

# ReSOURCES

## MISSION RESOURCE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER



### A TIME FOR *Adventure*

**Y**ou probably know that 1 out of 3 people alive today are in an unreached people group. **Three billion people** in over 7,000 people groups have not encountered the Good News or probably ever met a disciple of the living Christ. You may have had your spirit stirred by this knowledge and images you've seen of people worshipping idols and seeking favor from false gods.

Are **you** feeling called to work in the harvest God is preparing? Or **do you know someone** you believe God is calling to cross-cultural missions? In either case, you may wonder: what is the first step, and what does this journey look like? How can a worker prepare? What do they need to know and do? There are plenty of questions – where can you find answers?!

Cross-cultural work is an adventure God has been preparing for those he calls, and we can help! **Mission Resource Network (MRN) is your guide for each step of the journey.** Training those called to cross-cultural ministry is one of the things the MRN team is distinctly qualified to do. You'll have access to the MRN team's decades of

combined experience as long-term cross-cultural workers, part of sending churches, and mission leaders. This wealth of resources from MRN can enable you to effectively join God's mission, whether you are going or helping others go.

So how does the journey begin? And what are the steps to prepare you to share Jesus effectively in another country and culture?

Read this story of a first-time cross-cultural worker, Diane\*, who represents a compilation of several workers facing these questions and finding a faithful guide and friend in MRN.

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*\*Diane's story is merely representative of the journey of many workers we have trained, and contains fictionalized details so the safety and privacy of MRN-trained workers is protected.*



# Note from the President



Dan Bouchelle

## Is God Calling You!

When you picture the people God calls to take the gospel to unreached people around the world, is it usually young adults in their 20s, fresh out of a college missions program? It may surprise you to learn that many of the international disciple-makers we train are second-career workers or empty nesters. While we do occasionally train young adults, that is more the exception than the rule.

Typically, the people who move overseas to reach people for Jesus are those who felt a holy discontent and wanted to be part of something more meaningful than what they were doing. When we met them, they felt called to something they couldn't define but which they also couldn't shake.

All this means that no matter where you are in life, you can still be called to global service. Are you not sure you're called to cross cultural missions but want to explore it? Maybe you just want to learn how to

better share Jesus with your neighbor? Either way, a good place to start is with one of our IMPRINT workshops.

These are typically offered 3 or more times a year with a mix of in person and online versions. They provide hands-on interactive experiences so you can develop confidence in sharing the good news of Jesus wherever you are.

Opening yourself to the potential of a call doesn't obligate you. But if you never pray with openness nor explore possibilities, you could just miss the greatest opportunity you'll ever have to live a life of great kingdom impact.



## A TIME FOR *Adventure* Continued from page 1

**At 52, Diane began feeling the Spirit's tug on her heart to do something beyond being an active part of her local church.** She had endured the devastating loss of her husband a few years earlier and missed him every day. Her kids were all on their own now, and Diane began to wonder if her teaching degree and experience might be useful in God's global mission. Having participated in short-term missions and with a heart to share the Good News with unreached people, she began to believe God was calling her to cross-cultural work. When Diane shared this thought with some of her mission-minded brothers and sisters at church, they knew what to do. They reached out to MRN, whose team of trainers walked with Diane – and her First Avenue Church – through a process of listening to God, praying to confirm what she and her church were hearing, and narrowing down the opportunities to fulfill her calling. This is the place everyone starts, and timing may vary from person to person. The outcome, however, is a clearer sense

of how God is calling someone to serve in his mission and to what region he is leading the worker. Diane and the First Avenue Church were convicted that Diane should pursue her call and work with

Hindus in one of a few regions in India.

Once Diane's calling was clear to her and her church family, she continued the vital training MRN provided as they helped her discover answers to all the "how" questions that could have easily overwhelmed and discouraged her. Transitioning to another land and culture to share Jesus, where most people do not even know his name, can feel daunting. MRN knows first-hand the importance of understanding your strengths and where you will need to lean into ways God wants to grow you. In the first stage of MRN's training, they led Diane through an assessment process to help affirm her strengths and reveal her growth opportunities. Using assessment tools and face-to-face interviews, MRN worked with Diane to facilitate her self-awareness and discovery of specific niches she could fulfill in the work she was being called to do. Diane fell more deeply in love with Jesus, learned more about herself and how she could serve and found new ways to use her journey as a testimony.

In addition to assisting Diane with living more fully into her identity as a disciple of Jesus, the team at MRN provided training in making disciples among the unreached Hindu people she would encounter. All



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## A TIME FOR *Adventure* Continued from page 2

workers called into one of MRN's initiatives are given specific preparation for engaging unreached people groups, whether Hindus, Buddhists, or Muslims. MRN's team equips workers with a theology of mission, cross-culture understanding, and strategic disciple-making methods. Like other workers MRN prepares, Diane was mentored through a survey trip and a 10-week on-the-field internship and provided with ongoing coaching.

Other aspects of preparation (which typically lasts 9-12 months) include our team connecting similarly called workers so that teams are formed or expanded, a target city is confirmed, and potential church partners are identified. During this time in Diane's preparation, she met with others looking into similar areas of India, and they developed a team with a unified vision and purpose. Diane and this newly formed team were given tools to raise funds, manage their security on the field, and strengthen team bonds. They identified Patna, state of Bihar, India, as the city where they'd settle and began making specific relocation plans.

Diane and her teammates were excited about their upcoming move to eastern India. They were selling things they didn't need, arranging for storage, and packing the things they would take. Even in their excitement, they wondered how to say "see you later" to their family and friends in a life-giving way. Diane would be leaving her adult children, one of them freshly launched, and her elderly parents. She was grateful that MRN had developed a family workshop to address this often-overlooked aspect of caring for the wholeness of a worker. Whether it's parents, grandparents, siblings, or adult children, this workshop brings together relatives of those relocating to better understand what

their loved ones will be doing, what they expect their living conditions will be, and how they can pray. Diane's family was able to come together with her and the families of the other team members to share their hearts and offer blessings in tenderness and love.

The First Avenue Church was not forgotten. MRN offers partnering churches a workshop to better equip them to partner with and care for their workers on the field. They collaboratively developed their vision and strategies with Diane and have an aligned understanding of how they will pursue God's mission together. Her church selected a care team for Diane, and she felt supported and nurtured by this small and dedicated group of brothers and sisters.

Diane was a mix of emotions when it was time to board her plane. The culmination of a lot of planning, praying, listening, learning, and partnership had brought her to this moment of leaving everything behind to embrace God's mission in a different place. It was reassuring to her that her relationship with MRN was not over – the MRN team would continue their coaching and mentoring. In addition, Diane and the rest of the Patna team were now part of the MRN Initiatives and would collaborate in the larger work among Hindus that MRN helps advance. They would also be part of the regional retreats and additional trainings that MRN conducts for workers each year.

After a long and tiring trip, Diane arrived in Patna, confident in God's guidance and the preparation he had provided through MRN. She drew a deep breath boldly stepped into the adventure God had prepared.

**WHAT ABOUT YOU?** There are people aching for what they cannot find. Are you called to work in the fields God is preparing for a harvest? Do you know someone whom God is calling? A great place to start is our website. Scan QR code to "start the journey page". You can also reach out to Mark Hooper at [startthejourney@mrnet.org](mailto:startthejourney@mrnet.org) or call him at 817-267-2727 x311.



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1903 Central Dr. | Ste 410 | Bedford, TX 76021

mrnet.org | missions@mrnet.org | 888.641.2229



**What does a cross-cultural worker look like?  
Maybe it looks like YOU!**

**We can help. Reach out to start the conversation.**



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