

Within Reach Global

GUIDELINES – INDIVIDUAL MISSIONARIES

This document outlines guidelines and requirements for individuals who are looking to become a hybrid or long-term missionary at Within Reach Global. If you are interested in bringing a short-term missions team or would like to be one of our advocates, please refer to our website for the proper guidelines.



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ANSWER THE CALL TO GO!

Hi! If you're getting this document and are reading to know more about how to become a missionary at Within Reach Global, then it's likely that you have the desire in your heart to fulfill God's Great Commission and go reach the unreached.

You may have a myriad of questions swirling around in your brilliant cranium. That's why we compiled these guidelines in hopes of giving you as much information as you may need to make a decision on whether or not you want to work with us.

Before getting started, let's address some terminology. These guidelines, as you may already know, are specifically meant for *hybrid* and *long-term missionaries*.

WHAT ARE HYBRID & LONG-TERM MISSIONARIES?

Currently, we are not accepting individuals who want to come only on a short-term basis. Short-term missionaries are those who want to stay for any span of time lasting less than a month. If you are interested in short-term missions, you are better suited building or joining a team than going as an individual.

At this point, we are open to individuals who want to come on either hybrid or long-term trips.

- Hybrid

- Trip length: 1-6 months

Hybrid trips are for individuals who can only come at a certain period of time in a year or are "testing the waters" on whether or not they can become a long-term missionary. They are willing to *go* but are not yet at the stage where they're ready to consider living in a cross-cultural country on a more permanent basis.

- Long-Term

- Trip length: 6 months onwards

Long-term trips are for individuals who are looking to live in a cross-cultural country for an extended period of time. This caters more to people who are looking to involve themselves in missionary work on a more permanent basis.

That being said, the following are everything we think you need to know if you're interested to come join us on the mission field.

Should you have any more questions not addressed in this document, you can get in touch with us via <http://withinreachglobal.org/contact-us/>.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in working with us as a hybrid or long-term missionary, please send the following as attachments to withinreachglobal@gmail.com:

- A full page description of yourself.
Tell us about who you are, why you want to come, what's in your heart and how you think you can help reach the unreached.
- 1 completely filled out *Within Reach Global Individual Missionary Application Form* (You should have received a copy of the form packaged along with this document.)
- 1 recently taken passport size photo of you
- 2 Pastor's Recommendations
- 1 Friend's Recommendation

We'll try to get back to you within a week after receiving complete application requirements.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PREPARE

FINANCES

You can't expect to be able to use your credit card where you're going, so it's better to always have cash on hand in case of emergencies. We suggest bringing actual cash with you (the bigger the denominations, the better). You can change your money upon arrival and not have to pay ATM fees.

If you want to be able to withdraw money from your bank, make sure to consult with your bank on how this is possible given your destination. Don't forget to take into account withdrawal fees that they may charge for international banking. It would also be wise to notify your bank that you plan to live abroad for an extended period of time – just in case they have policies for locking your account after too many foreign withdrawals.

In case you want to open a bank account in the country you're planning to go, we can help you do that once you arrive.

Here's a quick break down of how much money you could prepare for every month:

Food -	\$300.00
Accommodation - (2 bath with 2 or 3 bedrooms and a decent sized kitchen & living room)	\$250.00 - \$350.00
Transportation -	\$30.00 - \$50.00
Ministry work -	\$100.00
Phone -	\$30.00
Utilities -	\$70.00-\$80.00
TOTAL:	\$780.00 - \$910.00

Extra Expenses:

- Language studies with student visa - (one year visa)
China - **\$1,200.00 - \$1,675.00**
Thailand - **\$700.00**
Note: The language study rates are for one year and not for one month.
- Village trips - **\$300.00 - \$400.00**

Note that the values in the above breakdown are made with single people in mind and are all estimates. You may need less or more than the amount specified depending your standard of living.

LEARN THE CUISINE

If you have allergies or medical problems that limit your food options, it would be wise for you to research beforehand what types of food the country of your destination offers.

However, whether you're going to China or Thailand, you'll be sure to find places to buy good vegetables and fruits. We'll make sure to have someone show you the best spots to shop for food once you arrive.

Also, you might want to practice using chopsticks before arriving, or pack a knife or fork if you need to.

LEARN THE CULTURE

Before going to missions in any foreign country, it would benefit you (and the people of the country you're going to) if you brush up on their culture and know a bit more about their norms and mores.

For example, if you're going to China, here are a couple things you might want to read up on:

- Save-face culture
- Buddhism
- Ethnic people groups
- Ancestry honor
- Migrant workers

LEARN THE LANGUAGE

You, of course, can better learn the language once you arrive in the country and get immersed in the culture. However, it wouldn't hurt to learn a couple of basic phrases before heading out. Here are a couple of phrases that you might want to research:

- Hello! How are you?
- How much is this?
- My name is ____.
- I want this.
- Can I use your phone?
- Jesus loves you.
- God bless you.
- What is your name?
- It's nice to meet you.
- Numbers 1-10

Better yet, if you have time and can afford it anyway, take a language class where you are. Practice makes perfect!

PROPER CLOTHING

Make sure you bring appropriate and comfortable clothing for your chosen destination. Research the climate of the specific place you're going to and choose the right outfits that will allow you to get around and move along comfortably. You might do a lot of walking and climbing up staircases so bring comfortable walking shoes! In both China and Thailand, there are places to buy clothes and shoes, but don't expect to be able to buy all the clothes you need when you get to your destination. Make sure you have all good quality essentials you need with you.

Also, bring lip balm and good quality lotion for dry skin!

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Different countries have different visa guidelines, so ask your consulate about the rules for your country. However, here are several options you might want to consider when trying to get a visa:

- Get a year-long or 6-month **student visa** by registering at a local school.
- Teach English at a school and get a **work or business visa**. Note: This may mean that you would have to leave the country every 60 days.
- Apply for a **tourist visa**. Note: It's getting more difficult to stay long-term without scrutiny on a tourist visa. You also would have to leave the country every 60 or 90 days.

Our Suggestion: Come to the country on a tourist visa, then when you arrive, register at a school and have your tourist visa changed to a student visa.

WHILE ON THE MISSION FIELD

ACCOMMODATIONS

We offer *transitional housing* for a maximum of one month. However, if you plan to stay longer than one month, we can arrange for one of our local missionaries to help you find an apartment to rent or possibly someone to room with.

Prepare a budget of around \$250-\$500/month for housing. Also, you may want to prepare a budget for furniture/appliances as you see necessary.

SAFETY

This cannot be stressed enough when traveling to a foreign country: Stay safe. Just to remind you:

- Always watch your belongings.
- You may accept invitations to go eat with or meet people in their homes. But if you just met them, be very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It can be a great opportunity to share the gospel. (Note: When going to a restricted country like China, be VERY vague at first about your life there and what you're doing. Plain clothes police are a real thing!)
- Street food is usually a BIG "no no" for people with sensitive stomachs, unless you love squatty potties and Chinese hospitals. On the other hand, we do encourage you to "eat what is set before you" if someone prepares it specifically for you.
- Do not talk about other foreign friends and what they do.
- Watch your surroundings when having discipleship outside, and be sensitive about using churchy words.
- If you doubt if something is safe, then don't do it. The Holy Spirit is a good guide, and sometimes gives an inner tug or random thought, even in most unexpected times, to protect you.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media nowadays make it much easier to communicate with people back home. However, please be aware that in restricted countries, a lot of websites are blocked, including Facebook. There are ways to work around this – such as setting up a VPN and a WITOPIA account to make it possible for you to stay in touch with loved ones in your home country. If you need assistance, we'll help you set it up.

SCHEDULE

We can prepare a schedule for you, but we will need to understand your skills, general budget, and length of stay. Please inform us of any problems with mobility or motion sickness. We walk and climb stairs a LOT! Also be flexible, everything can change in a moment's notice.

Here's an example of one of our missionaries' weekly schedules:

- 2 or 3 mornings of language class a week.
- Afternoons are free.
- Ministry in the evenings. An example of "ministry" would include:
 - **English corners** (refer to FAQ for more details).

- **Discipleship and one-on-one student meetings** at various times of the week.
- **Orphanage visits** on Saturday afternoons.
- **Evangelistic dinner** on Saturday evenings.
- **Meeting with local businessmen/women** once or twice a month in hopes of ministering to them.

Recommended: Other than these set times, you have lots of free time to make your own schedule based upon what God is leading you to do. You can hang out with students at the university or at your apartment, attend international fellowship prayer meetings, do evangelism at the parks, tutor English, have prayer walks, and whatever HE points out for you to be involved in. Our heart at Within Reach Global is to provide a platform for you to flourish in your God-given gifts and talents.

TRANSPORTATION

There are many means of public transportation in both Thailand and China, so you don't have to worry about getting a vehicle of your own once you get to your destination. We'll be sure to have someone help you get around your first few days in a new country.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

So you might be asking, “What am I going to do there? How can I contribute?”

As we’ve already mentioned, there are plenty of ways to contribute one way or another, but in this section, we give you a quick overview of what’s already actively going on at Within Reach Global.

Note that most of the following ways to contribute are a part of an overall strategic process for bringing in the harvest. For example, our “Big Net” consists of the [English Corners](#) and [Bi-Annual Camps](#). This then leads to the “Small Net” of [Discipleship Dinners](#) and [Weekly Discipleships](#). Then finally, this accomplishes the ultimate goal of enabling them to become full-time Christian workers and missionaries themselves.

- *Note that our ministry has been active in China far longer than it has been in Thailand. Therefore, most of these are applicable to the Chinese ministry. In case you’re praying about coming to Thailand, there’s a great opportunity to help pioneer a ministry there.*

In either case, here are several ways you can contribute:

BI-ANNUAL ENGLISH CAMP

Twice a year, we have a three-day camp for young professionals and college students. This consists of group activities, games and small group discussions. The discussions focus on life, hope, love, which will eventually lead to hearing about the Gospel. These English camps are normally held on May and July. We have an average of 70-80 attendees during the May camps and 50-60 attendees during the July camps.

BUSINESSMEN FELLOWSHIP

Once a month, we are holding a fellowship exclusively for Christian businessmen. This is merely a time to build relationship with them, encourage them, love them, and inspire them through the Word of God. We give opportunities to people who have a heart to reach out to business people by sharing the Word of God during this time. We prepare a free meal for everyone, and so we are also in need of people who can help us in the kitchen.

DISCIPLESHIP DINNERS

Every Saturday, we prepare a meal for a group of people, ranging from 20 to 30 people. If you know how to cook or bake or possess any skills in the kitchen, you can be a very big blessing to the cooking team. It’s a very cultural thing to eat together, and out of that family feel, relationships are born through discipleship. This is a unique opportunity to pour your life into the future leaders of the next generation.

ENGLISH CORNERS

Brush up on your conversational skills and get your list of discussion questions ready. A lot of the locals really do have the desire to speak better English. While they’re trying to practice their English by talking to you, you gain the opportunity to build a good and intimate relationship with them by getting to know them and talking about how good God has been to you. Just talk about yourself and the hope, love, grace and strength you found in the He Who brought you there.

You can also help us come up with new discussion questions and interesting/fun games.

Note: In case you're not sure what to do or how to start off a conversation with a local, we'll have guidelines and materials that can help give you a head start.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

If you are good at any kind of media and making short films that would promote our different ministries, you will be a very big help to assist us in raising funds to support all our work -- youth ministry, children's ministry, village trips, discipleship dinners, Church leadership training.

ORPHANAGE VISITS

We do regular visits to local orphanages. We teach them English songs, play games with them, do some crafts, and teach English lessons for about 1 ½ hours. If you love being surrounded with children, enjoy teaching, are fond of storytelling, or have some skills in arts and crafts, you are very welcome to be part of the children's ministry.

SATURDAY CHURCH SERVICE

We do "Saturday Church Service" instead of Sunday set in accordance to the students' availability. We do this an hour after the Discipleship Training. This is something like the Church service we all are accustomed to, but a little more informal as most of the people joining this fellowship are college students.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS WITH UNDERGROUND CHURCHES

You can just join underground meetings and observe for the first few weeks. You can then ask the leader if there is anything you can help with. Small group meetings are a great way to connect with the underground Church and help with evangelism. Once you're able to speak the local language more fluently, you can help with discipleship.

LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

When we host visiting partner pastors, we conduct leadership trainings among churches throughout the city. Topics may include everything from discipleship to church maintenance to cell group training. Because of the wide array of leaders and Christian workers attending, we often invite our missionaries to both attend and minister to leaders. This is a great way for you to connect with churches city-wide.

VILLAGE TRIPS

Our local leaders are travelling to the villages on a weekly basis, in line with our ministry's heart to reach the unreached. We go to some of the WRG centers and help in giving out new and used clothes, hold a whole day kid's camp, pray with the locals, speak to church members and leaders, and bless them financially.

You can go to a village after communicating with the center's leader/director. Depending on the availability of our local missionaries and/or local staff, a village trip can be scheduled. If you go with a translator, you will be expected to cover all the translator's expenses (as well as the expenses of any WRG missionary/staff accompanying you).

Please be prepared to serve in whatever way possible. You may be expected to go from praying for the sick to cleaning or cutting nails, giving pedicures and haircuts. Also, the kids in the villages love balloons and toys, so be prepared to bring them some! It's a great way to connect with the community.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP

We conduct a weekly discipleship for those who have a heart to seek God more and desire to follow Him. You can help in either teaching a group or assisting the group leader. We also encourage each individual to find a time in a week where he/she can spend time with the students for much more personal discipleship.

LOSING STEAM?

You're ready to go! You're all pumped up. You have that tug in your heart, and you are sure that it's the Holy Spirit leading you to the mission field. But... how?

All these questions begin to overwhelm you.

What do I do? How do I drum up support? Do I just go? Do these questions mean I'm not trusting God enough? Maybe I need more faith? Am I really needed in the mission field? What makes me think I am called to do this?

And then you begin picturing yourself broke, with no way to get back home, in the middle of a country where nobody speaks English.

This state of limbo. Where fears and doubts assail us. And suddenly we're not so ready to go anymore. We've lost steam. We begin to question if that soft tug in our hearts is really the Holy Spirit or just... us.

If you can relate, don't worry... you're not on your own. We've been there. We all have different stories of how we've been called, but every one of us have, at one point or another, struggled through this stage of limbo – to go or not to go? That is the question.

In hopes of helping you take that first brave step to the great unknown, here are some of the practical things we've learned along the way that might be able to help you get through this stage:

BUILDING YOUR TRIBE

The keyword is accountability. You need to be able to find like-minded people whom you trust and who can stand behind you, your goal and your heart for the unreached. These people are the ones who are willing to pray for you on a regular basis. They're the people you can have a Skype chat with when things get rough on the mission field. They're the ones you can talk to about why you're doing this, about that tug in your heart. They're the ones who will keep you grounded and will remind you of God's call upon your life.

These people can consist of friends, mentors, leaders, pastors, family. They're the people who care for you.

Start with writing down at least five people who can be a part of your tribe. Do this prayerfully. You've probably already told these people about your heart for missions. This time, however, be intentional about it. Have a talk with each of them separately. Tell them you need to be accountable. You need their prayers. Let them know how you hope to get their support.

They are your tribe. It'll be much easier to "go," knowing that you have a powerful tribe sending you out.

RAISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Money. Let's not deny it. This is a major concern for most (if not all) who are praying about going to the mission field. We begin to remember all the verses about God being our Provider and how we should trust Him and it almost feels super unspiritual to worry about where we're going to get financial support before heading off to the mission field.

The thing is God is also a wise and loving God. Unless He tells you otherwise, we're pretty certain that the Father doesn't want His children to go to the mission field with five dollars in their pockets and absolutely no foreseen source of income in the near future.

So let's talk about how you can drum up some support first.

KINGDOM PRINCIPLE: YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

This may sound counter-intuitive, but the first thing you should consider doing is to *give*. As you begin asking for support, pick a missions organization (Within Reach Global, maybe? :D) whose mission and vision you support and give an amount the Holy Spirit leads you to give. It could just be about \$10-\$25/month or whatever. The point is to give, because the paradox of God's kingdom principles stays true here: Give that you may receive.

This is you sowing, so that you may reap the harvest later on.

BRING YOUR TRIBE IN

First of all, keep in mind: There's no harm in asking. So don't be afraid to ask.

As you build your tribe, don't just stop at asking for prayers, counsel and support. Mention your financial need too. Ask them if they are willing to give. Don't specify an amount. Don't call it a "one-time gift". Just ask if they could give.

This is you bringing them in on the vision God has placed in your heart. This is you making them a part of your call. This is you enabling people who can't go or aren't called to go to become part of the work in the mission field.

Also, note that your "tribe" isn't just limited to mentors or spiritual leaders. This is *anybody* willing to support you in your desire to "go". So... go!

BE CREATIVE

There are a lot of ways you can raise funds for your trip. Feel free to go a little crazy with this. It may take some guts and might be an overall humbling experience for you, but hey, we all need a dose of humility once in a while. So anyway, we've provided ideas in the [Helpful Links section](#) for [Raising Funds](#).

REDEFINING "MISSIONARY"

A lot of hesitation when it comes to becoming a "missionary" is rooted in pre-defined notions of what a missionary is. When people think "missionary," they think of poor people living in nipa huts in the middle of the jungle, sweat on their brows as they labor to translate the Bible to a native language they had to learn for years. When people think "missionary," they think of courageous, persecuted heroes being tortured in some dark dungeon somewhere. When people think "missionary," they think of someone in the middle of town square, Gideon Bible in hand, preaching the Gospel on a daily basis.

And let's face it. There are missionaries who've blazed those trails. Let's praise God for people like them. But that's not the "missionary" you have to be (unless of course you want to).

When people think "missionary," they don't think about programming, accounting or graphic design. They don't think of art, social media or creative writing. They think of quitting their careers and giving up all their hopes and dreams and valiantly following Christ to the great unknown – where there is no electricity and no Wi-Fi.

A little bit too extreme maybe? But you get the gist. Missionary, in most Christians' minds, equate to sacrifice, and in many ways, it does, but missions as it is today is in desperate need of relevance.

And that is where your skills come in. If you're a writer, a photographer, a videographer, an artist, a programmer... these skills, believe it or not, are useful on the mission field.

We would love to hear about what you are passionate about and find out how we can make your talents and passions fit God's work on the harvest field.

There is so much you can contribute! So don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT CAN THE COMING LONG TERM MISSIONARIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROUP IN REACHING OUT TO UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS?

Please refer to the [Ministry Opportunities section](#).

WHAT CAN MISSIONARIES EXPECT FROM US?

We'd love to help you adjust to the country however we can, but we do need to make clear beforehand exactly what we can help you with:

- We will assist you in looking for your own place to live.
- If you are going to study the language, we'll introduce you to the schools foreigners usually go to. (These schools can help you get a visa to stay longer.)
- Foreign and local WRG staff will help you get familiarized with the places we do our ministries as well as to the places we buy essentials and great spots to get away and unwind.
- Cultural differences can be a big shocker, and the adjustments you have to make may become overwhelming. We are more than happy to share our different experiences from culture to individual relationship building with the locals.
- We will give time for you to familiarize yourself with the work we are doing here before asking their specific commitments to the group. This will give you time to pray and seek which particular ministry you feel God is leading you to. This will help you to focus on certain ministries you will get involved with and put your whole heart into it. We don't want anyone to feel obligated to work in a particular field which they are not really designed for, thus causing burn out. We love seeing all missionaries operating effectively in their callings and serving with love and enthusiasm.

WHAT SKILLS, GIFTS, EXPERIENCE, OR SPECIAL INTERESTS WOULD BE VALUABLE TO THE OUTREACH/TEAM?

Teaching, prophecy, children's ministry, counseling, musical ability, and any other giftings you feel will be valuable in your home church. If it's valuable to your local church, then it's most likely valuable to us. We even need people who can cook! If you have a specific ability or talent you feel God wants to use, please inform us so we can plan for you to use it well during your time here.

WHAT GENDER, AGE, OR MARITAL STATUS DO YOU PREFER TO WORK WITH?

As long as you are prepared for challenges, to be flexible in schedule, and not afraid to embrace cultural differences (such as using a squatty potty), we will take you! All ages, genders, and marital statuses can be used here to glorify the Lord.

It is both our general preference and more culturally acceptable for men-to-men and women-to-women personal ministry times.

WHAT WOULD THE PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRIP BE?

Be prepared for lots of walking, climbing stairs, altitude changes, air quality differences, and motion/travel sickness. If you have a weak stomach, please bring packaged snacks from home. We aim to make all accommodations as comfortable as possible, but if going to rural areas, be prepared to rough it.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Travel costs will depend on your schedule and budget, but be prepared to need more taxis than originally planned (especially in the beginning). If you rent a van, it is customary to pay for the driver's meals. Also, be prepared to buy lots of water—it's cheap—but you will be surprised how much water you need here! Western food is available here, but more expensive. There will surely be times you want a break from local food to eat Western food, so plan that in your budget. You may need to buy a SIM card or phone for communication.

CAN I USE MY PHONE ON THE MISSION FIELD?

Your phone will work only if it is unlocked for international usage, and includes a slot for a sim card. Your local plan will only work overseas in roaming setting, which will most likely have insanely expensive usage fees. If your phone is not unlocked, we recommend purchasing an inexpensive device once on the mission field.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH YOU WOULD'VE DONE BEFORE GOING TO THE MISSION FIELD?

Learn the Language. One thing we found incredibly useful was a one-semester class of language study for our chosen destination. You can't expect to be fluent before you arrive, but it will help to know the basics.

Get a Missions Course. To understand your present place in God's missionary story, we suggest taking a course on Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, which focuses on missions history, missions theory, missions strategies, unreached people groups and cross-cultural effectiveness. Visit the [Helpful Links section](#) for more information.

Learn to be Flexible. We wish we lived in a perfect world, but alas, we do not. Schedules will change. Misunderstandings will occur. Cultural differences will arise. Your head might feel like it's about to explode. Take a deep breath. Sit back. Relax. God's got it under control. Your flexibility will allow the Holy Spirit to use you in ways you never imagined.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN BRING YOU FROM OUR COUNTRY?

We always accept coffee, cooking spices, and candy with much excitement! We also have ongoing needs for current projects such as media, books, etc. We can let you know what our current needs are before you come. Thanks for being willing to bless us.

HELPFUL LINKS

GENERAL INFORMATION

For useful information on China, visit [Go Kunming](#).

For useful information on Thailand, visit [Chiang Mai News](#).

PREPARING FOR MISSIONS

For excellent missions training, visit [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](#). (We highly recommend this curriculum. Note: There's a small fee for the online curriculum.)

For an endless supply of missions blogs and inspirational material on unreached people groups, visit [davidjoannes.com](#).

RAISING FUNDS

For ideas on how you can raise funds for your trip, view this great compilation of [Fundraising Tips by Teen Mania](#).