

Connect with a Missionary

There is no one better equipped to tell you about the realities of living overseas and the preparation it takes to get there than a cross-cultural missionary. Spending time with a missionary may not be as difficult as you may think. Most of them welcome the opportunity to invest in college students who are considering serving long-term. Here are some ways to connect with a missionary:

- 1) **Global Consultants:** Every year, CBU supports missionaries on stateside assignment by providing housing for them while they invest in the CBU community. Global Consultants often participate in events, teach, and mentor CBU students. They love to meet with students interested in long-term missions to share their life experiences, give insight, and answer questions. E-mail John King at jmking@calbaptist.edu to get information on current Global Consultants or request a meeting.

- 2) **Missionaries from your church:**
 - a. Stateside Assignment: Talk to your church to find out if you have any missionaries on furlough or stateside assignment, and ask how you can contact them. Their availability will likely depend on how long they are in town and what they need to accomplish. If they are giving a presentation to talk about their ministry at your church, make sure to honor their time by going to that first and introducing yourself. Ask to be added to their newsletter.

 - b. Talk to your global missions leader about missionaries sent from your church who are currently serving overseas. Ask him or her for help connecting with a couple of missionaries that share a common missionary focus, location, or calling. Begin by joining their prayer team, sign up to receive their newsletter, and as security permits, communicate with them for encouragement.

- 3) **Short-term mission trips:** An excellent way to learn what it looks like to be a missionary is through observing the life of the missionary you serve with on a short-term trip. When appropriate, take advantage of opportunities to ask questions about their journey to the field and their life as a missionary. Share with them about your interest in long-term service and ask how you can stay connected after you return home.