



Operation Reveille's
Handbook for Deployment

by
Dr. Bruce T. Sidebotham

***MOBILIZING
TRAINING
EQUIPPING***

***SERVICE PERSONNEL
FOR CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY***

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

If God is sovereign and has a redemptive plan for history then from looking at history and current events we can understand and expect to see something of God's redemptive plan.

Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolation he has brought on the earth . . . Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

(Psalm 46:8-10)

Remember the former things, those of long ago. I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

(Isaiah 46:9-10)

Throughout history, God has been using every natural disaster, war, famine, and ruler towards reconciling the world to himself. God is on a mission. If you are in a relationship with Jesus Christ, then you are part of that mission. As you are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for your country, are you willing to dedicate some of your time and energy to God's agenda?

If God could use a whale to get Jonah to Nineveh, then he can certainly use the United States government to position his people for testimony in similarly strategic places. From the belly of a whale you are being cast upon the beach of unprecedented opportunities for advancing the Gospel into regions of the world where Jesus is not yet recognized as Lord.

EXPOSURE

Beginning in the 1980s mission leaders began recognizing a belt of resistance stretching from Morocco to Indonesia. Modern information technology exposes a territory between ten and forty degrees north latitude containing over ninety percent of the world's poorest and least evangelized peoples. This region contains two-thirds of the world's population, ninety percent of the world's least evangelized ethnic groups, eighty percent of the world's poverty, and less than one percent of the world's Christians.

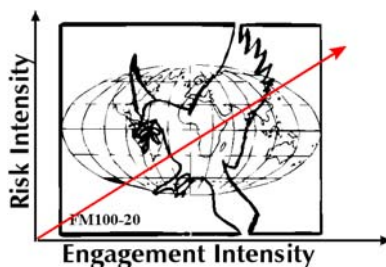


Nearly all modern threats to national security lie within this territory called the 10/40 Window. If reaching coworkers requires prayer and strategic initiatives, then reaching the world does too. If focusing resources for outreach requires intelligence, then no group of American church congregations is better equipped to facilitate reaching this part of the world with fruits of the gospel than personnel in the U.S. military.

When Uncle Sam orders us somewhere like Bosnia, he does the Lord's bidding. Our families can take comfort in knowing that we are not just deployed for national interests, but also for God's.

PRINCIPLES

One study of warfare relates conflict intensity directly to risk and inversely to frequency. The higher the intensity of a conflict the greater its risk and lower its frequency. The lower the intensity of a conflict the lower its risk and higher its frequency. These relationships are most apparent when exaggerated. Thermonuclear war is extremely infrequent because its risks and intensity are so high. Terrorism on the other hand is fairly common because the risks and intensity are low.



These same relationships apply to cross-cultural ministry and will help us find an appropriate niche for personal involvement. Various kinds of cross-cultural ministry can be plotted on a scale of engagement intensity. People in direct face-to-face witnessing and discipling relationships with foreign nationals are in high intensity ministry with high risks. Those in service and support roles are involved less intensely, but no less significantly. For every person engaged in ministry at high risk levels, many more need to assume support and service roles at low risk levels.

Full-time missionaries may be called to ministry at high levels of intensity, but the areas where they can work are limited because of the risks involved. Tentmakers have access to more countries, but they must be more cautious, because intense ministry can damage reputations and investments of employing companies and governments.

Tolerable levels of risk are different for every person and every situation, but in every situation every person can do something. One hundred people doing one percent accomplishes as much as one person doing one-hundred percent except that few areas will accept the hundred percent performer.

The rest of this booklet lists ministry possibilities of differing risks and intensities and provides information on tools and resources for them.

OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENCE MINISTRY

A refugee from Vietnam observes, “Where American soldiers go, missionaries follow. When countries open up for U.S. soldiers, they also open up to some American ideas and institutions, such as churches.”

Besides the bad things associated with American soldiers, like bars, prostitution, and pornography, many soldiers become involved in humanitarian work. American generosity flows from a reservoir of God’s blessing. American money, which says “In God we trust,” testifies that many Americans honor God with material that is very important to them.

U.S. involvement in places like Bosnia creates windows of opportunity. Even the unbelieving soldiers will be used for God’s purposes, but you have a special privilege. You are a missionary. In Mark 4:26 Jesus says:

This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.

When, doing duty among an unreached people group, there is no special hardship or labor. The people are watching intently and will see Christ even as you eat and sleep. In John 15:26, Jesus asserts, “The Spirit of truth that is in you will testify, and God will prepare the harvest.” Do not underestimate the impact of presence and the light that shines forth.

If you will be in leadership in an unreached area, then you have important responsibilities to channel constructively the social and recreational energies of your men and women. The bi-racial children of Vietnamese prostitutes and American soldiers are treated like animals in Vietnam. They are excluded from school, so none are literate. As beggars with no legal protection, they are free game for forced sex and labor. You

may be able to help prevent this kind of suffering, which comes from the sins of *some* American soldiers who lack direction and awareness of consequences.

In presence ministry the testimony is nonverbal, low intensity, and low risk. God will use every Christian man or woman serving among unreached peoples who is committed to him.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Because of spiritual opposition, prayer ministry is medium intensity but remains low risk. God wants to right injustice and save souls, but he waits for us to pray before he acts. The overseas Christian sees and hears situations around which he can mobilize the hand of God.

Shane Bennett of Caleb Project says the following about “on-site” prayer.

I don't believe you can pray here with the same passion and intelligence that you can when you're walking the streets of an unreached city. Part of this effect is certainly the sacrifice and energy you've expended just to be there. But more than just that, God will show you things you've not seen before; you'll pray for and about things and people that before you didn't know existed.

The most effective “on-site” prayers are corporate. Jesus said,

Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. (Matthew 18:19-20)

The ministry of “on-site” corporate prayer has spawned a prayer journey movement. Many resources, like Caleb Project's *Prayer Journeys: A Leader's How-To Manual*, have been printed. (See appendix D for a list of more resources.) Churches raise tens of thousands of dollars to send intercessor teams into unreached areas for nothing but prayer. What about the Christian servicemen and women being sent all expenses paid into these areas of the world? What prevents them from banding together on

shore leave, three-day-pass, or in unit Bible study to engage in prayer ministry for the unreached peoples among whom they are serving?

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

Consciously pursuing friendships with unreached peoples for ministry is medium intensity at moderate risk. In friendship ministry one seeks to build relationships that will destroy stereotypes and reduce fear and suspicion of Christianity.

A successful friendship ministry results in future openness, but not necessarily a gospel presentation or even that person's conversion. A successful friendship ministry may never result in that person's salvation, but it may make it easier for a friend or relative of that person to convert. It may affect attitudes in important leaders and positively alter the course of history for some countries, without ever converting the person targeted for friendship.

Friendship ministry can cause friction in a work environment where getting close to nationals is discouraged or frowned upon. Frequent correspondence and meetings with nationals of some countries may result in close scrutiny during a background check and difficulty in getting a security clearance. As mentioned, every country, situation, and opportunity needs to be consciously evaluated. If God is calling you into this niche, here are some things to consider.

Building good cross-cultural relationships takes time, patience, discomfort, and sacrifice. Just as Jesus gave up the glories of heaven to become a man and bring us salvation, cross-cultural friendship entails some awkwardness, and sensitive adjustments.

Respectable clothing styles in most unreached areas are more modest formal and uncomfortable than what most Americans are used to. Dressing in a way that honors the culture (especially for the women), and not like most western tourists, is necessary to earn and maintain respect.

Food in most overseas homes rarely meets American standards of variety and sanitation. Eating pork or drinking alcohol may make one "unclean" and therefore unwelcome in many households. Water often has to be boiled to make it "safe," so cold drinks may not be available to one's

host. Building deep cross-cultural friendships requires adjusting to staple foods, tepid drinks, and giving up “offensive” tastes.

“Long suffering” defines patience for Americans in most countries. Few cultures value comfort and efficiency as highly as Americans. Other things, like relationships, are more important. Building relationships cross-culturally may cost hours of boredom and discomfort by American standards.

Since many Muslims think Christianity promotes free sex and think Madonna is a Christian, friendships with persons of the opposite sex call for extreme caution. When Muslims see films with American women in short skirts and sleeveless blouses it confirms their suspicions. In many cultures, appearances determine reality. Sexual desires are not self controlled. Instead they are bridled by external rules and regulations. In many cultures, men and women (unless they are family) should never be alone together in a private place, or even have a public relationship. Even in many westernized urban settings, observing conservative local conventions for contact between the sexes will earn one respect and an opportunity to challenge stereotypes, but the European and American conventions will negate one’s testimony.

Learning some of the local language not only helps one to be comfortable getting around, but it is the best and fastest way to facilitate friendships. It demonstrates good will and willingness to adjust and casts one in the door-opening role of a learner. Many publishers produce some good materials for learning “survival” language and culture. Some Christian schools for preparing missionaries offer some excellent short intensive and correspondence courses on how to teach oneself a foreign language, even creating one’s own materials and curriculum.

Finally, friendship ministry is the primary means for reaching foreign military personnel who are sent to America by their governments to study at our various service schools. Many of these students need our help with transportation, housing, homework, shopping, language, meals, recreation, and cultural adjustment, but most of all they need friends.

SUPPORT MINISTRY

Incorporating oneself into partnership with others to help their ministries can be a rewarding and fulfilling way to be moderately engaged with minimum to moderate risk, and it's a great way to have oneself appreciated. In partnership with other ministries, however, one must not only take into account the risks to oneself, but also the risks to the other organization. Some organizations might be a bit nervous about partnering with government affiliated Americans who are seasoned just enough in the language, culture, and ministry to be arrogant and dangerous. But there are so many possibilities, something is sure to be able to work. Here are some of the options to consider.

Courier

Missionaries in many countries have a hard time getting sensitive mail and educational materials for their children through customs. In coordination with sending agencies, traveling military personnel can hand carry sensitive or bulky items to remote locations.

Signal Intelligence

Christian shortwave radio and satellite TV ministries need information on how their signals are being received in the target area in order to adjust the strength and direction of their transmissions. They also need information about who, when, where and why people are listening. In cooperation with a gospel radio ministry overseas, military personnel can provide periodic feedback from distant locations.

Report Persecution

Advocacy organizations lobbying Western governments on behalf of persecuted Christians worldwide need confirmation of conditions and stories from independent sources. Deployed personnel may see and hear things that these organizations would like to know.

Help Short Term Projects

Many organizations, especially those doing relief and development, need short term assistance. Many military personnel have technical and management skills that these organizations need. Some short term work

may be in the national interest and may be orchestrated administratively a permissive TDY so that it doesn't count against accrued leave.

Help Correspondence Programs

Bible correspondence courses train and evangelize thousands in very restrictive countries. Mission organizations use creative ways to find students and send in materials in ways that bypass customs inspections. Other mission agencies orchestrate evangelistic pen pal programs. Some overseas personnel may be able to help facilitate a correspondence course or pen pal ministry.

Encourage Local Missionaries

Missionaries in closed countries endure many deprivations. Not many people at home or in their host country understand or appreciate what these missionaries are doing. They need to be appreciated. They need fellowship and encouragement. They can use the kind of special treats that only a fellow countryman or woman can offer. For more detail on how you can help at home or abroad see the appendix B.

Facilitate Foreign Military Christian Fellowships

Military Christian Fellowships like our own OCF, CMF, Navigators, and others are struggling to exist in many foreign countries. ACCTS and Campus Crusade's Military Ministry work to encourage and establish them. Both of these ministries are eager to partner with US military personnel.

DIRECT MINISTRY

The high intensity and high risk of direct ministry place it out of bounds for most military personnel in overseas situations. Although service to God preempts all others, excellence and integrity in one's profession is part of that service. Scripture distribution in the Saudi Kingdom, for example, could turn into an international incident and an embarrassment to the diplomatic community. So many valid and valuable low risk avenues for ministry are available to military personnel, there is no excuse for doing anything outrageous. But every situation is different, and not every direct ministry is risky. Here are some variations on some possibilities for some contexts.

Giving a Verbal Testimony

In the course of developing friendships, if one is living according to high moral standards among many of the world's unreached peoples, questions like: "Do you believe in God?" "Are you a Muslim?" "Why do Christians worship three Gods?" will inevitably arise. As long as one avoids speaking disrespectfully of other religions and avoids embarrassing comparisons, these questions are windows of opportunity for aggressively sharing one's personal belief and faith in Christ. Opportunities to share may also be created when the other person reciprocates with an inquiry after having his own customs and beliefs seriously considered.

Leading a Person to Christ

Whenever possible, a foreign person seeking to trust in Jesus should be led in that decision by another person of like nationality. This privilege and responsibility should be given to someone who better understands the hidden motives and consequences, and who is able to follow up within the context of that person's racial and cultural identity. As much as possible, the deployed Christian should know to whom to direct the serious seeker for conversion, follow-up, and fellowship. God will use the person who knows how to make these connections. In some places insincere seekers will feign conversion in order to infiltrate and destroy a fellowship. The outside facilitator must submit to the judgement and insight of those within the culture who have the most to gain or lose.

Praying with People

Praying with people about their needs in times of crisis communicates both love for God and love for them. Few people will take offense or turn down an offer to be prayed for. These prayers can be out-loud with needy people about their specific concerns. Even rabidly anti-Christian people like to have all of the bases covered when they are in crisis. God can use his child's faith and his own answer to soften hearts towards him.

Sharing the Jesus Video and Christian Music

Videos and CDs do not meet with as much resistance as tracts and Scriptures, perhaps because they are less tangible and more entertaining. These make excellent house gifts and farewell presents. One prominent

missionary to Muslims whose life is sought in some Muslim countries has said, "If you preach to a Muslim he may kill you, but if you sing to him he will love you." Advertisers consider the billions promoting products with jingles and television to be well spent. This practical reality testifies to the non-confrontational persuasive power of a message set to music and video.

Leading Bible Studies

In some less restrictive settings, seeker oriented Bible studies with national associates or friends and neighbors may be possible. New Tribes Mission offers an excellent curriculum based on Bible stories that has proven cross-cultural appeal. Others have developed curriculum for teaching English with the Bible. Dual language Bibles have strong appeal to those wanting to improve their English.

Distributing (losing) Tracts and Bibles

Bible and tract distribution is perhaps the riskiest of all direct ministry endeavors. Not only are the Scriptures powerful and threatening, but they are tangible enough to be incriminating. Although many governments prohibit and punish Bible distribution, no one has ever been prosecuted for losing his or her own personal devotional literature. I have lost many Bibles in Indonesian hotels, restaurants, and taxi cabs. However, credible loss of native language materials requires one to be seriously engaged in studying the language.

Sometimes Bibles shouldn't even be given to people who ask for them. In these cases, the seekers should be directed to an indigenous ministry to obtain their Bibles. The native ministry can better ascertain the genuineness of their request and can provide long term follow up if it is needed. The United Bible Societies has branch Bible societies in nearly every nation of the world where they legally print and distribute Scriptures in local languages in some of the most restrictive countries under very sensitive conditions.

MOBILIZATION MINISTRY

Mobilizing prayer, people, and money for unreached peoples may have the lowest levels of risk and intensity, but it remains very valuable. When reporting on sensitive ministries in sensitive areas, however, we must be careful not to endanger the people who are there and the work that they are doing. Here are ten ways that people can do mobilization ministry.

1. Start an installation or chapel missions council. Most resources dedicated to missions come from individuals and local churches. Clear vision and dynamic leadership in a missions committee can energize a local church for worldwide impact through prayer and giving in spite of competition from internal ministries, building projects, staff salaries, and electric bills. We need this same kind of vision and leadership in our chapels.
2. Adopt one of the unreached people groups in your family, chapel, home Bible study, or Sunday school class. The Adopt-a-People Clearing House matches fellowships with unreached people groups for adoption. Adoption can be for an indefinite or specific period of time in order to learn about the adopted people, pray intelligently for them, and watch the Lord do his work among them.
3. Plan a missions conference for your chapel or installation. Most churches that are active in missions hold an annual week or weekend focus on missions. They invite special speakers and even drama teams, they show multimedia programs, have potluck dinners with ethnic food, expose children in Sunday school to real live missionaries, and obtain a global perspective on the kingdom of God. Chapel groups hold retreats and family life conferences. They need to host events for missions focus.
4. Put up a missions display in your home, chapel, community center, and/or processing point for separations and releases from active duty. Most missions minded churches and many college and university student centers have bulletin boards and tables where prayer requests, issues, statistics and announcements can be displayed. Literature recruiting for key ministries may help people make career changes. Global Mapping Inc. distributes some great

maps and the US Center for World Mission sells some fantastic posters. Every mission agency prints colorful brochures. Visually exciting tools for some great displays are out there.

5. Obtain missionary biographies and books on missions history for the chapel or ministry center's lending library, and promote these books by announcements and word of mouth. Few stories are as inspiring and life changing as biographies of the men and women who have introduced Christ to whole ethnic "nations." Of these it may be said, "They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated the world was not worthy of them (Heb. 11:37-38)." These books are great to read aloud at the dinner table or on a family trip.
6. Devote a semester or quarter of Sunday school classes to study missions. Many good missions curricula for children and adults are available. Operation Reville can train you to teach this one.
7. Support a missionary family or project (like Bible translation, radio broadcasts, or medical relief) for a given period of time with regular contributions. This mild sacrifice is one of the most practical ways to participate in what God is doing and invest for an eternal blessing.
8. Write a missions section for your chapel's Sunday worship bulletin or the newsletter of your fellowship. Missions news, prayer requests, and tips are usually a regular in the bulletins of missions minded churches. Besides the benefit of the text itself, the demonstration of unselfish priorities stimulates additional enthusiasm and commitment to the fellowship.
9. Organize a short term missions trip for survey, prayer, or some kind of technical or logistical assistance. No other kind of vacation is more engaging, rewarding and life changing.
10. Organize a regular prayer meeting for unreached peoples. It could be five minutes at the beginning of a Bible study. No matter how small, the time sacrifice and spiritual discipline will mysteriously move the course of history towards speeding Christ's return.

C O N S T R A I N T S

While allegiance to Christ comes first, wearing the uniform overseas means you are also representing your country. Faithfulness to Christ requires this to be done with excellence and integrity. The whole point of “tentmaking” rests in the fact that profound ministry opportunities will naturally spring from a professional role that is established with excellence and integrity.

You must carefully balance concerns for national security and professional ethics against ministry opportunities. Without a firm foundation and commitment to professional excellence, cross-cultural ministry will be dangerous or impossible.

As long as many others are also contributing, the size of your particular involvement is unimportant. God is only calling you to be faithful in the little things, and it is these little things which he can use the most.

Don't act alone. Tell trusted spiritual friends what you are doing and heed their advice. Especially heed the advice of national Christians and ministry leaders familiar with your area. If your commander is not a Christian, you may not need to level with him, but if you have any doubts, it is better to be open and honest with the command than to be secretive.

Abide within all regulations, command guidelines and restraints. Don't break any rules unless they are expressly against the clear Word of God, and, if you do, be prepared to suffer the consequences. No one wants you to endanger the security of your own life or of your nation. God has strategically placed you. He will make a way for you to serve him without compromising your testimony to your peers.

Be prepared. Opportunities come to those who are ready for them. Do your homework to learn about the propositioned material and personnel resources and become situationally aware. Prior preparation will prevent future paralysis.

A P P E N D I X A

Recommended Deployment Dos and Don'ts

Do be professionally excellent.

Don't compromise national security.

Do everything in the open and above board.

Do obey all laws, guidelines, and directives.

Don't be secretive.

Do talk about God and your personal faith.

Don't criticize or compare religions.

Do carry a personal Bible and devotional tools.

Do try to learn the local language.

Don't distribute Bibles or evangelistic literature.

Do honor local customs and courtesies.

Don't pretend to be of a different faith than you are.

Do exchange addresses/business cards for future correspondence.

Do use music and video recordings as farewell and housewarming gifts/mementos for special friends.

Do direct seekers to locals for help, fellowship, and resources.

Avoid giving Bibles to people who ask you for one.

Avoid leading seekers in prayer to receive Christ.

Don't compromise the security of local believers and their fellowships.

Do facilitate the work of others with prayer, financial, material, and moral support.

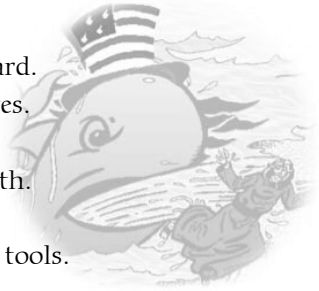
Do not be ignorant of the work that others are doing.

Do educate yourself about work in the area

(like: Bible translation, gospel broadcasting, community development, and church growth).

Avoid directly participating in local Christian work.

Do behave in an upright and exemplary manner according to the local standards of morality.



Don't flaunt Western freedoms in dress, entertainment, and girl-guy relationships.

Do pray openly and publicly.

Do pray with/for local people in the name of Jesus.

Do join with other deployed believers in praying for the local people and their social institutions.

Do have prayer support of friends and family back home for your ministry.

Don't pray or work alone.

Finally

Do not be frightened, but in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.

(1Pet. 3:14-15)

A P P E N D I X B

Ways to Help Missionaries

We're told that we should help missionaries but how? These maybe slightly weird, surely super-spiritual people who show up every so often. . . what could they use (besides a check)? Actually, there are many ways to help, some of which keep missionaries in touch with life at home and feeling a little more "normal."

When They're Overseas and You're Not

1. Most missionaries have a VCR and would love some good clean taped-off-TV fun. Also, they need the electronic drug for their kids sometimes just like we do. A dear friend of some missionaries would tape nature and children's programs off PBS and send a half-dozen tapes at a time. The children adored them – want to hear a six-year-old lecture on elephant seals? Cassette tapes of stories and songs are also great and help the kids learn English and the adults worship. Check to see if videos can be mailed or should be hand-carried to that country.
2. Magazines can keep missionaries current with their own country, and a subscription is a great gift. *World* news magazine, *Citizen*, *National Geographic*, *Focus on the Family*, *Teaching Home*, etc., depending on their interests. Don't forget the kids – *Focus on the Family* puts out several great kids' magazines. These and the *Adventures in Odyssey* cassettes provide home culture training for missionary kids, so they can fit in more easily when they go home.
3. Some missions and/or missionaries have a list of people whom they contact for urgent prayer needs – a serious illness, or someone's life in danger. E-mail is particularly useful for this, but telephone contact is also valuable. Get on someone's list; it could be exciting. One missionary couple's oldest son was healed of

tuberculosis in 24 hours after an emergency phone call; otherwise, they would have had to leave the primitive hot and humid area where they were serving.

4. Snail mail (the post office) is often a problem in countries where censorship and inefficiency work together. Time sensitive bills and business correspondence present special problems. Play electronic pony express by being a mail center for a missionary. You can be the contact address, and you can retype and e-mail messages in a matter of hours rather than weeks. Feel virtuous while you play on the computer.
5. Volunteer to be a contact for emergency help (usually as a liaison between them, the mission, and their supporters). This would be for natural disasters, family crisis, or for financial support dropping very low. It can feel like a disaster, actually, not to get a paycheck.
6. Some of the practical details of life are hard to handle from overseas. One missionary's mother-in-law did her bulk mailing. Some people need help editing and laying out prayer letters. Taxes, bank accounts and other financial complications are a headache for some. One church overseas has a Stateside friend order music and accompaniment tapes for their annual Christmas programs.

While You Are Here and They Are Here

1. Furlough and a long to-do list. That overdue physical, the dental checkup (One worker had five cavities when she came home!), writing wills, arranging investments, getting shots, achievement tests for the children . . . the list goes on. You could offer a professional skill through the mission board or to a friend. One dentist did a missionary family's teeth every four years when they went home on furlough. If you're into clothes, take the gal shopping, tell her what's in style, and help her pitch what's not.
2. Then there's the furlough travel, usually on a shoestring. Offer to be a hospitality house or a staging location. This could be very educational for you and the missionaries!

3. Most of a furlough is hard work. For a missionary family, a timeshare or a week at a vacation home could be a preview of paradise. This could be either alone, or as your guests. Make sure the ground rules are clear, as they and their children may not be aware of all the protocol for these events.

If They're There and You'd Like to Visit

1. A prayer walk of a week or two is a good way to further God's work in a missionary's area. A small group visits a closed country as tourists and prays intensively for the people and for the Christian workers. Contacts for guidance and resources on doing this are listed in the appendix.
2. A courier trip could be as short as you like – a tax-deductible hop to bring Christmas gifts or homeschool supplies. This often doubles with a personal visit to friends. Give the mission or missionary plenty of time to arrange purchase of supplies. You can either execute their shopping list yourself or be a delivery point for catalog orders and Grandma's packages.
3. Most missions have regular regional retreats, and usually run a Vacation Bible School or program for the children. It is often the high point of the year for missionary children. Helping with advance preparation, collecting craft supplies and U.S. snacks, and/or teaching is a huge help. The job is familiar, and there is just enough cultural diversity to make it fun. Since the retreats are a getaway for the missionaries, the location is usually fairly comfortable and exotic.
4. Want to stay longer? Homeschooling is one of the biggest jobs for missionary parents, many of whom are not comfortable with boarding school for younger children. Especially if there is a new baby, or children with learning disabilities, teaching can be a phenomenal help to the family – anything from 8 weeks to 2 years! It is a good way of racking up experience with limited language and ministry requirements, and even evaluating a missions call.

A P P E N D I X C

Ways to Be Friends with Muslims

God brings Muslims to America and sends Americans to Muslim countries for good reasons.

In his letter to the Romans Paul asks, “How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”

With Christians and Muslims getting “sent” all over in today’s world, how can Christians “preach” the gospel to Muslims? Here are some principles and ideas.

First, we need to understand that “preaching” is not “converting,” and preaching can also be non-verbal. Paul writes to the Corinthians, “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you [preach] the Lord’s death until he comes.” Our behavior towards Muslims and towards each other needs to illustrate and support the gospel.

Second, we need to understand that a lot of “preaching” (verbal and non-verbal) gets misunderstood because the cultures are so different. For example, we take off our hats to show reverence while Muslims keep their hats on and take off their shoes. Furthermore, different postures for praise and worship make Christians appear arrogant and blasphemous to most Muslims.

Third, in order to counteract misunderstanding that proceeds from cultural distance, we need to cultivate revealing personal relationships. Here are some ideas to help us reach beyond mutual misunderstanding and suspicion:

Use Holidays

Besides some vague recollection that Muslims spend a month in fasting, most Americans are pretty clueless about holidays in Islam. Christians in the military, however, are much more likely to have heard about Islam’s second holiest day when they sacrifice livestock animals by slitting their throats and bleeding them to death publicly. How much

do we know and appreciate how Muslims celebrate their New Year (which is different than ours), Muhammad’s birthday, Muhammad’s exile, Muhammad’s ascension, and the Koran’s delivery?

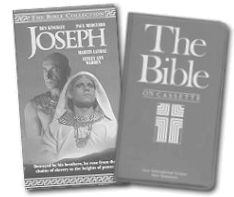
We expect public respect for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. Can we give the same respect to others?

Just as Christians fill their holiday seasons with celebration, generosity, and outreach, Muslims also want to win friends and influence people during their holidays. Therefore, these present excellent opportunities for interacting and starting relationships.

Use Multimedia

To Muslims, the Bible is corrupted. Reading it is sin. It and the Koran disagree. Both are just texts on a page. Printed Christian products, therefore, arouse suspicion and fan hostility, because they symbolically challenge their counterpart, the Koran.

Islam forbids religious art and music. Christian multimedia has no counterpart in Islam. As a result, its threat is not as apparent.



Muslims devour Western entertainment. They cannot produce comparable quality. They will enjoy Christian music for hours and watch videos about Old Testament prophets over and over. Packages of entertaining multimedia will be appreciated as house and farewell gifts whatever their content. Even the Scriptures, in audio form alone, can be much more readily tolerated.

Use Prayer

Of course we should pray pray for our Muslim friends and neighbors and for our witness to them, but we can actually do much more. We can pray with them! And do it in Jesus’ name. Public school administrators get crazy when Christians pray, but Muslims do not. Muslims also pray.

Muslims see us as extensions of our non-believing materialist culture. Muslims know the physical and spiritual worlds are interconnected. Praying with them shows that we are different from the

culture around us. It shows that we believe God is relevant too. It also demonstrates concern that helps to build good relationships.

Use Identification

Just as God became a man, we must enter Muslim space in order to be friends with them. Muslims may be coming to America, but they are not coming to us. Just as the comforts of earth were inferior to the glories of heaven for Jesus, no one else's customs seem as natural as our own. Awkwardness is inevitable. Sacrifice is necessary.

Show Compassion

If Muslims were looking for coherent historical, scientific, philosophical, and theological systems, they would not be Muslims. Arguments are not particularly persuasive. Dependence, fear, and intimidation result in unconditional allegiance. Scientifically investigating the facts would betray loyalty. Inspiring doubt just leads to more violence and bondage by heightening dependence and fear. Forced conformity and standardized religious rituals masquerade as the brotherhood and love which all Muslims highly value.

Muslims are yearning for brotherhood, yet little in the Muslim world is more elusive. Love, without strings and expectations, flowing from our own independence, security, and freedom will lead them to brotherhood that comes from "sonship."

A P P E N D I X D

Resources and Connections

- OPERATION REVEILLE: publishing, training, and consulting to help military chapels and ministries better equip their members for projecting the gospel and its fruits cross-culturally.

1-719-572-5908, www.oprev.org

- PRAYER JOURNEYS: If faith, which can move mountains, is “the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen” (Heb.11:1), then on-site insight combined with intercession can change the world.

America’s Nat’l Pryr Committee: 1-908-771-0146, www.nationalprayer.org

Houses of Prayer Everywhere: 1-800-217-5200, www.hopeministries.org

Waymakers: 1-512-419-7729, www.waymakers.org

Window International Network: 1-719-522-1040, www.win1040.com

- LITERATURE & MULTI MEDIA

- ◆ Jesus & Bible Story Videos:

The Jesus Film Project: 1-800-432-1977, www.jesusfilm.org

Multi Language Media, 1-717-738-0582, www.multilanguage.com

Ethnic Harvest: www.ethnic harvest.org

Mount Carmel: 1-800-272-2442, www.mountcarmel.com/cart/videos/biblical.htm

- ◆ Scriptures on Audio Cassettes and CDs:

Audio Scriptures International: 1-760-745-8105, www.gospelcom.net/asi

Audio Scripture Ministries: www.gospelcom.net/aurora/pages/general/home.htm

Faith Comes By Hearing: 1-800-545-6552, www.fcbh.org

Gospel Recordings Network: 1-888-444-7872, gospelrecordings.com/catalog

- ◆ Bibles and New Testaments in Foreign Languages

American Bible Society: 1-800-322-4253, www.americanbible.org

International Bible Society: 1-800-524-1588, www.gospelcom.net/ibs

Scripture Gift Mission: 1-877-873-2746, www.gospelcom.net/asgm

- ◆ Literature in Many Languages

Multi Language Media: 1-717-738-0582, www.multilanguage.com

Ethnic Harvest: www.ethnicarvest.org

Keith Kline: 1-604-534-3183, e-mail: Keithk@idmail.com

- ◆ Short Wave Radio and Satellite Television Broadcasting:

World by 2000 Gospel Radio Ministry Clearing House: 1-719-548-7490, www.wb2000.org

Sat7 Satellite Television for the Middle East: 1-610-995-9151, www.Sat7.org

Table of SW Broadcast Times & Frequencies: www.febc.org/phptest/wbr/index.php3

- GEOGRAPHIC MISSION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Adopt-A-People Clearing House: 1-719-574-7001, www.aapc.net

Center for the Study of Global Christianity: www.globalchristianity.org

Christian Missions Net: www.christianmissions.net

Joshua Project: 1-719-886-4000, www.joshuaproject.net

Summer Institute of Linguistics, Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com

Global Mapping International: 1-719-531-3599, www.gmi.org

Missionary Teams Clearinghouse: www.peopleteams.org

US Center for World Mission: 1-626-797-1111, www.uscwm.org

- TRACK AND/OR REPORT RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Int'l Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church: 1-949-756-0495, www.persecutedchurch.org

Advocates International: 1-703-764-0011, www.advocatesinternational.org

Open Doors: 1-949-752-6600, www.opendoorsusa.org

- AGENCIES SENDING MISSIONARIES TO UNREACHED AREAS

Frontiers: 1-800-GO-2-THEM, www.frontiers.org

Pioneers: 1-800-755-7284, www.pioneers.org

Mission to Unreached Peoples: 1-888-847-6950, www.mup.org

Team Expansion: 1-502-297-0006, www.teamexpansion.org

Strategic Frontiers: 1-719-572-9594, www.sfcos.org

Arab World Ministry: 1-800-447-3566, www.gospelcom.net/awm

InterServe: 1-610-352-0581, www.interserve.org

Christar: 1-610-375-0300, www.christar.org

- FIND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

World Evangelical Alliance: 1-630-668-0440, www.worldevangelical.org

- FIND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS IN FOREIGN MILITARIES

ACCTS: 1-800-487-8101, www.accts.org
Campus Crusade Military Ministry: 1-800-444-6006, www.milmin.org

- SELF STUDY FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES

Travel Language: www.travelang.com/languages/cgi-bin/langchoice.cgi
Transparent Language Learning: 1-888-245-1829, www.transparent.com

- MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SHORT AND LONG TERM PLACEMENT

World Medical Mission: 1-828-262-1980,
www.samaritanspurse.org/index.asp?section=world+medical+mission

- LEARN ABOUT ISLAM AND MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS

On-Line Brochure, "Working With Middle Easterners:" 1-770-410-6000,
www.namb.net/cp/About_CPG/brochures.asp
Arab World Ministries Resources: 1-800-447-3566, www.gospelcom.net/awm
Center for Ministry to Muslims: www.cmmequip.org
Online Testimonies & Articles: www.answering-islam.org
Support for Wives & Fiances: www.domini.org/lam/home.html
The World of Islam CD-Rom: 1-719-531-3599, www.gmi.org

- RECOMMENDED READING ON ISLAM

Daughters of Islam: Building Bridges with Muslim Women, Miriam Adeney,
InterVarsity Press, 2002.
Magic and the Kingdom of God: Church Planting Among Muslims, Rick Love, William
Carey Library, 2000.
Ministry to Muslim Women: Longing to Call them Sisters, Love & Eckheart, William
Carey Library, 2000.
Touching the Soul of Islam: Sharing the Gospel in Muslim Cultures, Bill Musk,
Monarch Pubs., 1995.
The Cross and the Crescent: Reflections on Christian-Muslim Spirituality, Phil
Parshall, Tyndale, 1989.

- INVESTIGATE SECOND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN CROSS-CULTURAL
MINISTRY

Finishers Project: 1-203-740-7278, www.finishers.org

- GET MATERIALS FOR MISSIONS DISPLAYS

Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment: 1-770-455-8808, www.acmc.org

Caleb Project: 1-303-730-4170, www.calebproject.org

US Center for World Missions: 1-626-797-1111, www.uscwm.org

World Christian News & Books: 1-719-380-0507, www.ywam.org/books

***Militaries are always on the "cutting edge"
of inter-cultural relations.***