

What is a Global Christian

Introduction

A global Christian is linked to **knowing God's purpose and His mission**. By mission, I mean the total redemptive purpose of God to establish His Kingdom. God's mission is that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Hab 2:14). Mission is God's part. As we join God on mission, we experience missions. Missions is our part. Missions describes the activities of God's people - which is the Church to proclaim and to demonstrate the Kingdom of God locally and cross-culturally to the world. God isn't interested in just giving Christians a missions experience. He is interested in Christians being on mission **continually** with Him.

Globalisation has made it possible that with a push of the remote control or a click of a mouse, you can know anything about any place on the globe. In 1995, Roland Robertson coined a new word with a distinctively Christian application that is a combination of the words global and local - "glocal". The Church must be global and local at the same time (Acts 1:8).

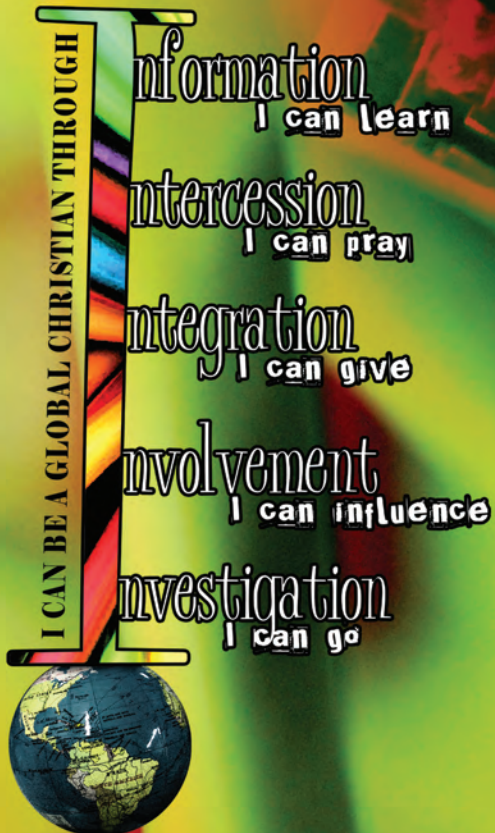
What is a global Christian?

A global Christian is defined as one who is on mission continually with God; and whose lifestyle and obedience are compatible, in co-operation, and in accord with what God is doing and wants to do in our world.

All of us can be a global Christian no matter where we live. This brochure gives a picture of what the global Christian and Church look like.

Practical Ways to be Involved as a Global Christian

We all need to grow in the aspects of a global Christian definition. Perhaps the best idea is to look over the following five areas and ask, "What goal could I set over the next year to assist my growth as a global Christian in these areas?" Let's look at the 5 "I"s.



Information

Intercession

Integration

Involvement

Investigation

Information I can learn

Borthwick states, "**The best fuel for world-class (global Christian) growth is information.**" A great way to increase world awareness, missions orientation and global vision is to regularly educate yourself. You develop bifocal vision: nearsightedness (looking close at hand to the needs around you) and farsightedness (looking beyond yourself to the world of needs and opportunity).

- Grow in God's Word** Be wise and discerning in applying His Word and principles in your understanding and interaction with the world
- Master new languages** Learn a language of a friend or one that you are interested in
- Get an up-to-date world map and learn the countries of the world**
- Read up on missions news**
- Be in touch with current affairs in the world**
- Subscribe to sources of international information** Example: National Geographic, The Economist, Times, Newsweek, The Africa Report etc
- Read missionary biographies** (William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Jim Elliot) and **Christian History** (From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya)
- View movies/videos which will encourage your learning about some other part of the world**
- Attend conference/seminar either on missions or on some issue in our world today**
- Learn new cultures** Read up anthropology and cross-cultural communications to develop a process for learning a new culture and deciphering its worldview
- Attend cultural events and develop an appreciation for other cultures**
- Learn about food of other cultures** Eat out in an international restaurant once a while
- Do a personal research study on one country, culture, or issue of global concern**
- Develop a biblical worldview of global issues** Through the Bible and relevant readings, find answers to issues of the world today. You might be presented with occasions where you can share your views and understanding

Intercession I can pray

Through prayer, you can join any team that God is using. Your prayers can water the crop, cultivate the harvest and even influence world leaders.

- Pray and fast for the church and missions work; especially for God to send out tentmakers**
- Lift up prayer points regularly from the church bulletins and other informed avenues**
- Daily journal a "peoples' needs" book**
- Watch the news regularly and practice "arrow" prayers** (brief, immediate & specific prayers)
- Join your group's prayer team to intercede regularly or do so with your prayer buddy**
- Start praying for one country/people group as you learn about it**
- Ask for prayer letter from those on the field**
- Pray for persecuted Christians**
- Read biographies of prayer warriors on the field such as George Muller**

What is a global Christian?

Hope Church
SINGAPORE

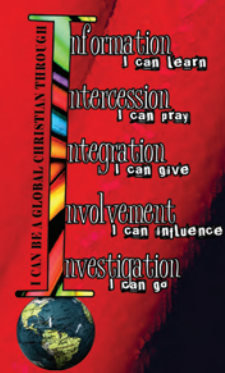
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Integration I can give

Integrate your lifestyle to be one where God is able to work out His plan. In our relative affluence (on a global scale), you can grow in awareness of world needs by adopting biblical perspectives of stewardship, sacrifice, solidarity and simplicity.

Stewardship: understand that all you have are God's already and He has assigned you responsibility as stewards of His wealth. Sacrifice: give away something that costs you, e.g. time. Solidarity: take action to identify with those in need e.g. fasting to identify with the hungry. Simplicity: cut down on excesses, impulsive buying and move away from materialistic lifestyle.

Some goals to keep the vision of an integrated lifestyle are:

- a. **Continually develop a kingdom mentality**
Consider your decisions in the light of the impact you can make to world missions
- b. **Do a Bible study on riches, stewardship or management of resources**
- c. **Give to special offerings to minister to the peoples of the world, missions, tentmakers and/or missionaries (Phil 4:15-17)**
- d. **Support a missions project or a child**
- e. **Join with friends to skip a meal and donate the costs to a missions or relief agency**
Give something away!
- g. **Stay out of debt**
- h. **Take vacation with a purpose - serve the community, interact with the locals etc.**
- i. **Host tentmakers, people from other cultures or internationals in your home**
- j. **Write to missionaries, tentmakers, foreign friends; include your children in the activity**

Involvement I can influence

Whether you are a kid, adolescent, single adult, married adult, family person or elderly; you can be a positive influence where you are and in the roles you play. It can be with your family, friends, schoolmates, workplace, community, country and even the world.

- a. **Discover and use your influence in the following aspects of the global world: politics and government; science and technology; law; education; economics and commerce; mass media; the arts and entertainment; and literature**
- b. **Make deliberate attempt to be a salt and light in your relationships**
- c. **Find opportunities to be involved in overseas work trips or assignments**
- d. **Find opportunities to reach out to immigrants or international students/colleagues in the local community**
- e. **Find opportunities to participate in cultural/international exchange or internship programmes**
- f. **Participate in a Short Term Missions (STM) trip with Hope churches or selected missions agencies**
- g. **Participate as a sender - offer support that you deem is relevant or join your district's MCS (Missionary Care & Support) by offering support in prayer, logistics, finance, communication, hospitality and re-entry**
- h. **Participate as a mobiliser - motivate, train and mobilise members of your group to play their part in world evangelisation**
- i. **Build new foundations - pioneer**
 - Lead your group to pioneer a new care group/ministry/people group/internationals.
 - Spearhead community projects to create special ministries to society's down-and-out.
- j. **Bring new faces**
 - Develop a lifestyle of evangelism.
 - Befriend people you meet in your daily errands
 - Use your vacation trips or STMs to befriend the locals.
 - Deliberately make new friends from another people group or nationality.

Investigation I can go

At some point in time, as your vision grows, you will have to wrestle with the questions: "What about me?" "Where do I fit in this great world?" "Should I consider cross-cultural ministry?" Opening yourself to the Lordship of Christ is basic to Christian growth.

Besides the above 4 ways, some possible goals regarding investigation might be:

- a. **Seek and confirm God's direction**
- b. **Discover your SHAPE: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality & Experiences**
- c. **Involve in relevant ministries and hone your skills and abilities for cross-cultural work**
- d. **Explore entry vehicles - studies, work, business; look into the needs of that nation/city**
- e. **Go for at least one STM to the desired nation**
- f. **Work with Missions department and your pastoral leaders to help in your preparation**
- g. **Embark on the Global Track (Missions internship programme)**

When you embark on these goals, you would find ourselves experiencing significant personal growth, enlarged perspective and increase in your witness.

HOW TO Keep on Growing AS A GLOBAL CHRISTIAN

Shift from Self-centred to Other-centred Thinking
Worldly Christians look to God for personal fulfilment; their prime importance is satisfying their own needs. But global Christians know they are here for a bigger purpose - to serve others. They reckon it's a privilege to be used by God and look for ways to make a difference in his world. Global Christians are counter-cultural. The way you can make this paradigm switch is by a moment by moment dependence on God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to think of the spiritual and practical needs of believers and pre-believers.



Shift from Local to Global Thinking
The first way to start thinking globally is to begin praying for specific countries. Prayer is the most important tool for your mission in the world. People may refuse your love, or reject your message but they are defenceless against your prayers.
Another way is to read and watch the news with "Great Commission Eyes". Wherever there is change or conflict, you can be sure that God will use it to bring people to Him. People are more receptive to God when they are under tension or transition.
The best way to switch to global thinking is to just get up and go on a STM trip. It will enlarge your heart, expand your vision, stretch your faith, deepen your compassion and fill you with a kind of joy you have never experienced. It could be the turning point of your life.

Shift from Temporal to Eternal Thinking
To make the most of your time on earth you must maintain an eternal perspective. This will keep you from majoring on minor issues and help you distinguish between what is urgent and what is ultimate (2 Cor 4:18).
Ralph Winter stated, "Nothing that does not occur daily will ever dominate your life." Begin now to open yourself to God and touch lives. Start small. Start here. Start now.

The world will not be won to Christ with business as usual. You are familiar with the slogan that our church adopts, Think Global, Act Local. To be a global Christian, you need to act locally with a global perspective. You have to be willing to do new things, break old paradigms and work in every possible way with the church and Christendom to get the Gospel out to those who have never heard. There are more you can do than you dare to imagine. Feed on the magnificence of Christ and you will be able to rise to the magnificence of the missionary cause. There will be no big world vision without a big God.

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