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CultureBound

MAGAZINE

GO and Make Disciples: Long-Term Mission

What is long-term mission? Who is involved? How can you help? What is the impact of long-term mission on the Great Commission?



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CultureBound

Dear friend,

Thank you so much for reading our monthly magazine. We hope you are able to learn more about cultural topics as you read these articles.

At CultureBound, we seek to send people from everywhere to everywhere equipped with the Gospel and tools needed to build relationships with God and with other people. We hope this magazine is one of the tools you can use to grow your understanding of culture, language, and relational ministry.

We would love for you to share this magazine with anyone you feel would benefit. Thank you for your continued support of this organization.

The CultureBound Team

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Dr. Terry Steele

I grew up watching action movies and reading superhero comics. I also read about historical missionaries like Ignatius Loyola and the Moravians that I considered heroes. As time progressed, I came to know real-life heroes. We hosted many full-time missionaries in our house for meals and good conversation. I remember meeting Marj Van Der Puy, the widow of Nate Saint. My aunt, another of my childhood heroes, worked with her in Quito, Ecuador. I have fond memories of interacting with a handful of different global workers.

When my family moved to the city to minister in a different church, we were able to stay at a missionary's home while we looked for permanent housing. The owner was on mission as a doctor in Pakistan. Imagine my joy when I actually got to meet and know this hero, Dr. Mary Wilder.

I eventually took missions classes from her at seminary. I learned of harrowing events she encountered. She spoke of the women of Pakistan she cared for - some being healed, and others prepared for glory. One time she told us why she was no longer practicing medicine in Pakistan. Her father had gotten sick and passed away, leaving her mother alone. Dr. Mary returned home to care for her mother. When her Pakistani



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As the missions world shifts, we still need those heroes who are willing to do the difficult work of spreading the gospel near and far until all have heard.

friends learned of her father's death, they told her she should return home. It is a strong part of Pakistani culture to care for the mother. If Dr. Mary had continued in Pakistan, it would have hurt her ministry.

Later, I met another one of my heroes. I had read plenty of Paul Hiebert's articles and books in my studies. He amazed me with his thoroughness and ease of understanding. I had the opportunity to study with him. When I first met him, he immediately offered to have lunch with me. Over the next few months, I spent a lot of time at his home talking about culture, missions, ministry, and the Lord. Unfortunately, I only had the privilege of learning with him for about 7 months before he passed away.

I've looked to many full-time missionaries as heroes. I've had even more joy in meeting and becoming friends with these missionaries. To my great surprise, they became my teachers and mentors. It wasn't just their exploits and genius that I was able to revel in. It was their friendship. I believe God honors missionaries like my aunt, Marj Van Der Puy, Dr. Mary, and Dr. Hiebert. As the missions world shifts, we still need those heroes who are willing to do the difficult work of spreading the gospel near and far until all have heard the good news of Jesus Christ.





LONG-TERM MISSION

What is long-term mission? It is more than 6 months living and working in a place that is not your home. This usually requires assignment with a mission agency, raising support, and leaving behind the comfort of what you know to work and live in another place with the goal of sharing the gospel with people who have never heard of Jesus.

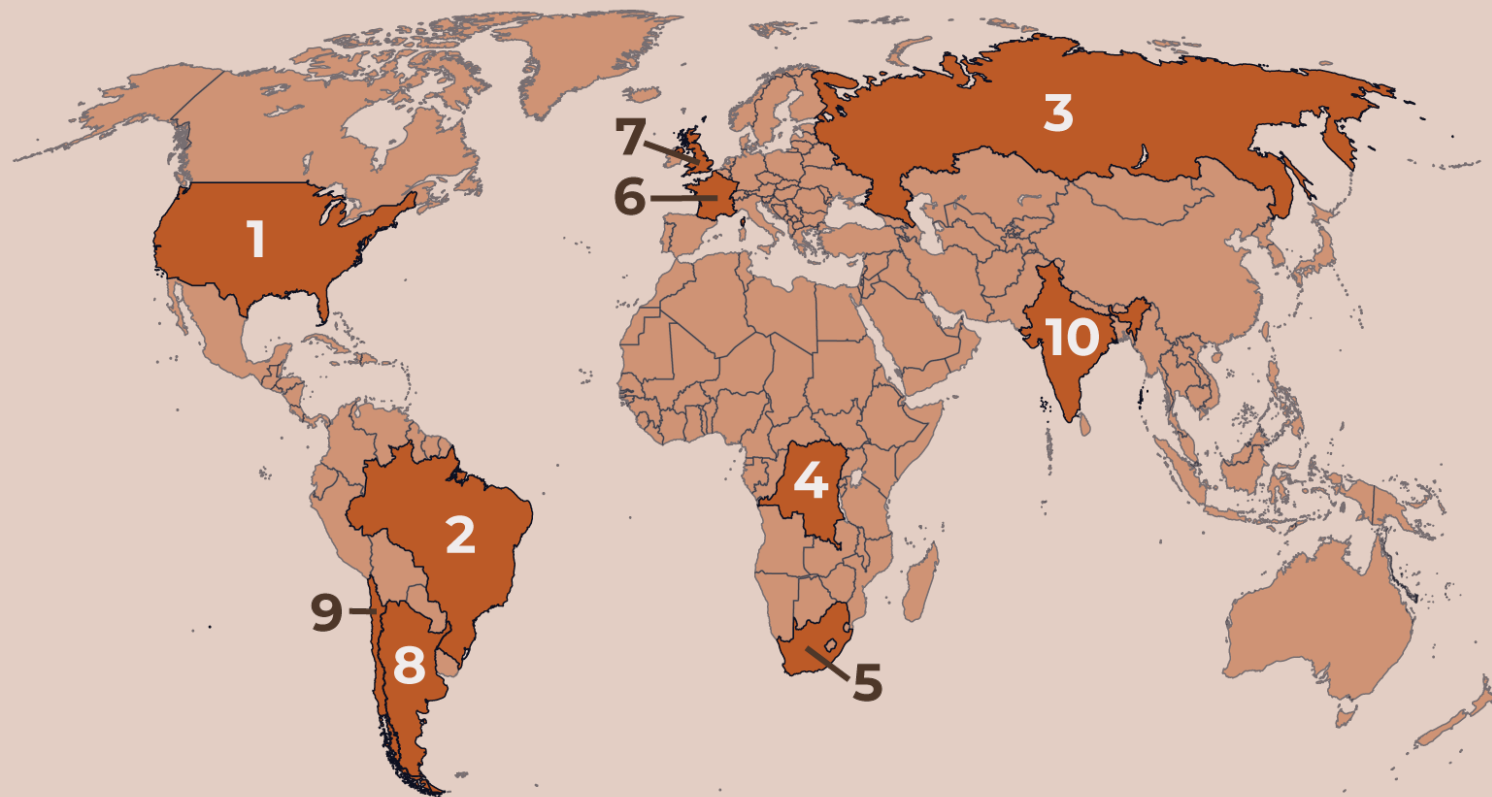
Long-term mission is one main way that the gospel is spread around the world. If we are to follow God’s plan that every tribe, tongue, nation, and people are joined together under God, we must have those willing to go to the nations and share.

Being a long-term missionary is a special calling, but it’s not easy. It involves much preparation. Some of this could be packing and selling houses, cars, furniture, and more. Long-term workers are also required to raise support. As a full-time missionary, your job becomes sharing the gospel in a new place. Many people are willing to support you financially so that this is feasible.

It is also important to be prepared mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Moving to a new culture is a huge adjustment. Knowing what to expect and framing your mindset before the move is absolutely necessary for success in a new place.

CultureBound seeks to prepare long-term global gospel workers with the skills, tools, and attitudes needed for the task.





Top 10 Most Traveled to for Missions

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. United States | 6. France |
| 2. Brazil | 7. United Kingdom |
| 3. Russia | 8. Argentina |
| 4. Congo | 9. Chile |
| 5. South Africa | 10. India |

WHERE DO THEY GO?

The Earth is a vast place. There are opportunities for mission in many, many countries. Here you can see the top 10 countries visited by Christian missionaries. Surprisingly, the United States is number 1! Did you think about any of the others seen here? Read more at <https://www.therichest.com/the-biggest/10-countries-most-often-visited-by-missionaries/>.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

If you have been in Christian environments for even a short amount of time, you know of the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20 says, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"





Jesus is very clear in these verses. He first empowers the audience to go. He doesn't just say "go and tell," he says "go and make disciples." This is a more involved process. Going and sharing the gospel is just the start. Staying, teaching, and growing the faith of the people is the long-term plan.

He says "make disciples of all nations." He doesn't specify one place or say that your home is excluded. Revelation 7:9 says, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands..." This is God's goal. That every single nation in the world would be represented at his throne.

A key tenet of faith is baptism, which is the outward expression of faith. Just as Jesus was baptized, he commands the baptism of the new followers that will be reached. Jesus then revisits the discipleship aspect that he mentioned before by saying, "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Again, this isn't a quick process. Jesus is calling his followers to a commitment.

Jesus ends the Great Commission with a comforting sentence. "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Has anyone ever committed to being with you "to the end of the age?" Humans are imperfect and will let each other down. Jesus is perfect and can fully commit to those words. He will always be involved in mission, in going, in sharing, and in discipleship.

The Great Commission is special to all believers. It is a specific call from God to take the gift he has given us and to give that gift to others. There are many ways this can be done. The most literal interpretation includes moving from your home into a new country and building relationships with the people there.

PREPARE WITH US

CultureBound seeks to help Christian groups fulfill their calling to the nations. This month we are focused on long-term missions. If you are a long-term missionary, we want to help you prepare to go!

CultureBound philosophy is simple: in order to share the gospel, you need to connect with people. In order to connect with people in a new place, you need to build trust through a relationship with them. In order to build trust, you need to meet them where they are and not expect them to conform to your culture.

CultureBound trainers teach all of these things! From the uncertainties of moving to a new place to the steps needed to integrate into that place to the tools needed to build relationships across cultures - we have the lessons to help you thrive in your new ministry environment.

Our training is developed from years of on-the-field experience, research, and knowledge. Our trainers have lived these lessons and know that what they're teaching is extremely effective.





CultureBound offers foundational culture and language courses designed for global workers. When you join these group sessions, you will watch videos, take part in field trips, and have live discussions with experienced trainers and other long-term workers. The format includes experiential learning because we believe that learning is a lifestyle.

Our language course teaches you how to learn a language rather than the specifics of a particular language. Understanding the foundations of language, how to get involved with a language helper, and building a language learning community are all key steps to being successful.

The incredible thing about CultureBound training is that it applies to many scenarios, not just long-term missions. If you are part of a church, we want to help you “go” to your own neighborhood. The United States is becoming more of a melting pot every day. You can reach immigrants and people from other cultures every week! Our church curriculum is designed for a small group teaching. You will understand the fundamentals of culture learning as it applies to your church and neighborhood community.

If you are a mission agency and called to send your global workers prepared, we would love to partner with you! With the investment required to send believers to the field, it only makes sense that money is spent to make sure they are prepared.

Not everyone is called to physically go. Some are blessed with financial resources. You can fulfill your calling to the nations through giving and supporting CultureBound. Training and going takes many resources, and by giving to CultureBound you are giving to the global expansion of the gospel.

No matter your calling or expertise, CultureBound is here to help. If you are interested in cultural topics, we offer short, independent, and virtual courses for you to learn more. Visit our website for more information at www.culturebound.org.

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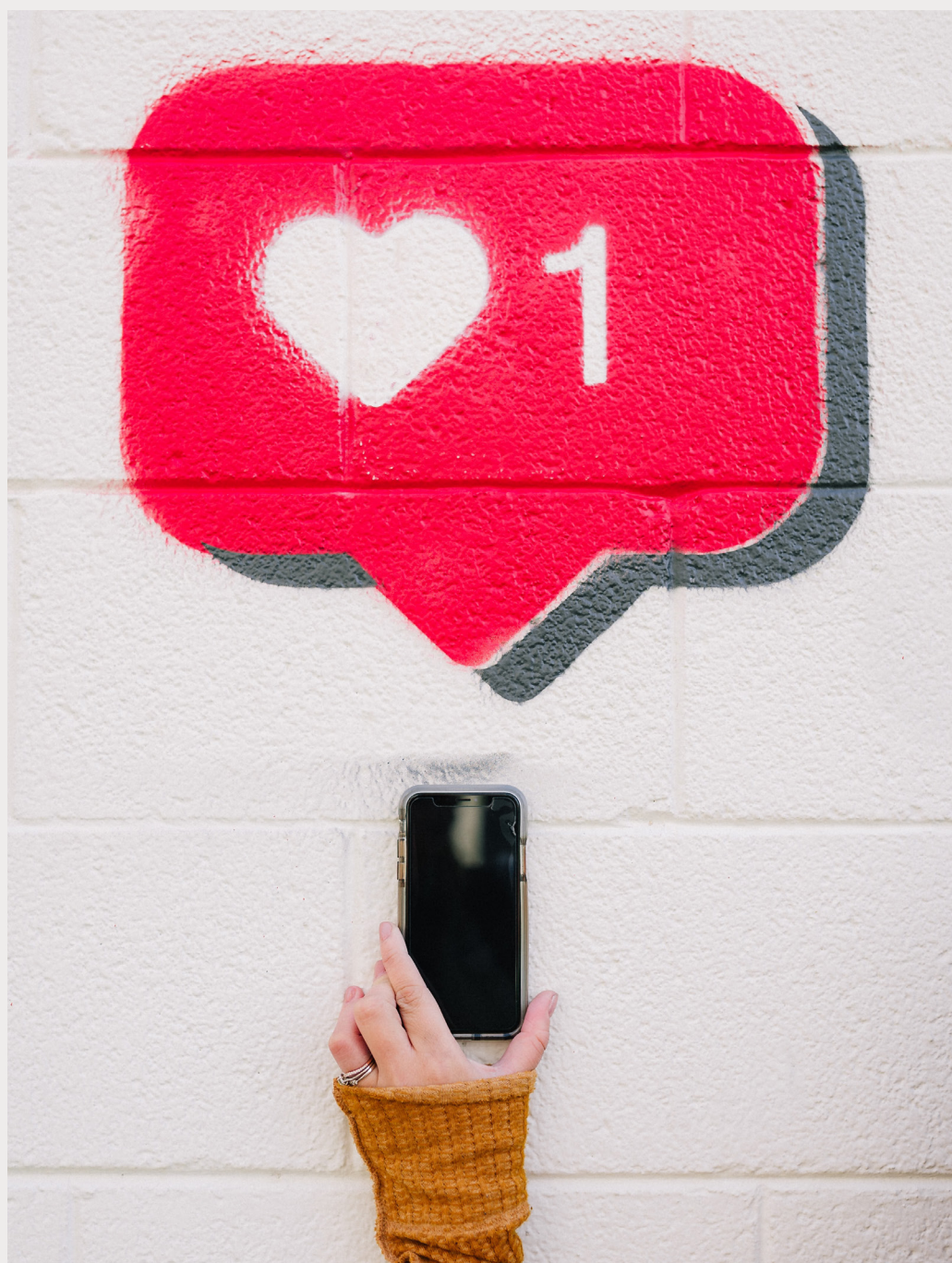
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