

# Local/Global City Missions: 7 Strategic Ways to Become Involved

## 7 Local/Global Christian Roles Packet

### Introduction

Have you ever thought about how you can make a difference in your city and world?

Maybe you've prayerfully considered serving as an overseas missionary, but you feel God has called you to stay put. I think there are a lot of people whose only idea of missions is that of a special calling to a select few in a faraway place. Often people do not see themselves included in God's local and global plan because of this. But the reality is that out of every 100 people seriously considering overseas missionary service only 1 or 2 of those people actually go as a long-term missionary! The stats aren't a lot different for local missions.

So what about the other 98 or 99 people? And what about every other Christian who is also responsible for helping to fulfill the Great Commission? Don't you think God has a local/global plan for them too? They definitely aren't exempt, left out or excluded from Great Commission work! Jesus tells us that God's plan for the nations includes all of His followers (John 20:21; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

We live in a time when serving in the city and around the world has become much more accessible and diverse. The truth is that there are many ways to make a difference for Jesus, but at the same time it requires that we all be much more intentional about how we engage. Just as we all exercise different gifts in the Body of Christ we all can also fill specific roles in the local/global mission effort.

I want to encourage you to work through the short **7 Local/Global Christian Roles Questionnaire** so that you can discover ways in which you can become more strategically involved in God's local and global plan for cities. Everyone has a role to play and it's not a one-size fits all approach. You were made for a mission (Ephesians 2:10) but God's design for every believer is unique. The questionnaire is a jumping off point for you to begin to hone in on your unique role in local/global mission involvement! Descriptions of the 7 Roles follow after in the Packet.

Lastly, be sure to **complete the last page of the packet** to explore your possible next steps!

Till everyone hears,

ACTION Missionary Kyle Hansen and Pastor Ralph Rowland

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# 7 Local/Global Christian Roles Questionnaire

**Directions:** Record your response to each of the 42 statements according to whether you think the statement applies to you.

3 = Very much, 2 = Somewhat, 1 = Very little, 0 = Not at all

1. \_\_\_ I'm more comfortable with the idea of getting behind and supporting missionaries rather than going myself
2. \_\_\_ I have a number of missionaries that I have committed to pray for on a regular basis
3. \_\_\_ I enjoy interacting with or assisting people I meet from other cultures
4. \_\_\_ There was a time in my youth when I sensed God might be calling me to serve cross-culturally
5. \_\_\_ I like to bring awareness to global or social causes that people need to know more about
6. \_\_\_ I have a strong interest in using the internet and technology to reach people for Christ
7. \_\_\_ I've been able to rally people to get involved in cross cultural ministry
8. \_\_\_ I feel a burden to support and encourage the children of missionaries
9. \_\_\_ When I read the headlines of the world I am moved to pray for people and nations
10. \_\_\_ I would enjoy hosting a student from another country to stay in my home for a period of weeks or months
11. \_\_\_ I get excited about the idea of going to serve in a place where there is no church or Christian witness
12. \_\_\_ There is a social justice issue that I feel a deep burden to let others know about
13. \_\_\_ I have thought about taking on-line courses to see how I might use them to help Christians grow in creative access countries (closed countries to missionary work)
14. \_\_\_ I'm fairly natural at inviting people to get involved in mission related activities
15. \_\_\_ I enjoy corresponding with missionaries sent from my local church to keep current with their ministry and needs
16. \_\_\_ I would like to be part of a group that prays for the world and missionaries on a regular basis
17. \_\_\_ I have an interest in helping refugees or new immigrants get resettled
18. \_\_\_ My family and other people in significant relationships would support me if I decided to serve in another nation
19. \_\_\_ There have been times when I have sensed God's leading to speak up for a particular issue or need
20. \_\_\_ I enjoy Skyping and keeping in touch with people on a regular basis
21. \_\_\_ I like to listen and help people discern God's calling to serve cross-culturally
22. \_\_\_ I would enjoy helping to handle some of the logistical needs of missionaries
23. \_\_\_ I have a burden to intercede in prayer for missionaries on the field
24. \_\_\_ I don't get nervous in conversing with people whose English is difficult to understand. In fact I enjoy the conversations
25. \_\_\_ I would be interested in using my profession to share the gospel or train people in another nation
26. \_\_\_ I like to use technology and social media to create awareness of needs and issues



# Sender

## **Role – Sending and supporting those who are engaged on the frontlines of God’s global plan**

What is a Sender? – In the New Testament we read about the early church sending out messengers to take the Gospel to new areas and help to establish new churches. The Sender makes it possible for missionaries to go and stay connected to the church so that support, encouragement and partnership are maintained. The Sender plays a role in helping to confirm those who are called, getting them to where God has called them, then supporting their work financially, logistically and with communication and personal care.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Romans 10:14-15; 15:24; Acts 13:3; 14:27; II Timothy 4:13*

## **Measuring Statement – You might be a Sender if...**

- You are more comfortable getting behind and supporting missionaries rather than going yourself
- You enjoy keeping in touch with missionaries to keep current with their ministry and needs
- You are good with logistical support and solving problems
- You feel rewarded when you are able to give financially to a missionary over and above your local church giving
- You have an interest in taking a short-term trip to visit and support a missionary with a particular need
- You feel a burden to help make it easier for a missionary when they come back home to the US

## **5 Ways to Serve as a Sender\***

1. **Giving moral support or encouragement**
2. **Member Care**
3. **Logistical support**
4. **Financial support**
5. **Communication support**
6. **Re-entry support**

## **Barriers and dangers for the sender:**

1. To have unrealistic support expectations.
2. To fail to understand the unique ministry pressures of missionaries.
3. Idealize missionaries

# Intercessor

## Role – Praying for God’s work and God’s worker’s in the world

What is an Intercessor? To intercede means to attempt to reconcile differences between two people. In the Bible we see God asking us to pray on behalf of people or nations that are not reconciled to Him. God has a master plan for the nations to come to Him and He asks us to participate in this plan through our prayers. Praying is a great way to keep us and others engaged in God’s global plan and often prayer is the catalyst for God’s movement in different places in the world.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Col 4:3; I Tim 2:1; Matt 9:37-38; II Cor 5:18 – 19; Psalm 2:8*

## Measuring Statements – You might be an Intercessor if...

- When you read the headlines of the world you are moved to pray for people
- You feel a deep burden for people in the world who don’t know Christ
- You pray regularly for missionaries for those who serve in a foreign place
- You get excited or intrigued about going to a place in the world to pray for people
- You sense the importance of asking God to send out workers into unreached places
- You are moved by stories of people whose lives were changed by others prayers

## The process of becoming an Intercessor

1. Get serious about praying for the world. Intercessors make time in their day to prioritize longer times of intense prayer. Develop a prayer calendar.
2. Find some resources that will help you connect with God’s global plan such as Operation World ([operationworld.org](http://operationworld.org)) and Global Prayer Digest ([globalprayerdigest](http://globalprayerdigest)).
3. Connect other people who share your interest to pray for the world and create ways to encourage and participate with each other.
4. Adopt one or more of your church’s missionaries to pray for on a regular basis. Get to know more about them, their role and the people they serve.
5. Consider going to a place in the world where there are unreached peoples to pray for people and learn.
6. Start a prayer blog to create awareness of the prayer needs of people in the world.

## Barriers and dangers related to being an Intercessor:

1. Getting too busy to stay engaged in regular prayer
2. Being isolated from others who pray
3. Getting discouraged by not experiencing answers to their prayers

# Welcomer

## Role – Welcoming the world at our doorstep

A Welcomer reaches out to assist and befriend those who have recently moved to his or her area from another country. Knowing that God has brought people from around the world to their doorstep, they reach out with loving friendship and hospitality with the ultimate goal to share the Gospel. They work to understand culture in order to become more competent in how they communicate cross-culturally to develop friendships.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Deuteronomy 10:19; Colossians 4:5-6; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 17:26-27*

### Measuring Statements – You might be a Welcomer if ...

- You enjoy meeting and interacting with people from other cultures
- You have a heart for people living away from their home culture
- You enjoy helping people feel at home and get settled in a new environment
- You aren't put off by conversations with people who speak little English
- You come alongside people who don't know their way around our culture
- You have training in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

### Ways to Welcome\*

- **Become aware**
- **Befriend**
- **Assist**
- **Prepare**

### Showing Hospitality practical ways to serve a stranger\*

- **Open up your home**
- **Prepare a meal**
- **Serve the family**
- **Transportation**
- **Look for obstacles**

*\*Often we assume that hospitality and fellowship are similar. Whereas fellowship focuses on those relationships inside the church with people who share a common relationship with Jesus, hospitality focuses on the stranger outside the church who is not yet in a relationship with Jesus.*

### Preparing yourself

- **Experience what it feels like to be a stranger**
- **Study a culture**
- **Find a guide**

**Welcoming Ministries:** International Students, refugee ministries, language assistance, city, schools and local government

### Dangers and barriers for the Welcomer -

- Doing more talking than listening to their guests
- Enabling by doing things for them rather than empowering to do for themselves
- To become inappropriately involved with someone from the opposite sex
- Not taking the initiative to have conversations about Jesus and the Gospel

# Engager

## **Role – Engaging context with people in their cultural the Gospel**

What is an Engager? – An Engager serves on the frontlines, actually engaging people in their cultural context with the gospel. Traditionally the Engager has been the missionary, but because of our modern transportation, technology and globalization many people today are able to engage more directly in a cultural context. In one sense all believers are called to go and make disciples, but the Engager is one who may feel called or committed to a particular nation, people group or global need.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 13:2; II Corinthians 5:19b-20*

## **Measuring Statements – You might be an Engager if....**

- You feel God's calling to a specific location, people group or global need
- You work well with leaders and others within a cultural context
- You are energized by the opportunity to work more directly on the frontlines
- You have been on a vision trip and feel an urgency to get involved more directly
- You are interested in using your profession or life skills to serve cross-culturally

## **Three Stages for Mobilizing:**

1. Getting ready
2. Getting There
3. Getting established

## **Dangers and Barriers for the Engager**

1. Not fully considering the cost of engaging in a cultural context.
2. Not understanding the cultural impact of engaging.

# Advocate

## Role – Speaking up for those who cannot speak.

What is an Advocate? – An Advocate takes the initiative to defend, support, or protect others for the glory of God. Generally, advocacy is standing with or standing for a person or group that is disadvantaged or denied justice in society. In an effort to bring about justice, advocacy may include education, creating awareness, joining with justice partners, participating in nonviolent direct actions and showing compassion for victims of oppression in Jesus name. Effective advocacy enables and supports individuals and groups working to correct the injustices or abuses to which they are subjected.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18; James 1:27*

## Measuring Statements – You might be an Advocate if ....

- You feel a strong sense of urgency to speak up for a particular need or groups
- You demonstrate the ability to create awareness of specific needs or issues
- You collaborate with partners or coalitions on major or specific justice issues
- You act to mobilize others to get involved in issues related to justice
- You support individuals or groups that are on the frontlines confronting injustice
- You pray on regularly for God to intervene on behalf of those that are oppressed
- You demonstrate care and compassion for the victims of oppression and poverty

## The process of becoming an Advocate\*

- **Encounter** – Encounter the God of justice and the reality of injustice in the world. As you search the Scriptures gain a deeper understanding of God's view of how we are to respond to poverty and oppression.
- **Experience** – Go to places and interact with vulnerable and oppressed people.
- **Explore** – Research ways that you can create awareness and move others to action. Discern what resources and gifts God has given to advocate for people.
- **Engage** – Engage in vibrant, God-led justice ministry or creating awareness or showing compassion on behalf of others. Work in partnership with other.

## Barriers and dangers related to being an Advocate:

- Losing hope or becoming bitter in the process of speaking up for others
- Speaking up for others in patronizing or inappropriate ways
- Becoming proud or losing patience with those who do not share your convictions
- Not connecting actions of social justice with the message of the Gospel
- Creating awareness without providing ways of engaging injustice or walking with victims

# “Skypler”

**Role – Equipping those who are without access to equippers using the internet.**

What is Skypleship? It is disciple-making via the internet. The Apostles Peter, Paul, John and other New Testament writers all taught, reproved, corrected and trained in righteousness through written epistles. In some cases the writers personally knew their audience through previous ministry engagement. In others, they had never met the recipients of their letters. These NT writers helped to fulfill the Great Commission through writing letters as well as traveling to foreign lands. Today, technology allows people who cannot “go” to still teach, disciple, mentor and encourage cross-culturally anywhere in the world through tools like Skype, Google Hangouts and so on. “**Skypler**” is a made up name for those who dedicate some of their time regularly to disciple and equip people who do not have access to a discipler and resources to grow and mature in their walk with Jesus.

**Biblical Foundation – 1 Cor. 4:14-16; Mt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:15-16; 1 Jn. 5:13; Jd. 1:3-4**  
**Measuring Statements – You might be a Skypler if...**

- You have a heart for discipling the nations, but cannot “go” at this point in your life.
- You have been in a discipleship relationship, or are currently being disciplined, and want to disciple others.
- You are an experienced user of internet programs like Skype and/or Google Hangouts.
- You are motivated to build relationships with people from other countries and seek ways to share the gospel, make disciples and equip them to do the same in their context.
- You see the importance to carry out your discipleship relationships under the authority of the local church and in collaboration with missionaries or national Christian leaders.
- You want to see good Bible training helps available through the internet to Christians in the Majority World.
- You are a Bible school or seminary student or grad, retired pastor, Christian leader, Bible teacher or missionary and want to train and mentor undertrained pastors internationally.

**Process of getting involved in Skypleship**

- **Become a disciple** – get into a discipleship relationship if you have never been disciplined and become accountable for your sanctification to your pastor and discipler.
- **Reproduce disciples** – Start a discipleship group and show your people how to share their faith and start discipling others. Learn a “program strategy.”
- **Ask your pastor and missionaries** – Let your pastor and missionaries know you are interested in Skypleship. They may be able to help with a “selection strategy.”
- **Join a Skypleship group** – Join a Skypleship group to be mentored in ways to do it.
- **Commit yourself** – first to the Lord and then to those you disciple. Don’t start what you aren’t committed to. To many people are disheartened by unfaithful disciplers.

**Barriers and dangers related to Skypleship:**

- Committing to a long-term discipleship relationship too soon.
- Being ignorant of principles in cross-cultural communication and relationship building.
- “Playing with fire” – starting so-called discipleship with someone of the opposite sex.
- Connecting with an opportunist who isn’t really interested in discipleship, but using you.

# Mobilizer

## Role – Stir other believers to become active in God’s global plan

What is a Mobilizer? In the New Testament we read about leaders who served as a catalyst in sending out people to areas where the Gospel had not been preached. They sound the rallying call and help connect people to meaningful involvement in reaching the nations. They create awareness, educate and help move a person to the point of involvement. They confidently ask, challenge and coach people to take the next step of action and then help them reflect on what they experienced. Mobilizers work closely with both Engagers and Senders too in ways that result in more people serving in cross-cultural ministry.

**Biblical Foundation** – *Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 10:2; Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 1:8; Hebrews 10:24*

## Measuring Statements – You might be a Mobilizer if...

- You are personally active in cross-cultural ministry
- You enjoy networking with people and connecting them to opportunities
- You have the ability to motivate people to action and involvement
- You are able to help people clarify their calling and coach them to take the next action step
- You are not anxious or embarrassed to ask people to join you or others in cross-cultural mission
- You are able to discern the Holy Spirit’s work in a person’s life in relation to cross-cultural ministry and help people process his leading.
- You feel a personal burden or urgency to motivate people to become active in God’s global plan.

## Three Stages of Mobilizing

1. Creating awareness and exposure
2. Training and coaching
3. Deploying

## Barriers and dangers for the Mobilizer

Sometimes a mobilizer’s sense of urgency and enthusiasm may cause them to deploy a person before they are ready to serve cross-culturally.

The mobilizer’s passion and urgency may also create a situation where the mobilizer is too far in front of church or agency leaders.

# Local/Global Christian Involvement Next Steps

Now that you have completed the Local/Global Christian Role Questionnaire and started to identify what role(s) you may play in God's local/global plan, take some time and ask yourself the following questions.

1. What gets me excited or passionate to pursue involvement in God's local/global plan?
2. How have I already been involved in some capacity with God's local/global plan?  
Explain.
3. After filling out this questionnaire, do I see ways I could get more involved?
4. Of the seven roles in this packet, where do I feel God possibly leading me to get more involved?
5. Who are some people close at hand with whom I could consult?
6. (If married) How could my spouse complement my local/global Christian role in missions?
7. What are some of the biggest obstacles I face right now in getting more involved?

**Possible next steps for local/global missions involvement I would like to explore are:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For a complete version of "7 Local/Global Christian Roles" or to explore opportunities email Action International Ministries: [io@actionintl.org](mailto:io@actionintl.org); [www.actioninternational.org](http://www.actioninternational.org) or Youth Missions International: [joseph@ymimissions.org](mailto:joseph@ymimissions.org); [www.ymimissions.org](http://www.ymimissions.org)