

## ***Ambassadors for Christ*** **Introduction**

### **Disciple Nations**

The United States as a geo-political state is not a “nation” in the biblical sense of the word (*ethne* in greek). Rather a nation (*ethne*) is a group of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation or a combination of these.”<sup>1</sup>

Go to this [link](#) and find a list of all the people groups in the United States. What is your ethnicity going back a few generations?

Most of these ethnic groups have been assimilated into American culture but many are maintaining their distinct ethnicity. These distinctives are most apparent with international students and new immigrants.

On college campus and in urban centres we can see more and more of the diversity of the peoples living in our midst. The nations are coming to America! This is *kairos* moment for the church in the United States to disciple the nations in our land.

God’s vision for the discipling of the nations is motivated by his eternal purpose for the nations which is found in Revelation 5:9 in the song sung to the Lamb:

“...And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and  
nation...”

All of Scripture culminates with this future hope of the nations gathered with diversity and in unity to praise the Lamb who was slain to redeem his elect from among the nations.

With that sure expectation we sing:

“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!” — Psalm 67:3

This is why missions exist. God is on a mission to gather a people for himself and his praise. Worship is the goal and missions is the means to that glorious and eternal end.

Today, the grace, truth and glory of God is manifested through the church as we preach the gospel to the nations and call people to turn from idols to the only living and true God and Savior, Jesus Christ.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/mission-leaders-agree-on-the-strategy>

## ***Ambassadors for Christ*** **Introduction**

### **Witnesses Next Door**

In his providence, God has you right now where he wants you. In the future, he may be calling you to go to serve a people overseas but for now he has a purpose in the place where you live.

In Acts 17:26, we have this insightful and inspired statement of Paul:

“...he [God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place...”

Whatever your physical address, that is where God has placed you as his witness. The Sovereign Lord has chosen for you to live in one of the most free and prosperous societies in history.

With gratitude, list at least 5 privileges and responsibilities God has entrusted to you because you live in the United States:

*How can these privileges and responsibilities help to support the work of missions in your congregation?*

Where you are in the United States, God has blessed you to be a blessing to the nations in your midst. According to his eternal purpose he has a plan for his mission to advance in the place where you live. Watch this short [video](#) and also this [video](#) of how the Lord is bringing the nations to us.

*Do you know how to answer these questions?*

You can find answers with some searching on these websites.

[peoplegroups.info](http://peoplegroups.info)  
[Globalgates.info](http://Globalgates.info)

Let us know if you find any other helpful websites in your search.

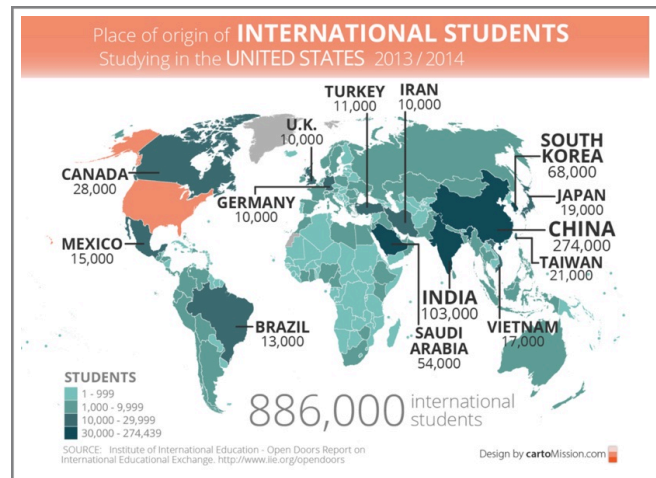
## Ambassadors for Christ Introduction

1. What are the different ethnicities in your neighbourhood and city?

2. What are the international students on a campus near you?

Read these statistics from the Traveling Team<sup>2</sup>:

There are almost 1 million international students in the U.S each year.  
62% of internationals are from 10/40 Window countries.  
Total Number of Students from 10/40 Window Countries studying in US: 451,568 from 68 Countries  
Top 10 Countries: China, India, South Korea, Canada, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Vietnam, Mexico, Turkey.



**And yet...**

80% of those students will return to their countries having never been invited to an American home.  
40% of the world's 220 Heads of State once studied in the US.  
Only 10% of international students are reached by ministries while in the United States.

*How does these statistics encourage and motivate you to serve with "Ambassadors"?*

<sup>2</sup> See these and more statistics here: <http://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats>

## **Ambassadors for Christ** **Introduction**

The neighborhoods and campuses in your city are your mission field. There is only so much you will be able to do in the coming months but the first step is consecrating yourself to the mission of being an Ambassador for Christ with the nations in your midst.

To advance the mission we meet for team gatherings (in person) and network gatherings (virtually).

1. Team gatherings (in person) for encouragement, accountability, planning and prayer.
2. Network gatherings (virtually) for training, testifying, and prayer.

Each week you will seek at least three touch points with international students and immigrants:

1. Personal: One in-person meeting with a person/people you know or a person/people you go out to meet on campus, in stores, parks, mosque, temple, etc...
2. Call: On a zoom call or phone call have a conversation or a Covenant Bible Study with a person you have met in your outreach work.
3. Text: Check in with someone to follow up on the conversation and seek to organize a call or personal meeting again.

In our first training session we will introduce you to Missionary Cross Training curriculum. The name "Cross Training" highlights both the necessity for a Christ-centered training process and also integrating the dynamics of mission work.

At each level of engagement there will be emphasis on cultivating a fruitful and faithful life in Christ while being equipped with the *knowledge, character* and *skill* formation necessary for your cross-cultural ministry.

### **Curriculum**

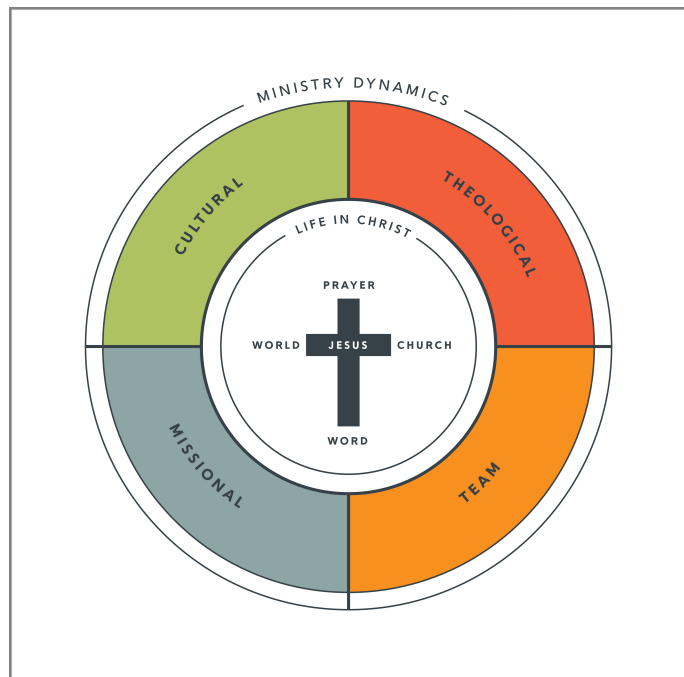
The core curriculum is illustrated by the Cross Training Wheel. Notice the two parts to the training:

#### Part 1:

The first and foremost part is the cultivation of a life centred in Christ and obedience to his commands. This emphasis on a Christ-centered life and ministry formation is continuous throughout the training.

#### Part 2:

Out of a life abiding in Christ will flow a fruitful ministry and maturity in the four ministry dynamics. Each of these four modules would contain units of study appropriate for each level of training.






## Ambassadors for Christ Introduction

<p><b><u>Part I: Life in Christ (Center Circle)</u></b> This is the first and most important Module (1) which covers our lives centered in Christ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abiding in Jesus (Christ the Center)</li> <li>• Being rooted in the God's Word</li> <li>• Prayer to the Father</li> <li>• Witnessing to the World</li> <li>• Serving the Church</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Part II: Ministry Dynamics (Outer Ring)</u></b> There are 4 Modules (2-5) of Ministry Dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theological Dynamics:</li> <li>• Team Dynamics</li> <li>• Missional Dynamics</li> <li>• Cultural Dynamics</li> </ul>
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### Holistic Training:

Missionary Cross Training is holistic training. This means that it seeks to transform the whole person to form godly character (heart), renew the mind (head), and equip for service (hands).

Here is the how the training will be ordered:

<b>Part I: Life in Christ</b>	
	<p><b><u>Form Godly Character (Heart)</u></b></p> <p>Using the Disciple's Cross (Life in Christ), this Module (1) will provide a compass to develop habits of the heart (spiritual disciplines) now and throughout their lives of service.</p> <p><b>The Goal:</b> Abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit</p>
<b>Part II: Ministry Dynamics</b>	
	<p><b><u>Renew the Mind (Head)</u></b></p> <p>Through the study of the 4 Ministry Dynamic Modules (2-5), your mind will be trained to know the relevant truths and principles which will provide right perspective and will yield wise decision making.</p> <p><b>The Goal:</b> Knowledge which leads to wisdom</p>
	<p><b><u>Equip for Service (Hand)</u></b></p> <p>These will be your questions and the challenges which seek to apply what you are learning.</p> <p><b>The Goal:</b> Equipping for works of service</p>

## ***Ambassadors for Christ*** **Introduction**

Missionary Cross Training uses the [Grow2Serve.net](http://Grow2Serve.net) online learning platform. All the lessons are fillable PDFs which you will complete and upload on Grow2Serve. There is also a forum “Make it Stick” question to answer after each Lesson and a practical Challenge to complete with each Unit.

*Ambassadors for Christ* will give you an overview of Missionary Cross Training process with an emphasis on cross-cultural ministry in an American context. The last assignment will be reporting on your Capstone Project. One of the options could be for you to sign up for the full Missionary Cross Training as you continue your cross-cultural ministry with international students and immigrants.

### **The GREAT Goal:**

Whatever growth in our formation, knowledge, and equipping is not for our sake and neither is it ultimately for the people we serve. The end of all things is God. We labor in our preparation for service and in our service for sake of GOD - His Glory and His Kingdom.

### **My Commitment**

Before you begin the training you need to count the cost and make a commitment.

By God's grace, can you affirm the following commitments?

- I will set aside focused time to complete all of the work on time
- I will participate wholeheartedly in my team (in-person) and network (virtual) gatherings
- I will be honest and accountable with my teammates
- I will be proactive in planning and diligent with implementation of three “touch points”
- I will pray for the nations and be a witness of the risen Christ to my neighbor
- I will seek first the Kingdom of God in my life trusting in his provision and providential leading

Type or write in your name below and pray that God will help you in your training.

I \_\_\_\_\_ make these promises in humble reliance upon God's grace as I desire to become a faithful and fruitful cross-cultural worker as the Lord leads.