

Missions Partner Questionnaire

1 response

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Personal Information

Name

1 response

Josiah Youngers

Email Address

1 response

Josiah.Youngers@cru.org

Phone Number

1 response

615-485-9689

Sending Agency

1 response

Campus Crusade



Please share how you came to know Jesus Christ as your savior

1 response

I came to know the Lord my freshman year of college through my boss, who shared the gospel with me after work one night. I had grown up in a christian household but did not personally accept Christ in faith until this man shared the gospel with me and challenged what I had thought surrounding salvation. Until that point I had a very apathetic mindset towards God and thought that if He was gonna save me He would but I could not be certain of it or really influence it in any certain way. I had a vey poor understanding of what it meant to have faith but Houston was the first person to press me on it and share truth. It clicked and I believe it was there that I truly accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. Houston then started to disciple me and help me grow in my walk with the Lord.

Theology & Gospel Clarity

In your own words, what is the gospel?

1 response

The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. It is the good news that out of His great love for us, God sent His son Jesus Christ to die for sins. Because we have all sinned against God and are deserving of condemnation, yet Christ took our place and bore our punishment in death and then was raised back to life after three days. Through faith in Him alone we can now walk in newness of life and receive His righteousness, freeing us from the guilt and shame of our sin. Christ has now ascended into heaven where He waits at the right hand of the Father for the day when He will return and judge the world, bringing all those who believe into heaven and sending those who do not into hell.

How do you understand the authority and sufficiency of Scripture?

1 response

The bible is the sole infallible, sufficient, and inerrant word of God. It is the primary authority by which we have received His revelation and all things we do can and should be aligned to what it says. Although it was written by many different authors over a very long time, God has fully preserved it through the means of His people.



What is your view of the Trinity and the person/work of Christ?

1 response

The trinity is the way that we have come to understand the being of God. Through His word, His Spirit, and Christ. God has revealed Himself to be three in one. Three persons in one being. All equally God, yet distinct in Person. The Father, The Son - who is God in flesh, who was sent by the Father as a sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind and to be the one way by which we may know the Father - and the Holy Spirit, who was sent by both the Father and the Son to indwell, comfort, convict, and glorify the Son in our hearts.

How do you explain the relationship between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in salvation?

1 response

God's sovereignty stands above all things both in heaven and on earth. We, in our sin, are both incapable of saving ourselves by our works and also deserving of condemnation. We can only be saved through the salvation given to those in Christ; those whom God has chosen to grant it to. God gives a general call to all creation to be saved through our preaching of the Gospel, but our hearts are ultimately made alive by God's sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. God calls, knows, and chooses all those in Christ that will respond, and man must place his faith in Christ through the preaching of the Word and the power of the Spirit.

What is your understanding of the local church's role in missions?

1 response

The Local church is the source and funnel by which the Lord works out His Missio Dei. The Local church is their to identify, equip, and send individuals into missions. The biblical model for the end of a missionaries work somewhere is the planting or helping of a healthy church that will prayerfully also be taking part in the Great Commission. The local church is the modality and hub that informs and ignites the work of sodalities.

Personal Spiritual Disciplines

Describe your daily devotional life (Bible reading, prayer, meditation).

1 response

In this current season of life of support raising I have a large portion of time each day that I can devote to time in the word and prayer. I typically will be studying a book of the NT while reading through portions of the OT. I am active in prayer throughout my day as people or things come up that I can intercede or give praises for and I usually have some devoted time in the morning to sit before the Lord in focused prayers. Once or twice a week I will fast either a meal or a day depending on what I have going on that week. I also try to read through one or two other edifying books at at time, either something to increase my knowledge or ability to teach, or something that I am needing to refresh my mind or spirit in the Lord.

Describe your daily devotional life (Bible reading, prayer, meditation).

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

How do you guard against burnout or spiritual dryness in ministry?

1 response

When I have been actively doing ministry I have been intentional to keep a sabbath, and at least once a month during a workday taking a "Day with the Lord". Where I commit the whole day to rest, prayer, and meditation away from my regular context. I have also just been graced with having awesome people around me that make it exciting to do ministry alongside. My church and ministry teams have a lot of zeal and we are intentional to spur each other on, or care for each other when we slow down.

Who speaks into your life for accountability and encouragement?

1 response

The three main people would be my pastor Joe Starks, and two of my long term friends. One of them now lives in KC but we keep up regularly over the phone, and the other is also on Cru staff at WKU.

Biblical Sexuality/Identity & Personal Integrity



How do you define biblical marriage and sexuality?

1 response

Marriage is the covenant before God to be joined together for life; it is between one man and one woman. Biblically designed sexuality is designed for a person to have romantic attraction only to those of the opposite sex, and that romantic attraction is only to be culminated in the context of marriage.

What is your view of homosexuality, transgender identity, and other contemporary gender/sexuality issues?

1 response

Homosexuality like any other sin is something that must be mortified, it is not within Gods original design for sexuality. I think individuals with homosexual attraction can and are saved, and whether or not God restores their desires to be in line with His will, the individual should (in the power of the spirit) foster and pursue opposite sex attraction OR remain celibate until, if the Lord wills, they develop opposite sex attraction.

Transgender individuals can and have been saved, but they must understand that in order to conform to the will of God they must accept that truth is not relative and they were designed either male or female for a purpose. I do see it as a crisis of identity or failure in our culture to teach what is true, it is a mental confusion that must be dealt with by giving a large amount of grace, truth, and time.

I reject the idea that gender identity is a spectrum. There are only male and female.

What is your position on abortion, euthanasia, and the sanctity of life?

1 response

I reject abortion and euthanasia. Life is a gift from God that sparks at conception, their need not be any evidence other than the potential for life to consider someone a person. It is not in our purview to end a life simply for convenience, the Lord can use any means He desires to end someones life but I do not see a biblical mandate that allows for euthanasia.

How do you maintain personal purity (online, in relationships, in thought life)?

1 response

I refrain from the regular use of social media, I do not watch much TV anyways but if I do I stay away from shows that have any lewd content. I meet with a group of men from my church weekly and we are intentional about holding each other accountable. When my thoughts go awry I try my best to focus on something else and will pray. I do not do each one of these perfectly, but I do seek to stay above reproach in each of them.



What safeguards or accountability structures do you have in place to protect your marriage/family (if applicable)?

1 response

N/A

Local Church Involvement

What is your current relationship with your sending church?

1 response

In good standing, I have a very good relationship with the elders and am in regular community with the body.

In what ways are you serving in your local church now?

1 response

I teach mens Sunday School on a regular basis, I will prepare/administer the Lords supper occasionally, I am in the rotation for child care, I will occasionally lead one of the corporate prayers in our worship service, and I am a regular door greeter.

How do you see partnership between missionaries and local churches?

1 response

I think the missionary cannot be a part either physically or ministerially from a church, where one is accessible. The local church(es) role is to steward, equip, care, encourage, and direct the missionary. The missionary is the sent arm of the church to a focused group for the work of furthering the great commission.

If conflict arises between you and your church/agency, how will you seek resolution?

1 response

I would hope that time, humility, communication and clarity from all parties would create a space for things to be worked out. I honestly would not know exactly how to handle that.

Mission Strategy & Philosophy



What motivates you to pursue missions?

1 response

I was homeschooled as child and my parents chose a curriculum that integrated the missions world into its regular teaching. I have grown up with the understanding that there are all kinds of different people in the world and God loves all of them. When I came to know the Lord personally, I still had a disposition to invite people to become Christian, but it wasn't until my senior of college that I began to have a real burden to see the lost reached. I recognize very clearly that this life is temporary and that my place is secure in heaven. I very much want to leverage my life to see disciples made here in the US and in the world. I spent a year interning in the Middle East and I really enjoyed and grew to love ministering to people from a muslim background. If they are shown the truth, they will follow, they just need to be compelled, and I believe the Lord has called me to be a part of His work there.

How do you understand "making disciples" (Matt. 28:19)?

1 response

I think being a disciple is wholistic. We are not called to just make converts and move on. Making disciples includes baptizing people into Christ but also teaching and modeling what it looks like to truly follow Jesus. A real disciple is one who is seeking to look like Jesus and is inviting/leading others to do the same. That includes formal teaching either 1on1 or in groups, but also walking through life together with others. So that we can model what the knowledge of His word looks like and how to practice the fruit of the Spirit.

What is your approach to contextualization in a new culture?

1 response

When I was in the Middle East contextualization was something I really only got to scratch the surface on. I think fostering to the deep honor/shame culture meant focusing less on the judicial standard that our sin breaks and more on the shame that sin brings upon us so that we cannot stand before God without being cast aside. The gospel then was the story of how Christ has restored honor on us and even invited us to be His children.

Then to the believers helping them to work through what traditions to best follow for their culture, so that they may be as attractive but also truthful at the same time. At the same time distinguishing what religious practices from islam could be practiced in a redeemed way. If using the C1-C6 spectrum for contextualization among Muslims, I prefer to stay in the C3 or C4 range. We had church on Fridays to match the holy day of the culture, we would share meals and spend more time together on Friday's then would be typical in the west. Discipleship was less formal and more relational. I do reject syncretism but I think there is some room for wisdom for each individual to decide whether or not to tell their family/friends.



Share an example of a time you persevered through suffering or difficulty in ministry.

1 response

I have only served 2 years in full time ministry, and by the grace of God I can say I have not really suffered. We had some difficult weeks during my year abroad, and were even displaced up to France for a couple weeks, but even in that the Lord was kind to encourage us in different ways.

What role does a local church play in the life of a missionary in the field?

1 response

They Church should provide care, accountability, and prayer. I do think the missionary on the field will have the primary authority to make decisions regarding the need for the mission/ministry.

Family & Team Dynamics

How does your family (parents, spouse, children, etc) feel about your missionary calling?

1 response

Both my parents, though they would prefer me to remain stateside, have been very supportive and affirming in being a missionary. They are both very strong believers and raised us to be missions minded and were intentional about teaching us how God was at work in the world.

What are your expectations for teamwork and partnership with other missionaries?

1 response

I think missions is also best done in community, so working on a team, whether that is from the same church/organization or not. I plan on working on a Cru ministry team at Marshall U and I expect to be working closely with one or two other guys to create and lead bible studies on campus, as well as disciple the students who are a part of them.



How do you handle interpersonal conflict and cultural misunderstandings?

1 response

I think I handle conflict pretty well. I am a fan of communication and clarity, and have not found it hard to address something if it seems necessary. I have worked with a lot of different teams in different contexts at this point and have had good relationships in nearly all of them. In regards to cultural misunderstandings, I just expected that I would mess up, so I was ready to apologize and ask questions about how I could do better. I rarely had trouble understanding correction and fostering to the new culture.

What do you believe are your greatest strengths and weaknesses as a missionary?

1 response

I would say my greatest strength is in my evangelism, I feel very comfortable and enjoy evangelism a great deal. I recognize that I cannot save anyone regardless of how well I present the Gospel but I do feel well equipped to do so. I also have a good ability to adapt to change in circumstance or culture. I did not face the effects culture shock all that much when I launched or when I came back.

My greatest weakness I would say is in my ability to pioneer, I am not always the best at thinking outside the box. I relied a lot on my team to help consider finding creative ways to connect with people. I am also not the most experienced, which pray will come with time, but there are a lot questions or situations, either spiritual or logistical that I do not know how to respond to.

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