

Places to Serve

by David Cooper

One of the most thrilling things I hear people say is, “God is asking me to serve Him in missions. I am not sure how it will happen or what I may be able to do, but God is calling me to go.” This is usually the beginning of a great and very fulfilling adventure in a person’s spiritual journey.

Opportunities to serve as volunteers in Nazarene missions are increasing every year, as well as the number of people who are going. We are also seeing an increase in the length of service by people who are committing to three months, six months, or a year or longer.

As we go into more countries and expand ministries around the globe, our regions are depending on both long- and short-term volunteers to fill the ever-expanding needs. As our finances become tighter and the expenses of missionaries living overseas increases, it is becoming a necessity to look for new ways to increase our missionary force. Mission Corps (self-funded volunteers) has been the avenue for the Church of the Nazarene to complement our mission work around the world.

The variety of ways in which people serve is increasing, also. At any given time, the Church of the Nazarene will have people serving as accountants, office assistants, ministry coordinators, teachers, church planters, and Work & Witness coordinators. Others will participate through campus maintenance, health care, Web design, video editing, computer networks installation, pastoral training, house-sitting, or friendship evangelism. Whatever the skill or gift that someone has to offer, there is usually a need or place where it can be used to build God’s kingdom.

At this time, many of our world regions are thinking more strategically about how to place people in creative avenues of service. In Latin America, ordinary men and women from other countries are paired with believers from the host country to form a team that is trained and deployed to plant new churches in communities. In Asia, effort is being made to place teachers and other professionals in key cities to be tentmakers while helping to start a new mission or church plant. Various regions are using Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to reach new areas or answer the cry for help following a natural disaster.

God may be stirring your heart or the heart of someone in your church to serve. There is a way to get involved or to find out more information. Visit www.missioncorps.org to find out details of volunteer needs that currently need to be met or to contact someone to answer questions. God asks us to pray for more workers in the harvest. The fields are ripe and waiting for people like you and me to come.

David Cooper is the Mobilization coordinator working in the Global Ministry Center with Work & Witness, Mission Corps, and Missionary Candidates. He served as a missionary in Central America for 10 years where he worked with numerous Work & Witness teams and long-term volunteers.

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