

## Going: Training Future Missionaries

### Overview & Application

*Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. — 2 Corinthians 2:14-15*

Going is IDC's missionary training program for men and women who desire to go out from among us as missionaries for the sake of the name (3 John 7), to equip IDC covenant members for faithful and fruitful ministry in cross-cultural missionary contexts. They desire to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to peoples and places around the world that have not yet had an opportunity to hear. They desire to evangelize, make disciples, and see healthy churches and leaders formed and reproduced among the least reached and unreached.

It is a 12 to 24 month program (depending on a participant's intended deployment outcome, with a yearly ministry cohort every year—*March to November in 2024*) designed to (a) cultivate spiritual vitality in the life of the future missionary, (b) develop a strategically missional mind, (c) equip for the missionary task, especially in evangelism, disciple-making, and healthy church formation, and (d) set appropriate expectations for missionary life.

The program is adaptable, depending on the participant's aspirational deployment outcome:

Training Level	Aspirational Deployment	Education & Experience	Equip Courses	Other Requirements
L1-Basic	-Length: 2+ Yrs -Journeyman -Business as Missions -Logistics	-Practical Bachelors -Relevant Ministry Experience (~200 hrs)	-Missions -Disciple-Making	-All Additional Going Requirements -Partnering Organization Process
L2-Intermediate	-Length: 3+ Yrs -Apprentice to Career: Church Planting Team Member -Career: Church Planting Team Member	-Practical Bachelors -Seminary, M.A. -Relevant Ministry Experience (~400 hrs)	-Missions -Church Structure & Discipleship -Disciple-Making -Church Planting	-All Additional Going Requirements -Partnering Organization Process
L3-Advanced	-Length: 8+ Yrs -Career: Church Planting Team Leader -Career: Catalytic Trainer/Mobilizer -Career: Pioneer Planting -Career: Planting and Pastoring	-Practical Bachelors/Masters -Seminary, M.A./M.Div. -Relevant Ministry Experience (~600 hrs)	-Missions -Pastoral Ministry -Church Structure & Discipleship -Disciple-Making -Christian Leadership -Church Planting	-All Additional Going Requirements -Partnering Organization Process

The program will consist of the following elements:

1. **IDC Equip Courses** — Each course will consist of eight meetings, typically on Monday evenings from 6:00-9:00 p.m. (and usually following an every-other-week schedule). The exception is the Missions course, which will be held on Sunday evenings during the same timeframe. Course credit is available through SEBTS those courses with an

asterisk, if desired. The courses are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

<u>Basic</u>	<u>Intermediate</u>	<u>Advanced</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Missional Living</b> (spring)</li> <li>• <b>Disciple-Making</b> (fall)*</li> <li>• <b>Missions</b> (fall)*</li> </ul>	Basic Courses + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church Planting</b> (spring)*</li> <li>• <b>The Local Church</b> (summer)*</li> </ul>	Basic & Intermediate Courses + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preaching</b> (spring)*</li> <li>• <b>Pastoral Ministry</b> (spring)*</li> <li>• <b>Christian Leadership</b> (fall)*</li> </ul>

Each course entails the following components<sup>2</sup>:

- **Classroom Instruction & Discussion** – Bible study, book discussion, topics
  - **Writing** – book responses, position papers, etc.
  - **Reading** – around 5 books per course
  - **Scripture Memory** – Selected from Acts & Epistles related to missionary service
2. **Participate in a Cohort for Ministry Practice** — Each participant must participate in a year long cohort for ministry practice. These ministry cohorts will include three rhythms for mutual accountability and encouragement. Those cohort rhythms are as follows:
- **An Every Other Month Cohort Meal** — Every other month, the ministry cohort will have a meal together to hear from one another, problem solve ministry challenges, coordinate ministry efforts, encourage one in ministry endeavors. These will be scheduled at the beginning of each semester, to be held immediately prior to an Equip Course session (typically from 5-6pm).
  - **Monthly Bible Reading & Evangelism Reports** — Each participant must complete [Deepen Discipleship](#) and have an average of 3 evangelistic conversations each month with at least 12 unique people over the course of a year. A participant may request another New Testament reading plan, instead of Deepen Discipleship, for approval in January. All reading plans must be completed by December. On the first of each month, participants must complete a [monthly report](#) to log their progress in their Bible reading and their evangelistic conversations.
  - **Zero to One Ministry Project** — Each participant must engage missionally with unbelievers to start and lead an evangelistic Bible study from scratch. This study should last at least **five sessions** and include at least **two unbelievers or new believers**. Going participants may work together with other Christians (in Going, at IDC, or otherwise) in this endeavor. Any new believers should be discipled towards baptism and meaningful membership in connection with a local church in the area. After completing this, participants should send in a one pager telling the story of how it happened, who was involved, and what they did (including a picture of the people involved in the study).

<sup>1</sup> The SEBTS codes and course titles for these courses are as follows: Personal Disciple-Making and Discipleship Practicum (EVA6611), Developing a Church Planting Methodology Practicum (MIS6551), Pastoral Ministry (PMN6501), Administration and Education in the Local Church (PMN6721), Christian Leadership (PMN 6721), and Bible Exposition 2 (PRS6501).

<sup>2</sup> Note: those seeking SEBTS credit may have additional reading and writing requirements.

3. **Seven Additional Readings & Responses** — Choose and read six books, one for each topic. Then, write a 1-2 page response. Include the following: (1) list 4-5 key principles in this reading; (2) list anything you disagreed with or questioned, and if so, why; (3) most significant personal applications/challenges you learned for your own ministry from this reading; (4) two questions you'd like to discuss from the reading. Those topic based books are as follows:
- A book on **language learning**, from the following list.
    - i. Fluent Forever, by Gabriel Wyner
    - ii. How to Learn Any Language, by Barry Farber
  - A book on **spiritual warfare**, from the following list.
    - i. Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture, by William Cook and Chuck Lawless
    - ii. Safe and Sound, by David Powlison
  - A book on **prayer**, from the following list.
    - i. Prevailing Prayer, by D.L. Moody
    - ii. Praying with Paul, by D.A. Carson
    - iii. Prayer, by Tim Keller
  - A book on **teaming**, from the following list.
    - i. The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, by Patrick Lencioni
    - ii. Teams that Thrive, by Ryan Hartwig and Warren Bird
    - iii. Christ Centered Conflict Resolution, by Tony Merida
  - A book on **engaging vulnerable people wisely**, from the following list.
    - i. When Helping Hurts, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
    - ii. Church in Hard Places, Mez McConnell and Mike McKinley
    - iii. Ordinary, by Tony Merida
  - A book on **legitimate access solutions**, from the following list.
    - i. The Missional Entrepreneur, by Mark Russell
    - ii. The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business, by Erin Meyer
  - A **missionary biography**, from the following list.
    - i. Bruchko (224), by Bruce Olson
    - ii. Through Gates of Splendor (274), by Elisabeth Elliot
    - iii. Faithful Witness: The Life and Mission of William Carey (202), by Timothy George
    - iv. To The Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson (530), by Courtney Anderson
    - v. A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael (384), by Elisabeth Elliot
    - vi. Charlotte Atlee White Rowe (304), by Reid S. Trulson
    - vii. The Making of a Servant (318), by Sam James
    - viii. We Died Before We Came Here (208), by Emily Foreman

- IF a Going participant intends to raise funds for their missional endeavors, they also need to read this book on ***fundraising***: *The God Ask*, by Steve Shadrach.
- 4. **A Short Term Missions Trip** — Each participant should take a short term mission trip to a cross cultural context where they are seriously considering planting their lives for missionary service. Scholarship funds are available to assist Going participants.
- 5. **Seek Out a Ministry Post and Develop an Advocacy Team** — Once a participant has completed the ministry cohort, they are encouraged to begin reaching out and begin to talk with contacts overseas about possibilities of joining teams. Our desire is to send to the Gospel gaps in as close proximity to our current sent ones as possible. In addition, participants should begin talking with IDC members about forming an advocacy team.

## **IDC Going Application**

### **Application & Initial Assessment for Future Missionaries**

(return to [zac@idcraleigh.com](mailto:zac@idcraleigh.com))

#### **OVERVIEW:**

IDC desires to be a church that sends missionaries all over the world to make disciples of Jesus who will make and multiply more disciples in reproducing, healthy, and mature churches. *Each person* desiring to be sent out as a mid-term (1-2 years) or long-term (2+ years) missionary should fill out and return this application and assessment. For more information about the IDC Missionary sending process, see [here](#).

#### **Applicant Name:**

#### **PERSONAL INFO:**

Email:

Phone:

Spouse (if applicable):

Occupation(s) (incl. position & hrs./wk.):

Age & birthdate:

Children (names and ages):

IDC Growth Group:

Duration of IDC membership:

Education degree(s), area of study, GPAs:

Past ministry experience, and other relevant work experience:

## POTENTIAL PLANS:

1. Do you already have an estimated or target timing for going overseas? What is it?
2. Do you know which organization(s), if any, you would like to work with or be sent through?
3. Do you have a specific destination and/or people group you would like to serve? Why that location/people group? Have you previously visited any potential locations?
4. Do you have a particular type of work you would like to do (e.g., business as missions, medical missions, pioneer church planting, etc.)? Please, indicate which of the three levels of training you intend to pursue through the Going program.
5. All IDC missionaries must participate in a ministry cohort in addition to completing certain Equip courses in accordance with their intended training level. What year do you intend to participate in the ministry cohort?

## SPIRITUAL LIFE & MINISTRY INFO:

(note: many of these questions are also part of the IMB application. IMB applicants should save their answers.)

6. Describe your spiritual journey, including how you came to faith and how you have grown as a Christ-follower since then (please include when and where you were baptized)?
7. Describe briefly how God has affirmed your call to personal involvement in international missions, including circumstances, affirmation by others, scripture and/or prayer.
8. How are you currently sharing the gospel verbally? Please give a recent example.
9. List any evangelism training you have completed.
10. Have you ever led someone to trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord? Please describe.
11. Have you ever discipled someone, past or present? Please describe.

12. Please list your missions experiences with locations, durations, and type of involvement (include domestic and international).
13. Please list any other cross-cultural experiences, including locations, dates, and type of involvement (professional, educational, personal).
14. What are 3 strengths you possess that you believe will help you in missionary service?
15. What are 3 weaknesses you have that will be impediments faithful missionary service?
16. What topics/issues regarding mission work or strategy would you like to grow in before being sent?
17. Are there any ministry skills or practices that you would like to grow in before being sent?
18. Do you have any ongoing and/or current sin struggles (e.g., pornography, lack of self-control, etc.) that could disqualify you from faithful service?

### **EMOTIONAL WELLNESS INFO:**

(note: this is also part of the IMB application. IMB applicants should save their answers.)

19. Have there been crisis events in your life you would consider emotionally “traumatic”? How have they impacted you? (examples: abuse [physical, emotional, verbal, sexual], death, divorce, violence, etc.) Please include the type of crisis and dates.
20. Do you have a history of a) depression, b) panic attacks, or c) significant anxiety? Please explain and give a time frame. Also share if you were diagnosed with a panic disorder or anxiety disorder.
21. Have you ever intentionally mistreated yourself by a) cutting or any other form of physical self-harm, or b) anorexia, bulimia or any other eating disorder? Please explain and give a time frame.

22. Have you ever viewed or accessed pornography in any form? Please explain, including the type of pornography, frequency of use in the last six months, and date of the last access.
23. Have you ever experienced a sexual attraction toward, or had sexual experience(s) with, persons of your own sex? Please explain.
24. Have you engaged in any extramarital sexual relations? If so, please explain and give a time frame.
25. If married, have you experienced significant problems in your marriage? If so, please explain and give a time frame.
26. Have you used alcohol and/or tobacco (including smokeless)? Please share your frequency of use of these substances, and the last time you used them. Do you have a history of abusing alcohol? Do you have a history of illegal drug use/abuse?
27. Please list dates of any previous divorce(s) and briefly describe the circumstances surrounding each.
28. Do any of your children have special needs (such as ADD/ADHD, speech problems, developmental disorder, learning disabilities, academic difficulties, emotional problems, physical handicaps)

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

29. What are your expectations for IDC as a sending church?
30. Do you have any reservations about the IDC Membership Covenant, Core Beliefs, or Philosophy of Ministry?
31. If married, does your spouse support your pursuit of missionary service? Are you and your spouse in agreement on your current plans, including location, timing, process, etc.? If no, please explain.

32. Do your current GG leader and the elder over your GG support your desire and plans for going overseas? Have you talked with each of them?
33. Please provide the names of 2 references who support your pursuit of missionary service (NOT related to you).
34. Are you willing to consider counsel from the elders as to whether or not you should go overseas, delay your going, or not go at all?
35. Are you familiar with the IDC Missionary Sending Process, and are you able to commit to walking through this process with IDC leadership? Please list any questions, hesitations, or proposed exceptions.
36. Is there anything else you think we should know as we consider your application?