

A large, faint world map is visible in the background of the slide, rendered in a light blue color that blends with the overall background. The map shows the continents and major landmasses.

Answering the Call in the 21st Century

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NMI Workshop
June 2009



The Millennials Generation

- Helicopter Parents
- Parent opinion is really important
- Responsive to mentoring
- Raised in multicultural settings
- Active in community service
- Busy, productive young people
- Technologically savvy, multi-taskers
- Need to be challenged
- Need fast-paced environment



They also think differently

Moderns

- Neat Boxes
- Tidy formulas
- Truth told in propositions



Postmoderns

- Relatedness
- Dislike the formulaic
- Truth told in stories



And these thought differences affect how they think about missions!

Moderns



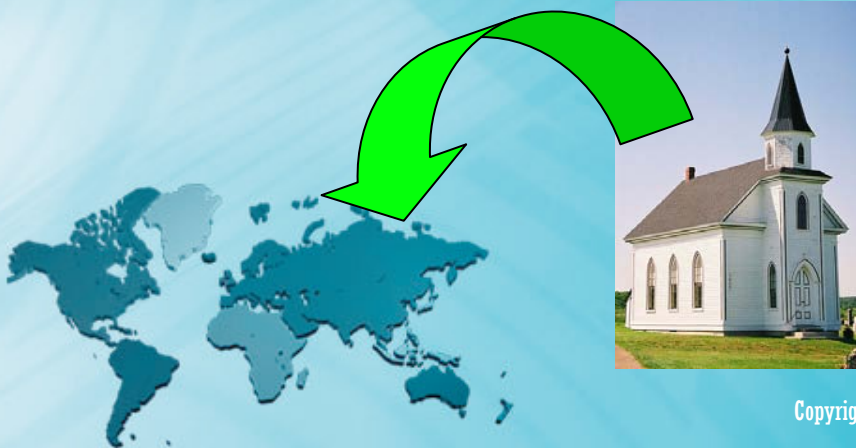
- Neat Boxes
- Tidy formulas
- Truth told in propositions

Postmoderns



- Relatedness
- Dislike the formulaic
- Truth told in stories

Church and Mission



Church is Mission



The Millennials as Missionaries will face
different challenges

AND

different mission frontiers

than the generations before them.

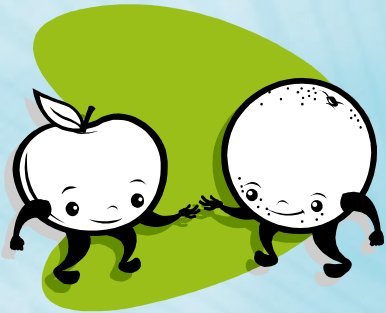




Mission Call Survey

- Surveyed Nazarene Missionaries currently serving
 - 72 responses
 - 65 % male
35% female
- Surveyed Nazarene college students preparing for missions
 - 27 responses from 2 universities
 - 37% male
63 % female
 - 95% were Nazarenes and almost all were life-long Nazarenes

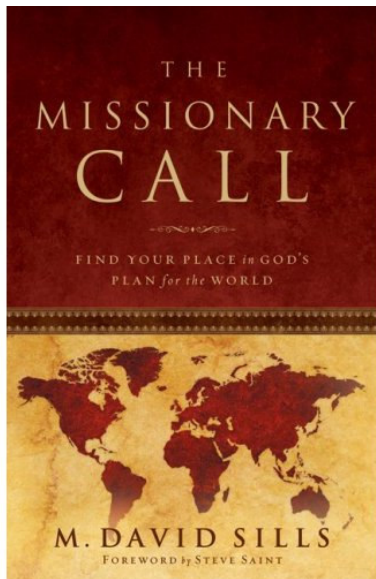




Apples and Oranges

- 40% of the missionaries currently serving were not called until after college or even in mid-life
- The millennial population I studied were those who have actually prepared for missions in college
- Still some important differences emerge.





Three positions on missionary call in the modern missionary movement

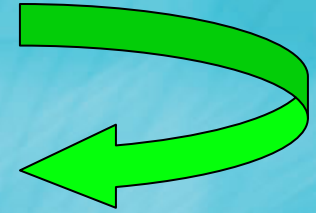
- There is no such thing as a specific missionary call. Rather it takes a call to stay home.
- There is no need for a personalized missionary call, since every Christian has already received a missionary call.
- A missionary needs a clear, certain, and personalized missionary call.

Current missionaries reflect mostly the third understanding

- 0% ■ There is no such thing as a specific missionary call. Rather it takes a call to stay home.
- 14% ■ There is no need for a personalized missionary call, since every Christian has already received a missionary call.
- 84% ■ A missionary needs a clear, certain, and personalized missionary call.



GenNext Missionaries Reflect a Shift



0%

0%

- There is no such thing as a specific missionary call. Rather it takes a call to stay home.

52%

14%

- There is no need for a personalized missionary call, since every Christian has already received a missionary call.

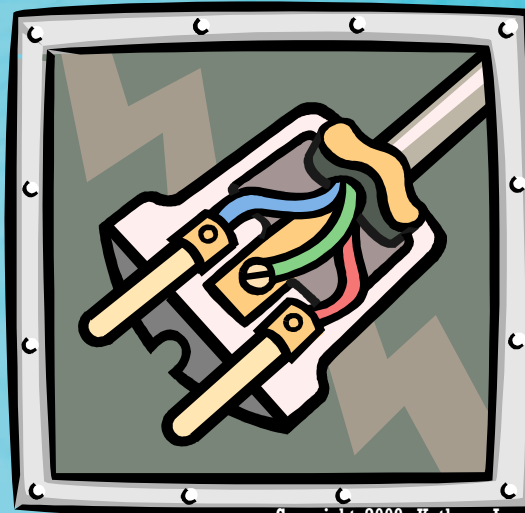
48%

84%

- A missionary needs a clear, certain, and personalized missionary call.



How is the call experienced?

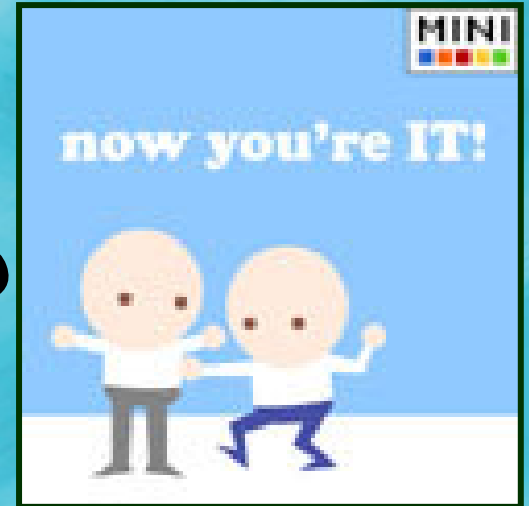


Missionaries Currently Serving

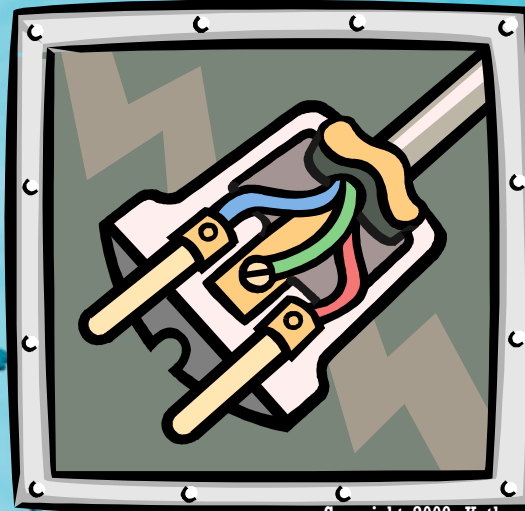
50%



12%



19%



19%

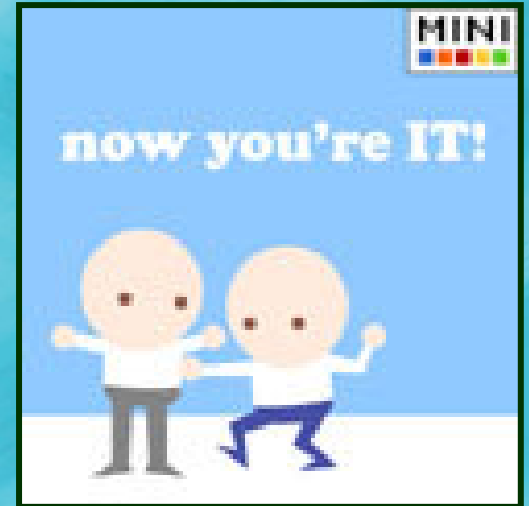


GenNext Missionaries

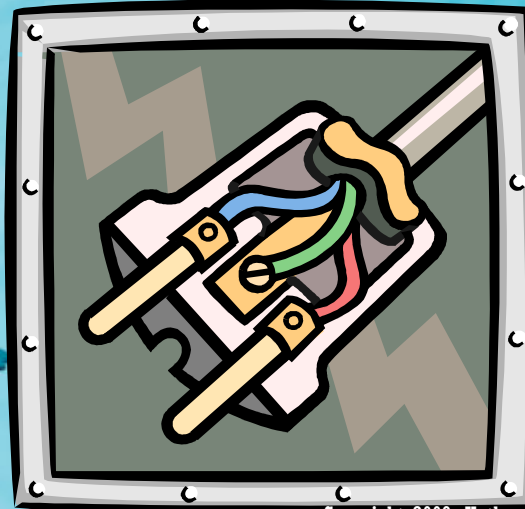
30%
compared to
50%



0%
compared
to 12%



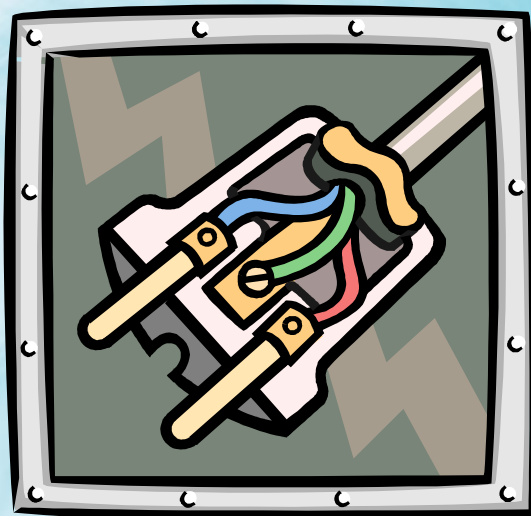
52%
compared to
19%



19%
compared to
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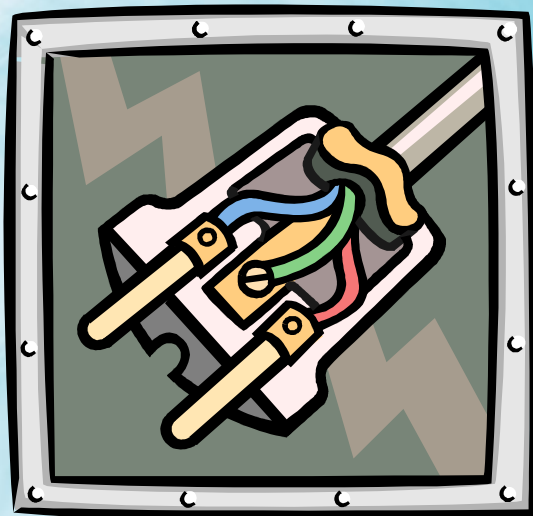
Wired!



Steeped in missional theology, many millennials are feeling called to join in the mission of God simply because they have **seriously examined the needs of the world** and they feel they have **gifts that correspond to needs they see.**



Wired!



Many millennials are feeling called to join in the mission of God simply because they have **seriously examined the needs of the world** and they feel they have **gifts that correspond.**

Will we acknowledge this as a call?



What are the top five reported factors by GenNexters in realizing a call?

- Mission speakers 56%
- Mission trips 50%
- Growing awareness of a need or issue in the world 60%
- Parents 32%
- Growing awareness of disproportionate resources in the world 32%



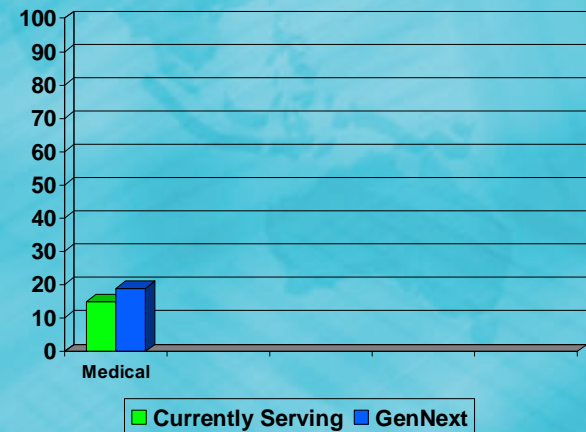
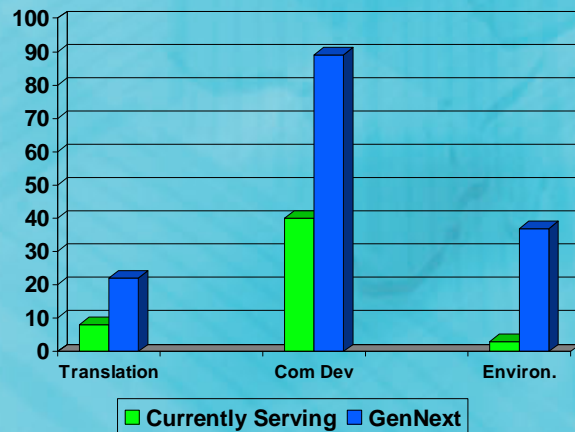
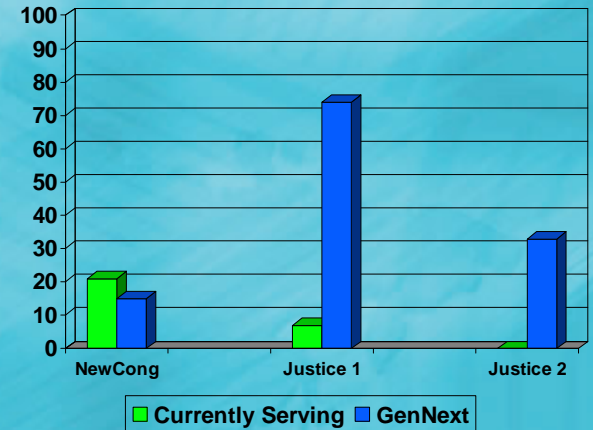
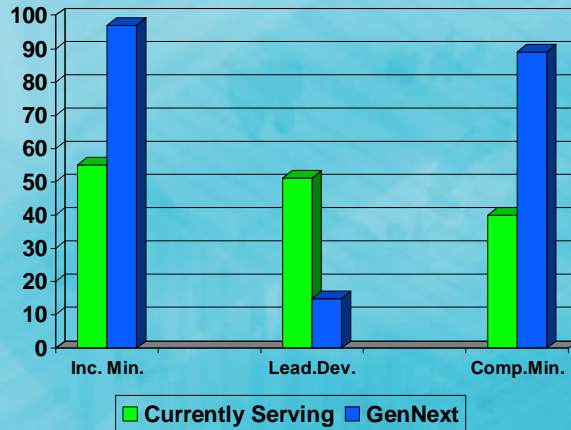
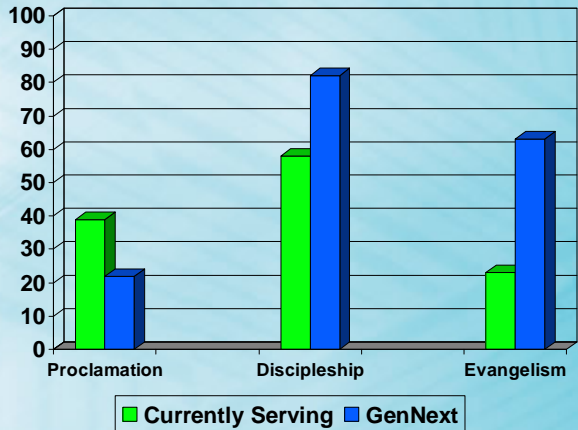


What are the top factors that help sustain a call during the pre-field years?

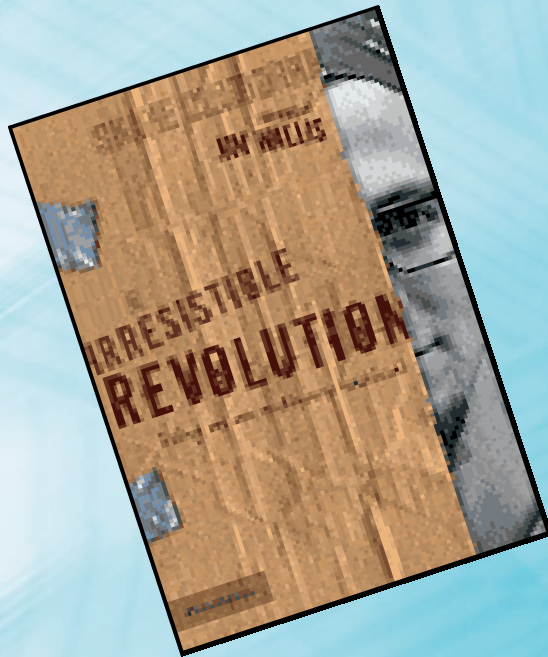
- Mission Trips 63%
- Growing awareness of a need or issue 60%
- Growing awareness of my own gifts and desires 60%
- Missions Courses 52%
- Local cross-cultural experience and involvement 44%
- Parents 41%



What aspects of the call to mission are MOST IMPORTANT for you?

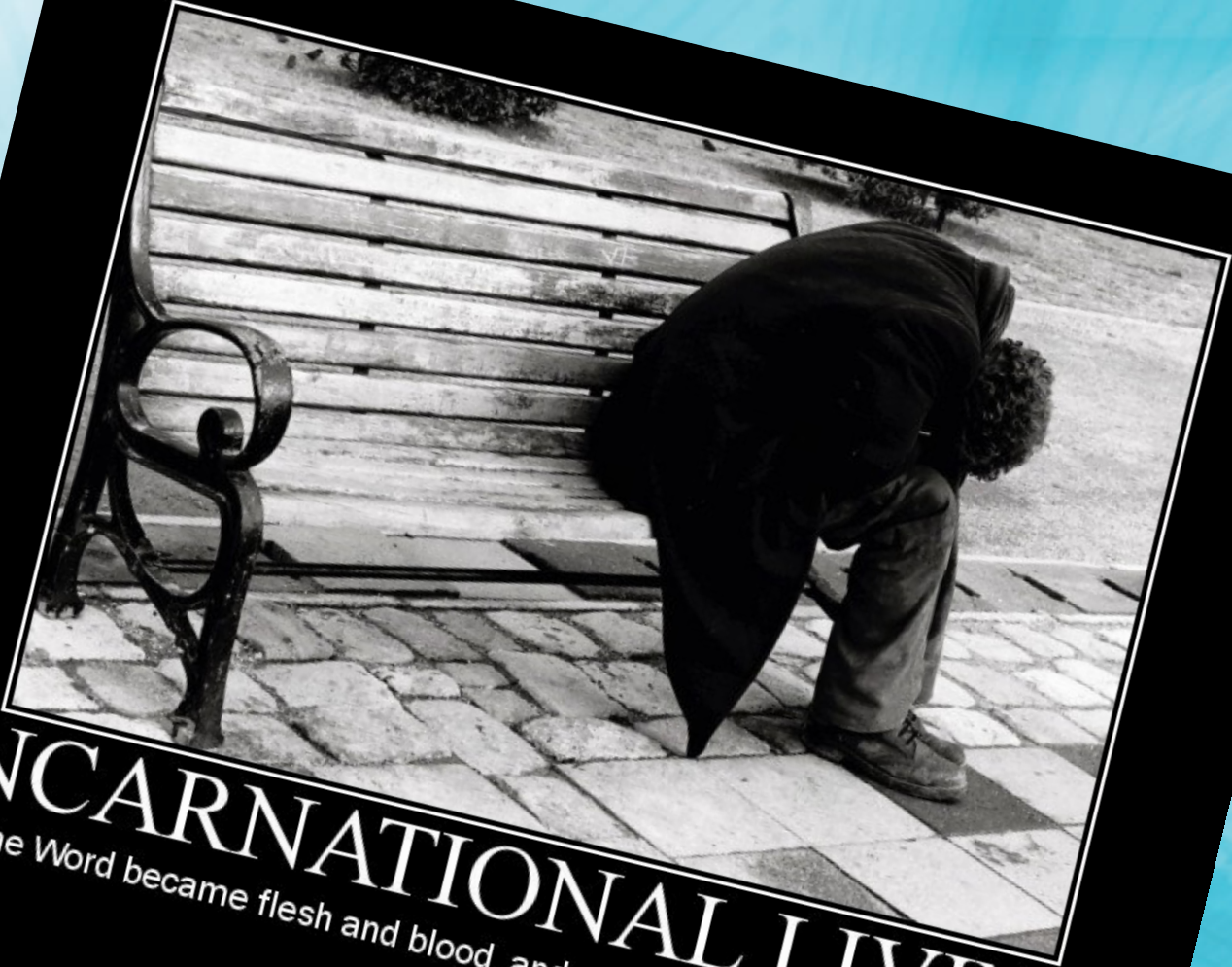


The Model They Crave



- Students marked more items as vital to the mission of God.
- Students are vitally interested in **holistic proclamation**.
- They see things as part of God's mission that were not on the radar of previous generations: environment care, justice, advocacy.
- These new commitments in no way diminish their commitment to basics such as evangelism and discipleship.
- An Incarnational Model is a non-negotiable. They are willing to live sacrificially. They want to live close to the standard of living of the people they are serving. They are attracted to the concept of bonding – with its emphases on simplicity, reciprocity, etc.





INCARNATIONAL LIVING

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood."

DIY.DESPAIR.COM

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Why are these differences important
for MCCs to understand?

Because of the
answer to the
next question.



Under what circumstances would you consider serving *outside* the denominational mission structure?

- 63%
 - If I had a specific calling which was better served with a specialist organization (Bible translation, aviation)
- 85%
 - If the model better suited my sense of calling
- 26%
 - If the denomination turned me down
- 7%
 - I would not want to serve outside the denomination
- 15%
 - I would prefer to serve outside the denominational structure



*When most of us [current missions students] look at mission organizations, **we look for the model we like,** and then we narrow the options by checking out the doctrinal statements of the organization.*

2010 grad of Trevecca



Now, after I have graduated from college, it will be imperative for the MCC to communicate with me and encourage me to stay active with the church and activities that might prepare me for missionary service, if I desire such communication. Right now, personally, I am seeking opportunities in other organizations because I do not feel the Church of the Nazarene has "space" in its structure for the ministerial opportunities to which I feel called. A MCC should be aware of this need and work to discover, with me, creative ways for me to continue my involvement in the Church of the Nazarene.

2009 grad, SNU





Top road blocks GenNexters experience or anticipate in preparing for an assignment:

- **School Debt** – an Issue for 63%, significant issue for 44%
- **Negative Response of Christian Parents** – an issue for 52%, significant issue for 30%
- **Concerned about singleness** – an issue for 63%, significant issue for 26%



What are some of the *new frontiers* GenNext missionaries will face?



- Creative Access
- Mission strategy for children at risk
- Urban slums



How can a MCC get ready to help?



- Learn all you can about this generation.
- Examine new models that might really inspire today's called ones (new monasticism, community development models, organizations working with justice issues, e.g. IJM)
- Read the books that are inspiring the kids. *Sub-merge, Irresistible Revolution, Three Cups of Tea. Compassion.*
- Have a "leap-frog attitude."
- Develop lists of *current* resources (books, movies, organizations)
- Build a network of those engaged in exciting models in the Church of the Nazarene.
- Set up a communication forum that most of your candidates use (facebook?)



Provide SPACE for the call

The survey shows these are working!!!

- Mission speakers
- Mission trips
- Awareness events and movies
- Train parents how to develop kids who are aware and compassionate. Remember parents have a key role for those who express a call!



As you begin
to list those
under your
care as an
MCC . . .

Cast the net wide!



- Guard against only working with those who can express a burning bush call.
- Include those who can't articulate a traditional missions call.

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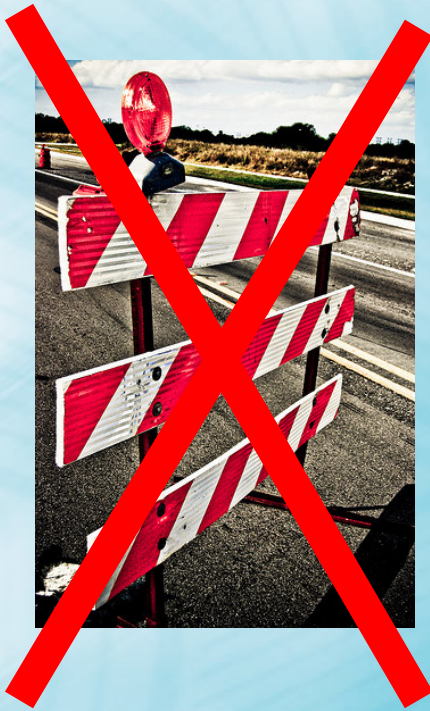


Feeding the Call



- Mentor
- Help them discover giftedness and passion
- Help them exercise imagination
- Provide connections for local cross-cultural ministry
- Provide mission trips and funds for mission trips.
- Provide networking events
- Encourage them to share the models that appeal to them. Help them connect with those in our structures who are involved with these issues.





Help Remove the Road Blocks

- Could we work toward loan funds which are forgiven for years of mission service?
- Donors to cover debt repayment during 1-2 years of mission corps service?
- Meet with and encourage parents. Have special prayer for parents at convention.
- How about a family mission trip for children and youth who have a call, but only let them go if a parent goes along to catch the vision?
- Set them up on blind dates. . . .just kidding, but do take their concern over singleness seriously.