



10 WAYS TO DEVELOP YOUR INTEREST IN MISSION

1. Serve as a sender

Choose one of your own church mission partners to support and think about how you could support (e.g. prayer, communication, financial, practical etc.) We all have different gifts and it's not necessary for one person to support in all of the different ways—think about what you are naturally good at and do that. Get signed up for their prayer letters and subscribe to their blog if they have one. Look for ways to build a relationship with them – a good starting point is to meet them when they are back in the UK both in the context of a “report back meeting” or church service and on a more personal level, e.g. for coffee or for a meal. It then becomes easier to keep in touch by email, phone etc once you have already established some personal contact.

2. Serve as senders... together

Discuss mission support with your church homegroup / small group and think about whether corporately you might like to choose one partner to support. You can then spur each other on in your support e.g. by praying regularly as a group for them, sending a group letter or parcel, doing things with your mission partners when they are in the UK, showing support together.

3. Receive a mission agency magazine or follow a mission agency blog or social media feed

It will help keep mission on your radar and help you to find out about people, projects and places that you don't already know of. Perhaps start with those your church already supports.

5. Develop a global perspective

Watching or listening to the news will help you be aware of what is going on around the world. When you hear particular countries in the news, find prayer requests for those countries so you can also pray for what else God is doing in that region.

You may have started learning a language in the past why not take it further with a language podcast or by joining a conversation class or group locally?



4. Make friends with people from other cultures who live around you

Make an effort to meet and greet internationals at your church. You may also have opportunities to meet those from other cultures in your work, place of study, or in your neighbourhood.

Think about what interests you have, e.g. eating, sport, music, and whether you could start to form genuine friendships around a shared interest.

Make use of some excellent tools on the Evangelical Alliance website to help you reach out to people of all faith backgrounds and all cultural backgrounds.



6. Pray

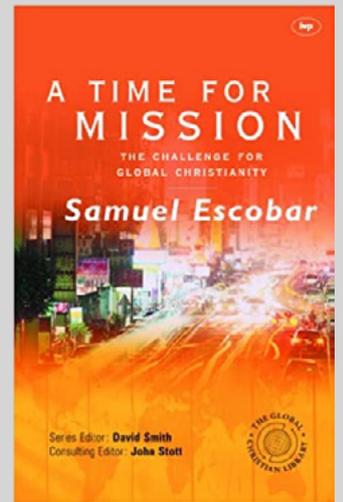
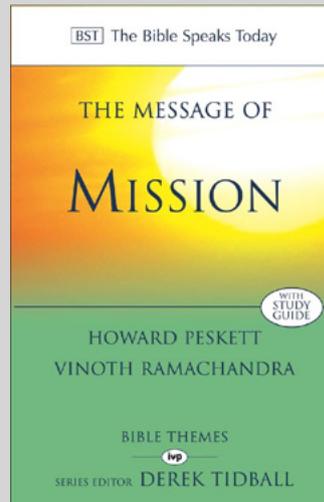
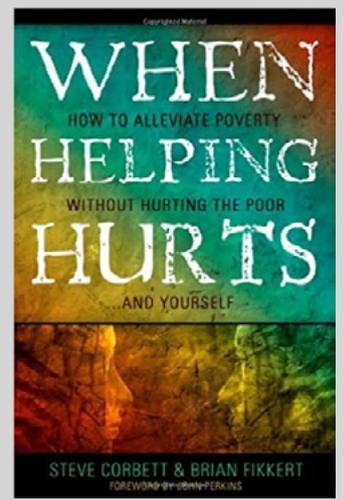
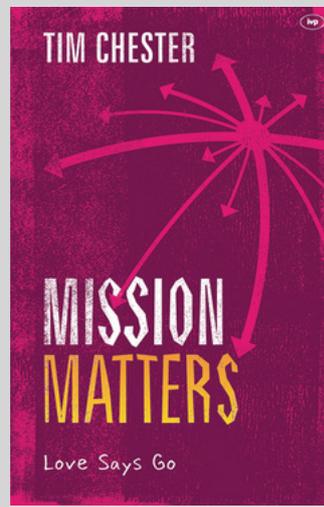
- Subscribe to prayer news through Facebook or Twitter feeds e.g. @worldprayernews @OpenDoorsUK, etc.
- Use the PrayerMate app and subscribe to regular prayer news from different mission organisation – geero.net/prayermate
- Operation World is an excellent prayer guide – there are a number of products including their website, a book, a CD, and more at operationworld.org



7. Read books about mission

A few recommendations:

- Mission Matters, Tim Chester
- The mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative, Chris Wright (or [click here for a pdf](#) of a short booklet by Chris Wright on the same themes).
- The Message of Mission (Bible Speaks Today series), Howard Peskett and Vinoth Ramachandra
- The Great Commission (Kindle Edition), Eddie Arthur (a short, readable and cheap overview of one of the key Bible passages relating to mission)
- A time for mission: The Challenge for Global Christianity, Samuel Escobar
- When helping hurts – how to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor and yourself, Brian Fikkert



“Our time on earth is limited. How great is it for those who say “Here am I, send me,” and then go out and spend their time as though it really belongs to God?”

* Quote from OMF article [here](#)

8. Read missionary stories

Be inspired and challenged by those who have gone before. Be encouraged as you find out about their faults and failings and realise that it is not about us but about what God can do when we allow him to take control. Here's a few names to get you started: Elizabeth Elliott, Helen Roseveare, William Carey, Jim Elliot, Hudson Taylor...

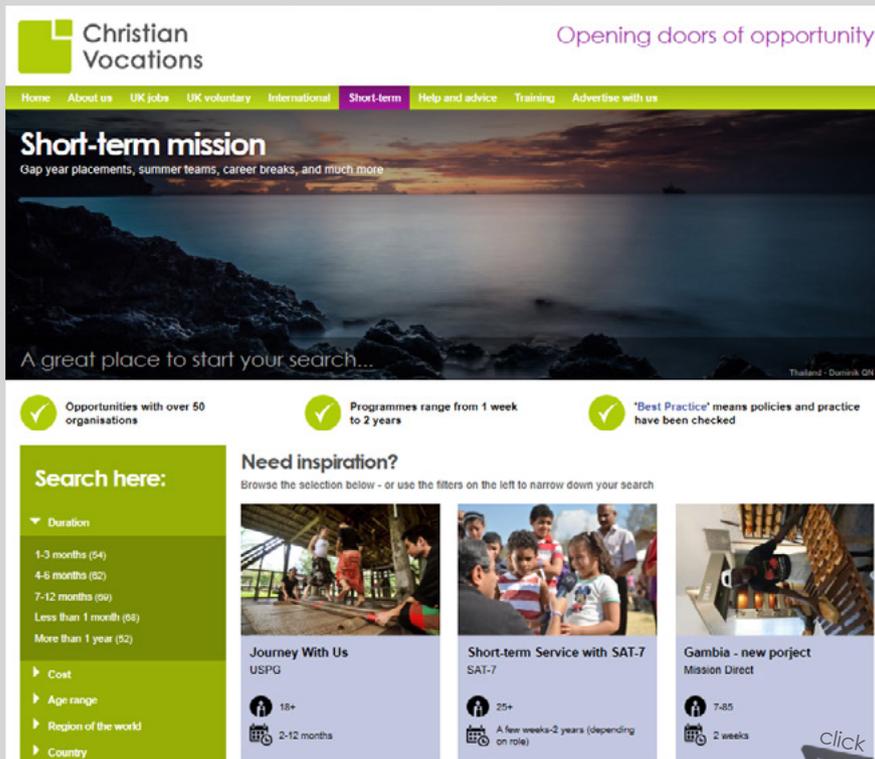


A Ministry of Global Connections



The UK network for world mission

Getting involved in mission – where do I start?



The screenshot shows the Christian Vocations website. The header includes the logo and the tagline "Opening doors of opportunity". A navigation menu lists: Home, About us, UK jobs, UK voluntary, International, Short-term, Help and advice, Training, and Advertise with us. The main content area is titled "Short-term mission" with a sub-header "Gap year placements, summer teams, career breaks, and much more". Below this is a large image of a sunset over a body of water with the text "A great place to start your search...". Three green checkmarks highlight features: "Opportunities with over 50 organisations", "Programmes range from 1 week to 2 years", and "'Best Practice' means policies and practice have been checked". A "Search here:" sidebar on the left lists filters for Duration (1-3 months (54), 4-6 months (82), 7-12 months (89), Less than 1 month (68), More than 1 year (52)), Cost, Age range, Region of the world, and Country. A "Need inspiration?" section suggests browsing the selection or using filters. Three featured opportunities are shown: "Journey With Us" (USPG, 18+, 2-12 months), "Short-term Service with SAT-7" (SAT-7, 25+, A few weeks-2 years), and "Gambia - new project" (Mission Direct, 7-85, 2 weeks). A "click" icon points to the "Gambia" listing.

9. Get stuck in with serving in the place where you are

Jim Elliot said “wherever you are, be all there”. Don't wait for a time in the future to start serving. You can do it where you are and be gaining valuable training and experience. It's good to ask “what needs doing” rather than being completely focused on “what are my gifts?” Sometimes it becomes clearer what gifts you have as you start to use them. However if you have a particular heart for the nations and for cross-cultural work you might want to choose areas of service that give you further training and practical experience such as international student work or serving on a short-term team.

10. Consider short-term mission work

This could be in the UK or overseas there are many opportunities from two weeks to two years. The Christian Vocations website is a great place to start looking for ideas: www.globalconnections.org.uk/vocations/short-term-mission.

Or it may be that your church is offering a short-term team visit that you could join. But most importantly, do seek wisdom and advice from the church leaders or mission support team to help you think this through fully. God's 'call' and guidance is not discovered in a 'vacuum' – discernment is a corporate, not just an individual thing.

