



DISCERNING YOUR CALL

- How do we know God's guidance?
- How can we serve God with Global Interaction?
- How can we test our direction?

God's plans

1. **God knows his plans for us** – great plans for a hope-filled future. We can be confident, in faith that he will guide us. * *Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 32:8
2. **God has already given clear directions.** These include: love God and others, give yourself to God as an offering, be changed inside out, avoid certain actions and attitudes, and go, tell, baptise, teach.*
3. **The first priority is to follow God's clear directions wherever we are, right now.** Wasting our lives while we wait for a call to a specific place or role is not God's plan! *See Matthew 22:37–38, Romans 12:1–2, Matthew 5-8, Matthew 28:19–20
4. **God often leads as we apply common sense** to our gifts, training, experience and personality, and move forward, acting on what we already know. ...As we pray and talk with others, we discover God's priorities together, as the Antioch church did with Paul and Barnabas. A friend or mentor might pray with us as we look for direction. It is worth testing our personal sense of God's guidance by talking with others, especially mature, wise Christians. *Acts 13:1–3, Proverbs 15:22
5. **Some people receive very specific guidance** as to how and where to serve God (for example Philip and Paul*). God may even need to address our reluctance about an issue, as he did with Peter and Ananias.* Specific guidance can come through the Bible, other people, dreams or an inner sense of leading. Be wary, though, of lightly interpreting an isolated verse or inner urge as God's leading. *Philip: Acts 8:26, Paul: Acts 16:6–10, Peter: Acts 10:1–23, Ananias: Acts 9:10–17

Can we know for sure?

We walk with Jesus by faith, rarely having 100% certainty of what's ahead (2 Corinthians 5:7). However, there are some signposts along the way:

- The surest way to be guided is to know the guide so well that we recognise his voice. Closeness to Jesus will increase sensitivity to the leading of the Spirit within us, who equips us for service.
- Peace of mind may show we are on the right track.*
- Setting out may bring new experiences that reveal the next steps.*
- God may open up opportunities, or close doors.
- Affirmation from others about our gifts for particular tasks may help.

Patience and wisdom are needed as God may test us, and Satan will try to spoil our attempts to obey God.

*Philippians 4:6–7, Isaiah 26:3, Acts 16:6–15, 2 Peter 3:8–9





Cross-cultural service IS an option

Jesus invites us to both global and local mission.* We can be part of God's global plans through prayer, giving and supporting global concerns and by serving overseas.

The following may help you explore the options:

- Read biographies of mission workers and reflect on how God guided, changed and empowered them for service.
- Get involved in various types of ministry right where you are.
- Join a Global Interaction Global Xposure team or the five-month Global Interaction Global Discipleship Training course.
- Gain qualifications and skills useful in helping people. These may open doors to communities where designated 'missionaries' would not be welcome.
- Reflect, alone and with others, on the abilities and gifts God has given you, and how he has shaped you for ministry.
- Remember, God wants us all to follow him. We can trust him as we step out in faith.*Acts 1:8

Serving with Global Interaction

There are many options for long-term and short-term ministry. You might work in gospel sharing, formation of faith groups, education, agriculture, medical work or skills' training. Whatever position you fill, you can show Christ's love, help people, build friendships, and grasp opportunities to talk of your faith and answer questions about Jesus.

Talk with your pastor and/or the Global Interaction director in your state about your situation. Global Interaction loves to hear from people who have a growing relationship with Christ, are getting involved in ministry, have an ability to get along with others, and are willing to learn.

If Global Interaction is the direction for you, its directors may advise extra training, such as Biblical studies or other courses, depending on your previous experience and the work you hope to do. Some courses are geared at helping ensure you are ready to cope with the stress of cross-cultural life. Medical checks will see whether you are fit to serve overseas.

You're not on your own

- God is with you in the journey. There is no greater encouragement than that.
- People of your home church will be with you through prayer, encouragement and giving.

If you do serve with Global Interaction, you will begin to build a wider network. You will experience a great sense of team with so many people praying for you.

