended*

2 to 5 years - lots see 10 to 20 year on field first - up to the Holy Spirit

# 13

## Movement Multipliers

*Steps to take*

Ready to step away and let the movement flower

*DANGER!*

- Not recognizing when you should do what - when to be there, when not to be
- Releasing control - trust the Holy Spirit to guide the believers in the movement
- What does “leave” mean?

*Time Expended*

Years!