

A Guide for IMB Students

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## The Roadmap for Business Professionals



## **Consider Your Opportunity**

Where does your career fit with the idea of going to the nations as an ambassador for Christ? Thousands of people groups remain unreached. Many of these groups are even unengaged, meaning there are no churches or missionaries to offer them the gospel. You can use your skills and gifts to live and work among the world's unreached people.

Caring for the needs of people is integral to the missionary tasks of evangelism, discipling new believers, training leaders and forming healthy churches. Business-related missions gives access to the unreached, allows for intimate conversations, meets needs, makes disciples and empowers the church.

As the developing world rapidly works to modernize and engage in global commerce, trained business professionals are needed to:

- Work with nationals to develop and revitalize businesses
- Model ethical business practices
- Foster good relationships and connect organizations so businesses can thrive

This guide will help you learn more about missions, discern your calling, and use your business career to serve people and share the gospel around the world. It will point you to tested and proven resources that will help you think biblically, prepare practically, and discern spiritually. Remember, the Holy Spirit is your Counselor.

In order to learn how to make disciples using your degree, you must first make sure that you are a disciple yourself. A disciple is more than a person who has mastered some information, or even practices a set of spiritual disciplines and shares the gospel. Have you turned from sin and self (repented) and trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord? Is the Holy Spirit at work in your life bringing about transformation in your heart and mind, leading you increasingly toward godly affections, will, relationships, and purpose? If your answer to these questions is yes, you are ready to use your career to further the gospel!

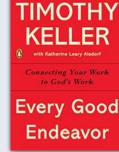


Here is your prerequisite assignment for beginning your journey.

Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Plan for the World

### **By Timothy Keller**

This book will provide you with practical guidance and help answer the following questions:



- What is the purpose of work?
- How do I integrate my faith with my work?
- What wisdom does the Bible give us in choosing our work?
- How do I thrive, or even survive, in a cutthroat, bottom-line-oriented workplace?
- Can I stay true to my values and still advance in my field?



## **STEP 1:** Discernment – How Do I Know Missions Is for Me?

How do you know if God is calling you to be a business professional living and serving among the unreached? Discerning the will of God is often a paradox for believers. In Scripture, the will of God is both mysterious and clearly stated.

First, recognize some relevant things that God has already made clear about His will:

- 1. You have been called to go and make disciples. *Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Psalm 96:*3
- 2. God is to be our supreme passion and His glory our ultimate motivation.

  Habakkuk 2:14; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:31;
  Philippians 3:7-11
- 3. The call to salvation includes a call to mission. Every person who responds to God's call receives Christ's command to make disciples of Jesus.

  Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8
- 4. You are to live for the life to come and not for this present life. 2 Corinthians 4:18
- 5. God's will is for all people to hear the good news of the gospel. *Acts 13:47; 2 Peter 3:9*

Items of mystery concerning God's will:

- 1. How to go.
- 2. Where to go.
- 3. With whom to go.

There are ways to navigate the mystery of calling:

- Talk to God about this. It needs to be an ongoing conversation that includes reading His Word, expressing your questions and concerns, and looking for the ways He will answer.
- Start the conversation about calling with trusted friends and leaders who are believers. Remember, missions is not something you do alone.
- Learn more about the mission of God and the part we are to play in it.

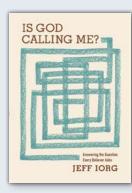


### **Essential Reading**

### Is God Calling Me?: Answering the Question Every Believer Asks

### By Jeff lorg

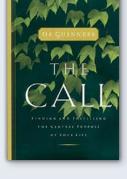
God is calling out a new generation of kingdom leaders who will accelerate the fulfillment of the Great Commission in this generation. This book will help you walk through biblical steps to discern God's will for your life. It will also help you see how God has called others.



# The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life

### By Os Guinness

This book goes beyond a surface understanding of God's call and addresses the fact that God has a specific calling for our individual lives. How do I fit God's call with my own individuality? How should God's calling affect my career, my plans for



the future, my concepts of success? Guinness relentlessly and exhaustively exhorts the believer to honor his or her call to live as a child of the King in every way possible.

### **STEP 2: Find Mentors**

Finding mentors to assist you in preparing to live and work cross culturally is critical.

Do not expect to find one perfect mentor who can assist you in all aspects of life and ministry preparation — that person likely does not exist. Look for multiple leaders who have different strengths and experiences to help you:

- 1. Understand and complete the necessary education and licensing to work internationally.
- 2. Walk in a deep and growing relationship with God.
- 3. Share and practice your faith in a work context.
- 4. Learn how to start churches in a cross-cultural context.

We often "have not, because we ask not." Make a priority list of the skills you will need in your profession, as a follower of Jesus, and as someone who will be living cross culturally. Identify one person for each of your areas of preparation. Ask that one person to mentor you. You will be surprised how willing and responsive people are to being asked to serve as a mentor.

A few friendly reminders regarding mentors:

- Find the right person. Mentors need to be a good fit for you.
   You will need someone wise and experienced but also available.
   Someone may have what you need, but not really have the time to share it with you. You need to choose someone who has the skills you would like to develop to fit your personality and style.
   At the same time, don't be afraid to pick someone who will challenge your perspective and expand your horizons.
- 2. Approach mentoring as a two-way street. Be ready to learn, but also look to add value and to bless your mentor. When possible, offer them assistance. Mentors will not be good at everything, and you may have a skill that will help them in a time of need.

- 3. Come prepared. Mentoring is not about filling a blank mind. Prepare for meetings with mentors by developing a list of questions or items to discuss. Follow through on their suggestions or assignments. Show them that you value their time and mentorship.
- 4. Ask to shadow your mentor. Discussions can be very helpful, but seeing someone actually do what you are preparing to do is even better. Professionals create rhythms and patterns to their work. Seek to learn the habits and practices that have led them to success.

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**APPRENTICE** 

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### **Recommended Reading**

### Letters to an Apprentice: A Culture of Mentorship By Jeremy Taliaferro

Learn from an IMB missionary's experience as both an apprentice and a mentor.

This book is filled with practical examples and steps to help you:

- Find your mentor and make the best of that relationship.
- Find your apprentice and pass on what you have learned.
- Create a culture of mentorship in your family, church, ministry, or team.



## STEP 3: Prepare Spiritually

Spiritual preparation is the most crucial step in any plan to live and work internationally for the gospel. Your decision to be in the marketplace for this purpose makes you a missionary. You will be using your skills and gifts to share the gospel with people who have never heard. The missionary assignment requires that you have an authentic personal walk with God and participation in corporate worship, discipleship, and service through a church.

Let's make this clear: your spiritual preparation is both individual and communal. There is no substitute for your private worship, Bible study, and prayer. You need time alone with God, and that needs to be a regular and even daily discipline. It is also true that to follow Christ means to be vitally linked to His body—the church. Most of the admonitions of the New Testament cannot be obeyed and practiced alone.

Questions to consider as you determine how to prepare spiritually:

- Are you an active member of a healthy, gospel-focused church? Remember, the biblical pattern is that churches send out those whom God calls. Is your church aware of and supportive of your desire to serve God in missions?
- Are you engaged in personal habits of Bible study, prayer, and Scripture memory? Spiritual disciplines help you to abide daily in Christ and rely on Him. They also undergird your ability to serve God and join Him in His work.
- Are you struggling with any habitual sins or addictive behaviors? Recognize that you have a spiritual enemy that wants to distract and even disqualify you from opportunities to serve God in missions. To overcome sin, it is essential to take proper steps of repentance, change, and accountability.

Your spiritual preparation is an investment not only in yourself but also others. Take this step seriously and:

- Ask a mentor to lead you through a discipleship assessment.
   Just like a yearly audit is important to ensure that an organization is financially and operationally effective, the right kind of spiritual assessment can identify areas in which you need to grow, improve or heal. Lifeway Resources (lifeway.com) offers the Discipleship Pathway Assessment as such a resource.
- 2. Engage in a discipleship study with a group. IMB offers several free online courses that focus on missions and can be done with others. Find these at imb.pathwright.com.
  - a. Explore Missions is a 6-week study that gives you a biblical overview of the mission of God and how He purposes the people of God to join Him in His redemptive plan.
- b. Ready to Go is an 8-session study that helps students prepare for a summer or semester of missions service.
- c. Deepen Discipleship is a 6-month course designed to be done with a mentor or small group in the context of your local church. The lessons and activities will help you develop or deepen habits of obedience in your Christian life. You'll also walk through the entire New Testament and learn to see your whole life in light of the gospel.
- 3. Connect with others who are balancing academics with spiritual development. Professional training is rigorous, demanding, and sometimes even competitive. The challenge will be to find time and energy for church engagement and personal devotion. Whether through a campus ministry, your church, or fellow Christian students, find or create a team who can support your spiritual journey as you study.



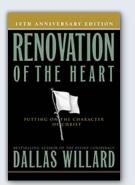
### **Recommended Reading**

### Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ

By Dallas Willard

Don't settle for complacency.
Accept the challenge to become
an intentional apprentice of Jesus
Christ, changing daily as you walk
with Him. This book explains why
Christians need to undergo change
in six aspects of life: thought, feeling,

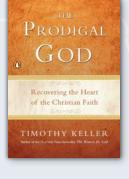
will, body, social context, and soul. Willard also outlines a general pattern of transformation in each area, not as a sterile formula but as a practical process that you can follow.



The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith

By Timothy Keller

Being a follower of Jesus is easy to complicate. We can be distracted by thousands of teachings and practices that keep us from concentrating on the main thing of the Christian life. Keller uncovers the essential



message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. This focus on the simple, amazing gospel will lead you to the heart of God and provide the inspiration you need to find your role in His mission.

## **STEP 4:** Start Making Disciples

This roadmap is about the possibilities of you using an occupation in business to not only help yourself and others make a living but also to meet the spiritual needs of people. More specifically, you can follow the powerful biblical example of proclaiming the gospel in both word and deed. The apostle Paul leveraged his ability to work as a tentmaker to support himself as he reached people and planted churches. Many countries otherwise closed to traditional missionaries welcome business entrepreneurs who can help create jobs, contribute to their economy, and increase the availability of goods and services.

## The missionary task requires that you embrace the call to make disciples.

Disciple-making is the Christ-commanded, Spirit-empowered duty of every disciple of Jesus to evangelize unbelievers, baptize believers, teach them the Word of Christ, and train them to obey Christ as members of His church who make disciples on mission to all nations.

(Matthew 28:16–20; 1 Corinthians 12:4–31; Ephesians 4:1–16; Colossians 1:27–29)

### Your missionary task of making disciples starts now.

Your business education will likely include opportunities to learn by doing. Your missionary training needs the same practice. A recent Southern Baptist initiative, Who's Your One?, offers the simple challenge to be intentional about evangelizing and discipling someone. When you think of someone far from God, who's the first person who comes to mind? Is it a neighbor? Coworker? Parent? No matter who it is, God can use you to reach them. The Who's Your One emphasis includes a forty-day devotional guide (whosyourone. com) to lead you through the effort to love someone who is lost and lead them to Christ.

A prerequisite course for IMB long-term missionaries is *Deepen Discipleship*, a 6-month discipleship resource designed to be done with a mentor or small group in the context of your local church. As you walk through the lessons, you'll read and do activities designed to help you develop or deepen habits of obedience in your Christian life, including witnessing and discipling others. Find this free resource at imb.org/training.



## The essential tools for discipleship are the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God.

Disciple using the Bible. There are many good resources to help you make disciples, but there is no substitute for Scripture. Every disciple needs to develop a thorough knowledge of the Word of God.

Disciple in reliance on the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can take the Word of God and use it to transform every area of a disciple's life. Discipleship must be done in conscious dependence on the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

Disciple in the context of the church. God provides the local church as the necessary setting and the primary relationships for the full measure of biblical discipleship. One-on-one discipleship has a useful role, but it is not enough. Biblical discipleship requires the gifts and input of everyone in the body of Christ.

### **Learn Other Languages**

Making disciples involves the ability to communicate the gospel to people in ways they can understand. In cross-cultural missions, this means that learning their heart language is invaluable. If you are preparing for long-term service, don't miss the opportunity now to begin to master another language. A second language opens up more job possibilities, communicates that you are serious about working abroad, and helps you make international contacts.

A few practical ways to go about language learning:

- Make international friends As a friend of an international, you will have the opportunity to learn language from your friend.
- 2. Use free language-learning resources Local and campus libraries have free audio, video, and print resources. Research the best apps.
- 3. Use electives wisely As a business major, you will have few spaces for electives, but when you do have the option, choose language electives. They are fun and offer a change of pace.
- 4. Take a community course in language Many colleges offer free or low-cost language classes for the community, often at night, over the weekends, or during summer. Start your search with your school's office of continuing education.
- Pursue volunteer opportunities in multilingual environments – Having this experience will not only assist you in taking the gospel to those in need, but it will also help you find a job.





### Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples

### By Francis Chan, with Mark Beuving

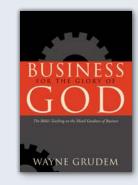
Jesus gave His followers a command: "Follow me," and a promise: "And I will equip you to find others to follow me." Designed for use in discipleship relationships and other focused settings, *Multiply* will equip you to carry out Jesus' ministry. Each of the twenty-four sessions in the book corresponds with an online video at multiplymovement.com



## Something Needs to Change: A Call to Make Your Life Count in a World of Urgent Need

### By David Platt

Platt invites readers to relive his trek through the Himalayan mountains and seek answers to tough questions like, "Where is God in the middle of suffering?" "What makes my religion any better than someone else's religion?" and "What do I believe about eternal suffering?" Learn what it means to give your life for the gospel — to finally stop talking about faith and truly start living it.



## Business for the Glory of God: The Bible's Teaching on the Moral Goodness of Business

### **By Wayne Grudem**

Business glorifies God when it is conducted in a way that imitates God's character and creation. All aspects of business, including ownership, profit, money, competition, and borrowing and lending, can glorify God because they are reflective of God's nature. Recognize how to avoid the perversions of these activities and learn how your work can demonstrate God's goodness through interactions with customers, coworkers, employees, and other businesses.

## **STEP 5:**

# **Build Your Resume/Curriculum Vitae, Portfolio, and Networks**

#### Create a Resume

Work on your resume throughout your college education. Your resume is not mainly about the format and look, it is also about the content. Do you have unique, cross-cultural experiences related to business (i.e. internships)? Today's corporations recognize that global business students need foreign language proficiency as well as cross-cultural, adaptive "soft skills" which will assist them in working effectively in their co-ops, internships and expatriate assignments. There are many great online resources for building resumes. Here are a few:

- Monster.com/career-advice/article/resumes
- 2. Joyjobs.com/seekers/sampler.htm
- 3. <u>Indeed.com/career-advice/resumes-cover-letters/steps-for-building-a-resume</u>
- 4. Resumegenius.com/resume-samples
- 5. Youtube.com/watch?v=u75hUSShvnc

### **Develop a Portfolio of Experiences**

Again, employers look for more than just education and job experience; they seek people with skills and proficiency in networking, collaboration, problem-solving, adaptive thinking, emotional intelligence and resilience. Portfolio experiences can include paid positions, contract work, volunteer projects, certifications, samples of work, letters of reference, and evidence of certain skills related to your desired career in business. Research what style and type of portfolio would serve best for your line of work and have it ready to show employers when you apply for jobs.

### **Build a Network**

It is important for you to develop relationships regarding the "who you know" aspect of securing a job. This process can be easier than you think.

Four steps to building your network while a student:

 Attend events sponsored by your school of business and ask questions. During your time as a student, your university will host numerous seminars, workshops, networking opportunities and other business-related events. Attend these as you can to ask questions and let professors and others know you are curious and want to learn.

- 2. Contact professionals. While professionals in the business world are busy, they are often willing to provide help to business students. Have a project for class that requires some research? Seek out a professional and ask for help or info. If you keep your request simple, it can be an effective way to learn and meet people.
- Volunteer as an intern. While paid internships are extremely helpful, taking some time to volunteer will allow you to meet professionals and garner some real-world experience.
- 4. Seek out Christian business owners and managers. Ask people in your church or campus ministry to connect you with businesses they know. Take these new contacts out for coffee to share your desire to work overseas serving cross-culturally and get advice on getting started.

### **Consider Further Academic Study**

Business is a vast field with a wide variety of options. Adding master's level study to your training may assist you in acquiring a job in an international context. Universities now offer Masters programs in International Business (MIB). MIBs can be extremely helpful in understanding and navigating the complex world of international business. Here is a sample of Christian universities with MIB programs:

- California Baptist University
- Houston Baptist University
- Liberty University
- Oklahoma Baptist University
- Samford University



## **STEP 6:** Explore Needs and the Possibilities for Service

God is calling you to join Him on mission, but where and with whom? A major step along your journey is discovering possible locations to live and serve. There are so many options it may be difficult to narrow them down and discern God's leading. The best way to find direction and move forward is to visit locations.

A few main options for these visits are:

### Take a short-term trip

- A mission trip can introduce you to a culture, a people group, and a team of missionaries, all which will be important components in your future service in missions.
- Start the search with your church, your local Baptist association of churches, and your state Baptist convention.
- IMB offers trip opportunities. Explore these at imb.org/opportunity-finder.

### Study abroad

Many universities and degree programs highly encourage students to study abroad and may have an entire office devoted to offering opportunities and assistance. Study abroad options will help you:

- 1. Visit a new culture in a safe environment and program focused on helping you understand the people, history, and culture.
- 2. Help you meet international business professionals and learn about business opportunities.
- 3. Receive academic credit while preparing to live cross culturally.
- 4. Explore a culture to see if you are a good match.

### Other study abroad resources:

- CAPA International Education (capa.org) An organization with a wide variety of study abroad options, CAPA offers practical support and has a long history of high ratings from students and faculty.
- Consortium for Global Education (cgedu.org) CGE is a network of universities committed to assisting students and faculty with impacting the world through education. You can check to see if your university is a CGE institution and search study abroad options at their website.

A NOTE OF CAUTION: Not all study abroad experiences are the same. Prior to applying, research online for student reviews of their experience. Also, check with your academic institution and ask for references from students who have previously studied abroad. Finally, make sure to inquire about financial aid assistance and whether your existing scholarships and financial aid can apply.

#### Find a natural connection

Whether through a church, professional network or internship, you've likely made natural connections with people who can help you. These connections should not be ignored; God works through them. As you look for opportunities to see firsthand what He is doing in a country or among a people group, you can and should move forward with these options.

Many churches have established partnerships with missionary teams and church planters or have adopted unreached people groups. They can provide opportunities that would give you a "paved road" for a connection. A professional network, mentorship, or internship could also introduce you to people, places, and needs through which God stirs your heart and directs your attention.

IMB can assist you in exploring opportunities and pathways of service as well as preparing for a mission trip. Contact info@imb.org.

### **Gain business experience**

To become a professional, you will need to complete your college degree, an internship, and often additional Masters-level coursework. Experience beyond the classroom is critical, and especially if you are looking to work internationally, you will need to develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding. As mentioned elsewhere, learning another language can be extremely valuable. Consider the pursuit of internships or business positions with companies with overseas locations.



## STEP 7: Find A Job

Finding a job will likely be the most difficult and faith-challenging step in your move to serve cross-culturally as a business professional. While there are many business jobs available globally, finding the right one can be difficult. Be patient and do not get discouraged.

Here is how to move forward:

- 1. Begin with your existing network. Start with these sources:
  - a. Former internship supervisors
  - b. Professors
  - c. Contacts in institutions where you have volunteered or interned
- 2. Talk with head-hunting firms and explore online job-search engines. Inquire with them about international options.
- 3. Attend job fairs at your school.
- 4. Contact the Human Resource departments of international corporations.

A NOTE OF CAUTION: Make sure to do your homework. Just because you find an overseas job on the web doesn't mean it will be as amazing as it seems. Research the business online and see how employees feel about working there. Use common sense and when in doubt, ask more questions. Americans often expect employers to treat employees well, but know that other cultures and countries may have different standards and provisions for working conditions, benefits, and weekly hours.

### **Search for international business jobs**

Here are just a few of the websites offering opportunities:

- indeed.com/q-Entry-Level-International-Business-jobs.html
   A good source of info for entry-level job opportunities.
- linkedin.com/jobs/international-business-jobs
   A good source for a variety of international business jobs.
- workasworshipretreat.org/
   Real-life stories and advice from the business world.
- <u>c12group.com</u> Source of wisdom from Christian business professionals.
- <u>fcci.org</u>
   Fellowship of Companies for Christ International (92 countries)
- International Chamber of Commerce

### Consider a career as an IMB missionary

This guide has focused on the pathway of leveraging a business career to work internationally and serve in partnership with a missionary team. Another option is to pursue a career as a missionary, using your business skills as a platform to meet needs, build relationships with unreached peoples and fully engage in the tasks of evangelism, discipling new believers, training leaders and forming healthy churches. IMB Team Members are missionaries who are fully funded by the IMB, are considered IMB employees, and receive full benefits and services. Learn more about mid-term and long-term service options and requirements at imb.org/go.



## **STEP 8:** Connect with Believers Serving Cross Culturally

Connection and support are keys to long-term success as a person living and working in another culture for the sake of the gospel. These connections will take time and intentionality to build and maintain over the long haul. Here are a few recommendations as you begin your journey:

### Seek to partner with a missionary team

Missionaries work best as part of a team; this is a biblical precedent. As a business professional with many opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers, you could become a key partner and valuable ally to other missionaries. They also could be of great support to you and offer good counsel. The possibility of teaming up with vocational missionaries should not be taken lightly, however. Most of them must function with security protocols and in a trusted network. IMB offers a Team Associate role (self-funded) which involves an application process. Discover more at imb.org/go/options/team-associate.

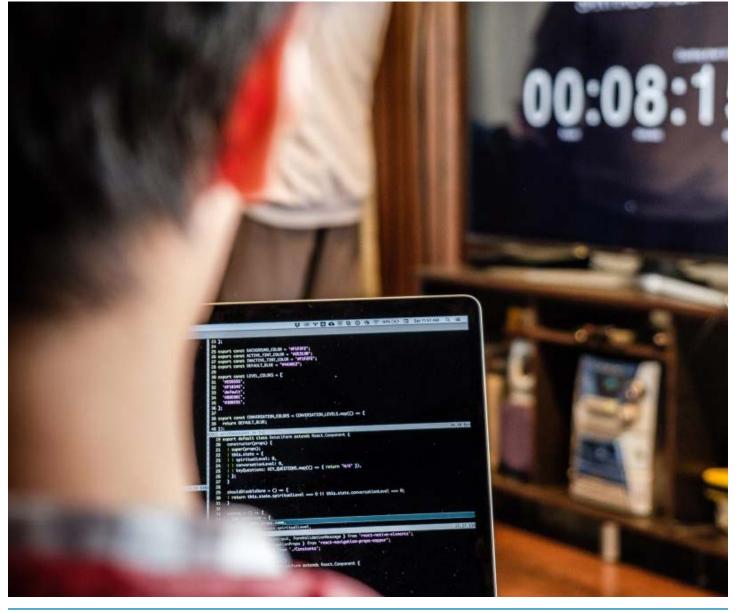
### Join an international church

Many communities overseas have expat or international churches. These churches are gathering spots for believers who live and work in a country outside their own. Even countries with the most restrictive laws about Christianity often allow international churches. International churches can be excellent places to unite in fellowship and help you find friends and support as you adjust to the community. In addition, the people in international churches can help you learn methods of evangelism and disciple-making that work best in the community.

Two online resources for finding international churches are:

- internationalchurches.net
- gccweb.org/about/find-a-church

You can also inquire at <u>info@imb.org</u> for recommendations and connection ideas.



## **Summary Checklist**

Pre-College/Freshman Year		
	Explore the concepts of calling and missions.	
	Read Every Good Endeavor by Tim Keller.	
	Dialogue with trusted friends and leaders.	
	Choose a major.	
	Join a small group engaging in Bible study and discipleship together.	
	Read Is God Calling Me? by Jeff lorg.	
	Read The Call by Os Guinness.	
	Read Crazy Love by Francis Chan.	
	Read <i>The Prodigal God</i> by Tim Keller.	
Sophomore Year		
	Read Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard.	
	Learn to make disciples; complete the <i>Who's Your One?</i> 40-day devotional.	
	Read Letters to An Apprentice by Jeremy Taliaferro.	
	Start looking for spiritual and academic mentors.	
	Develop a thorough knowledge of God's Word.	
	Get involved in your local church.	
	Take a discipleship assessment and plan your next steps in spiritual preparation.	
	Read Multiply by Francis Chan and Mark Beuving.	
	Practice learning another language.	
	Begin gaining business experience.	
	Read Something Needs to Change by David Platt.	

### **Junior Year**

Read <i>Business for the Glory of God</i> by Wayne Grudem.
Create and continually update your resume.
Concentrate on building your portfolio of business experience through volunteer projects.
Build your relational networks in the business world.
Continue to make disciples.
Find settings where you can practice a second language.
Pursue a volunteer business opportunity in a different culture or international context.

Look for opportunities to shadow professionals.

Consider further graduate level studies.

### **Senior Year**

Further explore possibilities and needs through a trip overseas.
Continue volunteering or shadowing with professionals.
Pursue internship opportunities in international schools or with cross-cultural classes.
Search for international jobs.
Complete and send out your resume.
Explore the Team Associate and Team Member roles

### **Post-Graduate**

you're working.

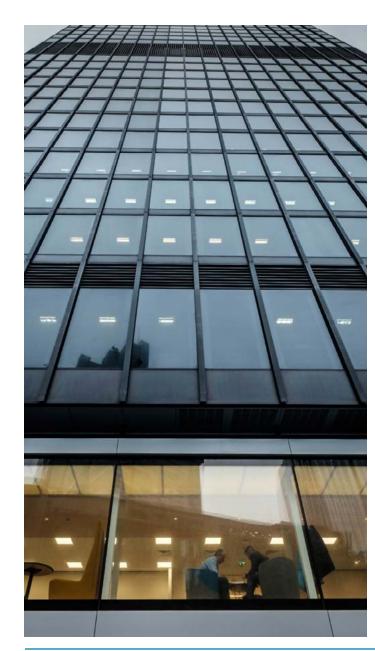
at IMB.

Once you're employed internationally, investigate connecting with a missionary team.
Investigate international churches located where

## **Suggested Additional Reading**

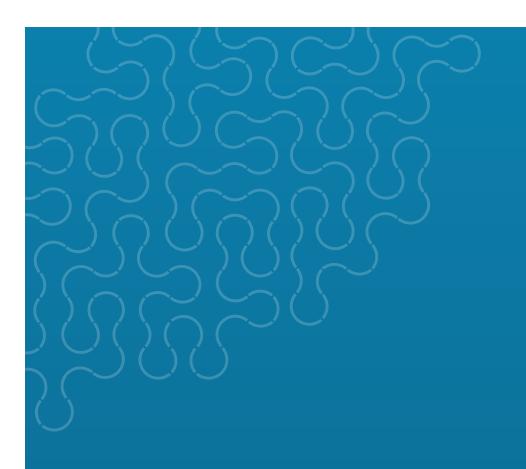
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