

“How Do I Get From CROSS to the Mission Field?”

CROSS Breakout: Brooks Buser

If I'm here at CROSS and I'm 18-25 what are the practical steps that I need to get to the mission field, to an ULG.....and stay long enough to finish the job my church sent me to do.

This is broken down by the 4 primary areas of equipping and training, and then 2 key issues at the end that everyone should think about.

Church

1. Talk to your church leadership and let them know that you're strongly considering going to the missions field. Frame that conversation NOT as a "God and I have talked and have decided....", rather "This is what I'm ASPIRING to, and I am seeking your council and leadership in this".
2. During that time work hard to be a FAITHFUL CHURCH MEMBER. That means:
 - A. If You're not a member of a good local church, work to become one.
 - B. You're involved across different demographics.
 - C. You're a servant to the church.
 - D. You're active in sharing your faith and inviting people to church.
 - E. You're growing in your knowledge of the Word and defense of it.
 - F. If your church sees things in your life that you need to grow in, work hard at that and if they decide at the end of the day that you shouldn't go, take that as from the Lord.

College:

1. Yes, get a degree. It's 4 years to grow up, and it looks good to any country you're wanting to enter. *(A good agency or training school can help you hide your school and major, be active on social media but don't post antagonizing things to a country that hates Christianity)*
2. Majors that are the most helpful in order are:
 - A. Business
 - B. Accounting
 - C. Engineering
 - D. Education
 - E. Anything in the medical field is tricky, especially when it comes to church planting.
 - F. Minor in Bible.
3. Go on a vision trip, especially if it's with your church, but don't keep going once you've decided to go this route.
 - A. Your taking someone else's space to go.
 - B. The contrast between short and long-term is substantial, people get addicted to the high of Short-term missions.
 - C. It can and does fool many into thinking short-term trips are "Missions".

Read Good books

****It's like a set of muscles you get better at it the longer you do it****

(Biography)

1. To the Golden Shore—Courtney Anderson
2. Autobiography of John Paton (John G. Paton—Paul Schlehlein is also great.)
3. Beauty for Ashes (story of Amy Carmichael)—Iain Murray

(Books to better understand Missions today and motivate you)

1. Let the Nations be Glad (chap. 5 is a must read)---John Piper
2. No Shortcut to Success—Matt Rhodes
3. What is the Mission of the Church—Greg Gilbert and Kevin DeYoung
Extra Credit: The Missionary Theologian—E.D. Burns, 5 Pioneer Missionaries—Banner Of Truth (Various authors)

Training past college:

1. Further theological education, especially if your church leaders recommend.
2. Sometimes getting a masters (in a secular field) if your headed overseas, is not worth it.

(Extra Training)

3. Training on how to learn a language, many times that has never been written down before.
4. Training on how to work with teammates.
5. Training in raising kids overseas. (Moms fear)
6. Training on the details of cross-cultural church planting

2 Key issues:

1. Marriage and Singleness

- A. Don't lower the bar "If God called you to be a minister/missionary don't stoop to being a king"—Charles Spurgeon
- B. Be clear early what you and your church feel your life trajectory is.
- C. Strengths and weaknesses to singleness overseas, more strengths generally in married couples.
- D. Settle singleness before you get overseas.
- E.

2. Agencies:

Hierarchy of issues (Teammates, **Agency**, Country, People/Language group)

- A. Big tent or top-down
- B. Agreement with my church, do they see church as sending and they as facilitating
- C. 3 key questions:
 1. What is the gospel?

2. What is a church?
3. How do you view language fluency?