

*Questions to help you think about
your place in mission.*

When we start thinking about mission involvement we need to think about how God has wired and gifted us – what we are good at, what we are passionate about, what people skills we have, what experience we have. God often uses our relationships and experiences as bridges to the future. By the time you are in mid-life you should have a fairly good idea about what God has invested in you. (You may find it helpful to read our handout “It’s a Process” in conjunction with these questions.)

- What is your occupation?
- What are your main hobbies?
- What are your spiritual gifts?
- Do you have a collection? What?
- What do you read?
- Whom do you keep in touch with?
- Whom do you know in another part of the world? What do they do?
- Where have you travelled?
- Who do you know that is not Australian-born?
- What periods of time do you have available? Weekends? Summers? Evenings? Tuesdays? Sabbaticals?
- What kinds of people interest you?
- Who are your nearest neighbours?
- Who do you spend time with that is not a Christian - at work, clubs, neighbourhood, community groups?
- Who do you know who has a Muslim, Hindu, or other non-Christian background?
- Who serves you at the newsagency, bank, petrol station, library?
- Who looks up to you?
- Where are you going on holiday?
- Where do you go on business?
- What do you like to do for other people?

- Your affections: Do you enjoy children? The elderly? The ill or handicapped? Any other special group of people? What ministry opportunities are represented here?
- Your business trips: Can you get in touch with national Christians or missionaries?
- Your church: What is your church doing in missions and what role fits you?
- Your company: Should you consider applying for an overseas assignment?
- Your cross-cultural contacts: Who serves you at the newsagency, bank, or petrol station? Can you become comfortable in conversation with people from other cultures?
- Your global friends: Who do you know around the world? How might they be a channel to missions opportunities?
- Your hobbies: How could they be used in ministry or lead you into relationships with individuals from another culture?
- Your mentors: Who advises and challenges you? What do they say about your skills, strengths, preparation and weaknesses? How do you need to grow?
- Your missionaries: Whom do you know? What do they do? What do they need that you can provide? How can you help them? Can they give you input on future possibilities?
- Your natural interests: What nationalities of people or geographical places intrigue you? What can you do to develop your understanding of such people and places?
- Your neighbours: How can you cultivate an interest in non-Christians, develop relationships, and be salt and light in their lives?
- Your professional contacts: What relationships can lead to other contacts for ministry opportunities?
- Your reading: What should you be reading to learn about missions, cultures and the world?
- Your resources: What goods and services under your stewardship could you provide for missionaries and mission organisations?
- Your spiritual gifts: In what ways has God equipped you to minister to others?
- Your time: What periods of time do you have available? Evenings? Weekends? Summers? Sabbaticals? Can you participate in missions endeavours that fit your schedule?
- Your travels: Where you have been? Do any of these places have a role in your future?
- Your vacation: Can you go somewhere to observe or participate in missions work?
- Your vocation: Could it be profitably used in an underdeveloped country?
- Your work associates: Whom do you know who has grown up in a non-Christian religion? What can you learn from that person? Can you develop a ministering relationship?

We suggest that you pray as you think about these things then reflect on the answers and keep them in mind as you do some research about where God may be leading you.