

The 18.26 Network

Vocational Missions FAQs for Potential 18.26 Network Members

What is a vocational missionary?

Aquila and Priscilla were vocational missionaries. They responded to God's call, through the Apostle Paul, to leave Corinth and move their tent-making skills (certainly caravan related – the long-haul trucking enterprise of their day) to help Paul with his church-planting ministry. Modern day Aquilas and Priscillas respond to Christ's Great Commission globally, using their professional gifts and talents which God has already given them. They actively search for jobs somewhere in the world where they can partner with a missions work – either a specific missions team or a local church plant.

How do I find a job overseas?

People interested in overseas work find jobs in a variety of ways: internet searches, international headhunting companies and even word-of-mouth, or through being transferred by their current employer to an international location. Missions teams can provide us with useful job data that may help you. A thorough job search also entails an understanding of God's plan for your life. Finding the right international job, in the right international location, with the right cross-cultural ministry opportunities is an incredible validation of God's calling. We want to provide all the help and encouragement that we can.

Why do I need to be part of a network? Can't I do this alone?

You don't *need* us to be involved in vocational missions globally. However, many people who have moved overseas as part of a vocational missions calling have told us that it is incredibly hard to engage in vocational missions without significant levels of support in the areas where we can come alongside you — connecting, coaching and caring. We don't create your ministry, we enhance it.

What is the relationship of the vocational missionary to a missionary team and a local church?

Since vocational missionaries are not directly under the authority of a missions team, the relationship is one of mutual respect and accountability. Sometimes a simple Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can help establish some early boundaries that allow ministry relationships to form and flourish. The ultimate authority for any vocational missionary is the Church. We want our 18.26 Network members to have the endorsement and support of their home church and to maintain the proper authority relationship with it. We would also want the local church our members attend to play a key role in that authority structure.

What exactly would my ministry look like overseas?

The most important aspect of your job overseas *is* your job overseas. Your vocational calling is a missions calling – it's as simple as that. In our experience, when you do your job well, when you do your job the way Christ would do your job, especially in the face of trying circumstances, team conflict, or pressure to cut corners or fiddle expenses – people notice. And very often they want to hear your story. "Who are you?"

How can you help me pursue my vocational calling?

We can help you explore your calling. Are you already a person who seeks to live out their faith at work? Would your pastor, church leadership and Christian friends confirm that? If so, please write to us to begin an application process. We will walk you through the next steps. Please use our application form on our website: 1826network.com. If God is calling you to this type of ministry, you will soon be on your way.