

LIFEYEAR | EVERY NATION SOUTHERN AFRICA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: So what does an LifeYear missionary do?

A: In short, an LifeYear Missionary (LYM) spends about a year living in another country and culture while serving in an Every Nation church. In general, your job is to serve the needs of your receiving church/ministry and to stay well-connected with your sending church. While you're there you will have a pre-established ministry outreach focus, yet, it is likely you will also have opportunities to serve in many capacities and areas of ministry. The goal is to help you discover and develop God's calling for your life while helping with the growth and development of the church in your assigned country.

Q: How long is the LifeYear missions immersion program?

A: LifeYear occurs in three main phases over a period of about eighteen months.

Phase 1: Before You Go (4-8 months)

You'll work with experienced missionaries to assess your preparedness for international missions. It starts by speaking with your pastor or campus director for a recommendation to the LifeYear immersion program. Next, follow the embedded link <https://forms.gle/qRT9EAHPRz2FKwxJ7> and complete the online initial application. Once you complete the full application and assessment process, you will begin training with the support of your sending church, your receiving church, and the LifeYear team. Your preparation includes LifeYear orientation, partnership development, spiritual & character formation, ministry & cross-cultural skills, coaching & mentoring, and an official send-off by your local church.

The goal of Phase 1 is to make sure you are well-funded, well-prepared, and well-connected for the location that fits you best!

Phase 2: On-Location (10-12 months)

You will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in another culture, build lifelong relationships, and discover new and unique ways of doing ministry. Ultimately God will work in you and through you in surprising ways. Over this year-long journey, you will move through four phases: Settling, Serving, Strategizing, and Sowing. Your ministry assignment leader at the receiving church will guide you through this process; together you will discover how you best fit within the team. Back home your sending church and the LifeYear team will continue to provide ongoing connection, guidance, and

encouragement. By the end of your year, our prayer is that you will gain clarity on God's calling for your life!

The goal of Phase 2 is to allow you to serve the receiving church and also to develop your character, ministry skills, and cross-cultural knowledge.

Phase 3: When You Return (1-2 months)

Once you return, you'll have time to rest and reconnect with your sending church, friends, and family. There will be opportunities to review your trip with the LifeYear team and your local church leaders. During this time of reflection, you will begin to move forward into the calling that has been clarified through the LifeYear program. If long-term international ministry is for you, your sending church and the LifeYear team will help you take the next steps on your ministry journey. Whatever you discover, we aim to help you honor God and make the most impact in your world.

The goal of Phase 3 is that by the end of your LifeYear, you will be excited and well-prepared to move into the calling God has for you!

Q: What are the prerequisites for participating in the LifeYear missions immersion program?

A: You must have a high school diploma and be at least eighteen years of age. We don't require a college degree, but we do recommend you have at least one year of college experience before applying. The other three main requirements are that (1) you're an active member of an Every Nation church or ENC chapter, (2) you've been on a short term or Ten Days missions trip, and (3) you attend an Every Nation connect/small group regularly. Your senior pastor, ten days leader, and small group leader will each be asked to fill out an online recommendation form for you. We are also asking for each applicant to be willing to raise a full financial partnership team before leaving for the international assignment. Finally, we strongly recommend that you attend an Experiencing Spiritual Freedom/Victory Training and complete *The Purple Book* with your connect/small group leader before applying.

Q. What will my year on location generally look like?

A: Throughout the LifeYear missions immersion program, you will move through four main stages: *Settling, Serving, Strategizing and Sowing*.

1. Settling, or the "Fitting-in" stage, is the initial period of time that you will spend on-site learning to fit within the new locale.

2. Serving, or the "Finding your Fit" stage, is the period of time that you will spend in active and in-depth involvement in the local ministry under the direction of your MAL.

3. Strategizing, or the "Defining your fit" stage, is the period of time that you give greater concentration to reviewing and developing clearer direction and purpose for the future; including the development of a practical and clear ministry plan.

4. Sowing or the "refining your fit" stage is the period of time that you begin to walk out the plan that you have begun to develop for future service; putting into action what you have decided.

Q: What kind of personal development can I expect at my assignment?

You can expect to have a mentor help you throughout your time on the mission field, to be a part of a stable team, to receive training in your area of ministry, and to experience great exposure to the mission, vision, and values of Every Nation. You'll develop in three main areas: spiritual & character formation, cross-cultural training, and ministry leadership skills. You'll also learn how to apply the values of Every Nation (Family, Lordship, Discipleship, Evangelism, and Leadership) in a cross-cultural setting.

Q: What is a ministry assignment leader?

A: This is your on-the-ground supervisor while you're on assignment. He or she will determine how your ministry, cross-cultural, and spiritual training will progress before and during the immersion process. This person will remain in contact with you, the LifeYear Team, and the MPD department to encourage and guide you through these aspects of the program.

Q: What is MPD?

Ministry of Partnership Development (MPD) is a relational model of building a fully-funded partnership team. Every Nation deputizes, or authorizes, you to raise funds in the name of our ministry. Since our goal is to guarantee the success of every missionary, 12% of each partner gift provides for administrative support and ministry growth. For a ministry partner's gifts to be considered tax-deductible contributions, the partner must recognize that they're giving the funds to Every Nation, not to the individual. Every Nation then submits the final amount to the account of the individual chosen by the partner.

Q: Okay, I kind of get it. So what are the requirements to become a “deputized fundraiser”?

A:

1. Develop a fully-funded partnership team before traveling to or working in the mission field.
2. Submit weekly MPD report cards online until you complete an initial partnership team.
3. Communicate strategies and plans with your MPD coach and your Ministry Assignment Leader in the coaching and management process.
4. Maintain a partnership team of at least 110%.
5. Process all partnership through the Every Nation office.
6. Respond to the Every Nation office staff in a timely fashion. International staff should check in with the ministry office at least once a quarter.
7. Create and send out no fewer than ten newsletters per year to ministry partners and the ministry office, with Every Nation logo and office contact information included.
8. Submit a financial update at least once per year.

Q: How much support will I have to raise?

A: The monthly amount varies according to your receiving church location and size of your family. Living expenses for a single person can vary greatly depending on where you are sent. LifeYear missionaries also raise a one-time amount to cover airfare and other special expenses

(visas, travel insurance, etc). The missionary will work closely with the Missions department, their MPD coach, and their ministry assignment leader to determine how much they will need to raise.

Q: Will I have any help and encouragement during the support raising time?

A: Right again! Before you begin raising support, you'll be assigned a coach who will help you through the process. While this person cannot go on appointments, dial the phone, or write letters for you, he/she will give you weekly instruction and encouragement along the way. He/she will help keep you on track toward your goal to be well-funded for your assignment. Once you arrive at the receiving church, your initial MPD coach will delegate responsibility to someone in that region.

Q: What if I have student loans and other debt?

A: If your monthly payments exceed a certain percentage of your income, then the MPD department may suggest a delay on the application until you're able to lower these payments.

Q: What if I don't raise all of my partnership support?

A: Because each LifeYear location may not require the same support goal, each applicant will be evaluated on an individual basis. You will have approximately 200 days to reach 100% of your goal. We will also evaluate your progress at the 100-day mark, and expect that you will have reached at least 40% of your goal by then. In fact, we do not allow applicants to apply for their visas unless this initial goal is met. The LifeYear immersion process begins as soon as you raise your support goal and have clearance from your ministry assignment leader, MPD coach, and the LifeYear team to report to your assignment. Sometimes things happen and a prospective missionary is unable to raise sufficient funds. If this does happen, you may not be able to go on your trip, but we will help direct you towards the right next step.

Q: Who do I report to once I'm on the field?

A: Your direct report will be your ministry assignment leader. We recommend that you connect weekly with your MAL, outside of the general team meetings. Throughout the LifeYear process, you and your MAL will submit quarterly performance evaluations to and participate in quarterly check-in calls with the Missions department and your sending church. Each quarterly check-in has a different purpose and structure, but are generally an opportunity to share highlights, challenges, ask questions, and to pray together. You will also check-in monthly with your LifeYear Mentor, as well as your sending church as needed.

Q: What if things don't work out while I'm overseas?

A: A veteran international missionary will serve as a mentor in these decisions and throughout your year. This person helps you through the early stages of culture shock and guides you through any difficult times—as well as celebrates your victories with you! Though the details will vary by location, the receiving church will have the freedom to guide you in another direction if

LifeYear isn't working out. If you're not feeling it's working, you'll also have the freedom to initiate moving in another direction.

Q: What happens after my LifeYear year?

A: During the Strategizing and Sowing stages of LifeYear, you will have multiple opportunities to evaluate your goals, pray strategically, and together with your MAL and sending church, discover what's next. After returning home to debrief and decompress, and rebuild their MPD team, many LifeYear Missionaries choose to return to that same location for another year or more. Others decide to return to their home church and continue serving domestically. Others decide they would like more training in ministry, and attend either the School of World Missions or the School of Campus Ministry. Everyone has a calling from God; the goal of the LifeYear immersion process is to help you discover and develop it!

Got more questions? Contact us at missionsrbk@enjhb.org.