Background

The 2015 Launch Survey of 466 missionaries (online at launchsurvey.wordpress.com) analyzed responses of three generations but could not identify the main hindrances to long-term service, probably because those respondents had overcome the obstacles.
INTRO

Email from Don Parrott sent June 2016 to 5,546 MissionNext contacts. 998 opened the email and 162 took the survey.

“MissionNext and others want to learn how people explore moving forward into ministry or missions. We know you're busy, but can you please share 5-10 minutes of your time for an online survey?

If you're considering short or long-term missions, we encourage you to grab a journal and see what stands out to you as you take this short survey. Once you're done, we'll give you two free ebooks, Claude Hickman’s *Live Life on Purpose* and the book *Ask a Missionary: Time-Tested Answers from 100 Missionaries*

DESIGN

• A workgroup at In His Image developed an open-ended survey and received 13 responses from attendees to a MissionNext Forum and 29 from attendees to Global Missions Health Conference.
• Then that workgroup took those open-ended responses and created a multiple choice survey.
• The survey was tested and revised using responses from 14 additional respondents.
• Deployed via Survey Monkey, where appropriate questions were presented in random order.
GENERATION RANGES

- Millennials 22-36 yrs. old as of 2017
- Gen Xers 37-52 yrs. old
- Boomers 53-71 yrs. old

Note: some responses may reflect stage in life more than generational differences.

RESPONSES

Responses not analyzed
  - Duplicates (identified by email or IP address)
  - Had previously relocated for the gospel
  - Not a citizen of USA or Canada
  - Did not select an age bracket

Responses analyzed
  - 26 Millennials
  - 34 GenXers
  - 54 Boomers
LIMITATIONS

• Respondents had previous missions interest
• Insights apply most directly to the e-list subscribers
• Analysis
  – Simple comparisons of percentages from subsets
  – Potential for future: chi-squared analysis and also look for which concerns go together
• Sad news: response rate low with significant margin of error
• Good news: key findings consistent across all three groups analyzed

Strong Concerns
CONCERN #1

If I would have to raise financial support to live in a new place for the sake of the gospel, that would be...

Out of 18 concerns, the #1 strong concern was having to raise financial support. This was #1 for all three generations and the percent that selected strong concern was:

35% Millennials
53% Gen Xers
38% Boomers

CONCERN #2

Concerns about my lack of experience and/or training in ministry

For millennials, the #2 strong concern was lack of experience and/or training in ministry. Out of 18 concerns this was the following # by generation:

# 2 Millennials
#10 Gen Xers
#13 Boomers
KEY QUESTION: WHICH TWO ARE THE NEXT STRONGEST CONCERNS?

If this is your first time with this survey, from following factors check your estimate of the top two millennials selected:

- Concerns for my children or future children
- Difficult to find where my talents would make a difference
- Fear of burnout
- If I would have to learn a new language
- If I would relocate where I may be lonely or isolated
- Parental objections
- Somewhere that is less safe

Choose your answer to the last question before continuing.
NEXT STRONGEST CONCERNS #3-#4

Concerns selected most by millennials from the list:

- #13 Concerns for my children or future children
- #3 Difficult to find where my talents make a difference
- #18 Fear of burnout
- #4 If I would have to learn a new language
- #12 If I would relocate where I may be lonely or isolated
- #10 Parental objections
- #14 Somewhere that is less safe

SURVEY CONCLUSION 1

Help aspiring missionaries understand they can raise financial support and learn language in spite of previous experiences or misunderstandings
THE JOURNEY DEEPENS

The weekend discusses many concerns including financial support and language learning. The retreat includes worship, large-group teaching sessions, small-group sessions, mission agency interaction with prospective missionaries, quiet time breakouts. One-on-one appointments cover personal questions such as singles concern about not finding a spouse if they go. Attendance is intentionally limited to create personal interaction between individuals, coaches and fellow sojourners with the Holy Spirit's guidance. For more: www.thejourneydeepens.com

ASKAMISSONARY.COM

175+ questions
600+ answers to those questions
8,000 unique web visitors per month
2,000 subscribers to quarterly e-newsletter

Answers from experienced missionaries about:

- Guidance: calling, country choice, fear, obstacles, parental opinions
- Funding: support raising, financial need, retirement, debt, options
- Mission Agencies: how to select, denominations, going independently, why join
- Singles/Families: spouse differences, children, dating, single on the field
- Training: preparation, degrees, bible, language, cultural, mentors
- Professional Skills: healthcare, education, business, engineering
ASKAMISSIOANARY SAMPLE QUESTIONS

What perspective should I take towards raising prayer and financial support?

What is it like to learn another language?

How do I select an agency?

What do missionaries wish they had known before they first went?

How do I handle my debts and still go into missions?

How can I know if God is leading me to become a missionary?

MILLENNIAL CONCERNS #1-18

#1 Having to raise financial support 35%
#2 Lack of experience and/or training in ministry 31%
#3 Difficult to find place where my talents make a difference 27%
#4 If I would have to learn a new language 19%
#5 Being far away from family and friends 19%
#6 Difficult to find a good fit with a team or organization 15%
#7 Difficult discovering God's guidance in a major decision 15%
#8 Concerns about student loan(s) 13%
#9 Being single and finding a spouse if I relocate 13%
#10 Parental objections 12%
#11 Health issues - mine and/or spouse/kids 12%
#12 Where I may be lonely or isolated, that would be… 8%
#13 Concerns for my children or future children 8%
#14 Somewhere that is less safe 8%
#15 Objections from my spouse/flancée/potential spouse 6%
#16 Concerns for parent(s) health or aging 4%
#17 Keep up to date in my profession if overseas for yrs. 4%
#18 Fear of burnout 0%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEN XER CONCERNS #1-18</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>#17 Parental objections</td>
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<th>BOOMER CONCERNS #1-18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Having to raise financial support</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3 If I would have to learn a new language</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SURVEY CONCLUSION 2

Help aspiring missionaries find a place where their skills and talents best fit even if that does not match your priorities

Any questions?
# Strong Draws

## EXAMPLE DRAWS

### God's guidance through prayer

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<tr>
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<th>Not a draw</th>
<th>Some draw</th>
<th>Strong draw</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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### God's guidance through Scripture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Strong draw</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WHICH TWO ARE THE STRONGEST DRAWS?

If this is your first time with this survey, consider the following factors and your estimate of the two millennials consider their biggest draws:

- Desire to share Christ (but no specific group or country)
- Desire to share Christ specific unreached group or country
- Encouragement from a pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- Encouragement from friend or sibling
- God's guidance through circumstances
- If someone I know relocated and I would join them there
- Passion for justice

Choose your answer to the last question before continuing.
**STRONGEST DRAWS #1-2**

Two draws selected most by millennials from the list:

- #7 Desire to share Christ (but no specific group or country)
- #2 Desire to share Christ specific unreached group/country
- #13 Encouragement from pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- #14 Encouragement from friend or sibling
- ✔ #1 God’s guidance through circumstances
- #10 If someone I know relocated and I would join them there
- #8 Passion for justice

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**MILLENNIAL DRAWS #1-15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>God’s guidance through circumstances</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Share Christ with a specific unreached group or city or country</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>God’s guidance through prayer</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>God’s guidance through Scripture</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Desire to provide practical service to those in need</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Desire for adventure</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Desire to share Christ (but no specific group or city or country)</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Passion for justice</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>If friend(s) would relocate to same place about the same time</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>If someone I know relocated and I would join them there</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Encouragement parent(s)</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ready for a change</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Encouragement from a pastor, mentor, leader or teacher</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Encouragement from friend or sibling</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Encouragement from spouse, fiancée, etc.</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MISSIONARY RESPONSES ANALYZED IN 2015 SURVEY

- 60 Millennials
- 69 Gen Xers
- 170 Boomers
= 299 Total Analyzed

Margin of error 5.7%

MILLENIAL DRAWS: ASPIRING VS. MISSIONARIES

Aspiring (Felt Needs)
- If friend(s) would relocate to same place about the same time 38%
- If someone I know relocated and I would join them there 35%

Missionaries (Real Needs)
- Supportive agency, leader or team to join 72%
- Personal interaction with long-term worker(s) 68%

Aspiring (Felt Needs)
- Encouragement parent(s) 27%
- Encouragement from a pastor, mentor, leader or teacher 23%
- Encouragement from friend or sibling 15%

Missionaries (Real Needs)
- Supportive friend(s) 83%
- Supportive family 75%
- Mentor(s) 70%
SURVEY CONCLUSION 3

Design more short-term vision trips to bring long-term opportunities into focus

GEN XER DRAWS #1-15

#1 Desire to provide practical service to those in need 85%
#2 God’s guidance through prayer 79%
#3 Desire to share Christ (but no specific group or city or country) 74%
#4 God’s guidance through Scripture 71%
#5 Share Christ with a specific unreached group or city or country 68%
#6 God’s guidance through circumstances 50%
#7 Encouragement from spouse, fiancée, etc. 50%
#8 Desire for adventure 47%
#9 Passion for justice 44%
#10 Encouragement from a pastor, mentor, leader or teacher 35%
#11 If someone I know relocated and I would join them there 24%
#12 If friend(s) would relocate to same place about the same time 21%
#13 Ready for a change 21%
#14 Encouragement from friend or sibling 12%
#15 Encouragement parent(s) 3%
BOOMER DRAWS #1-15

#1 God's guidance through Scripture 96%
#2 God's guidance through prayer 94%
#3 God's guidance through circumstances 83%
#4 Desire to provide practical service to those in need 81%
#5 Encouragement from spouse, fiancée, etc. 68%
#6 Share Christ with a specific unreached group or city or country 54%
#7 Desire to share Christ (but no specific group or city or country) 50%
#8 Ready for a change 33%
#9 If someone I know relocated and I would join them there 27%
#10 Encouragement from a pastor, mentor, leader or teacher 27%
#11 Passion for justice 25%
#12 Desire for adventure 23%
#13 If friend(s) would relocate to same place about the same time 19%
#14 Encouragement from friend or sibling 19%
#15 Encouragement parent(s) 7%

2016 WEA Book

MISSION IN MOTION
Speaking Frankly of Mobilization

JAY MATENGA MALCOLM GOLD
forewords by Paul Borthwick & Patrick Fung
Any questions?

Connecting
HOW TO CONNECT?
Consider these connection points and check your estimate of the two main ways that *millennials* would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- Conference
- Email
- Friend or family member
- Meeting at church
- Campus Ministry Meeting
- Pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- Personal interaction with someone already serving there
- Short-term visit to that location
- Social media
- Web browsing

Choose your answer to the last question before continuing.
TOP TWO RESPONSES

Here are the main ways that millennial respondents would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- 38% Conference
- 62% Email
- 31% Friend or family member
- 31% Meeting at church
- 19% Campus Ministry Meeting
- 54% Pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
  - 65% Personal interaction w/ someone already serving there
  - 77% Short-term visit to that location
- 23% Social media
- 42% Web browsing

MILLENNIALS CONNECTING

In order, here are the ways that Millennial respondents would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- 77% Short-term visit to that location
- 65% Personal interaction with someone already serving there
- 62% E-mail
- 54% Pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- 42% Web browsing
- 38% Conference
- 31% Friend or family member
- 31% Meeting at church
- 23% Social media
- 19% Meeting of a campus ministry
GEN XERS CONNECTING

In order, here are the ways that Gen Xer respondents would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- 59% Short-term visit to that location
- 56% E-mail
- 47% Personal interaction with someone already serving there
- 32% Conference
- 29% Pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- 24% Web browsing
- 15% Social media
- 12% Friend or family member
- 12% Meeting at church
- 6% Meeting of a campus ministry

BOOMERS CONNECTING

In order, here are the ways that Boomer respondents would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- 72% Short-term visit to that location
- 59% E-mail
- 48% Personal interaction with someone already serving there
- 30% Conference
- 30% Web browsing
- 26% Pastor, mentor, leader or teacher
- 19% Meeting at church
- 19% Social media
- 11% Friend or family member
- 2% Meeting of a campus ministry
CONNECTING SUMMARY

For all generations the top three (out of ten) ways that respondents would like to learn about opportunities to relocate for the gospel:

- Short-term visit to that location
- Personal interaction with someone already serving there
- E-mail

Note: Web browsing and social media ranked much lower. The strength of e-mail in these results may be due to the survey done by e-mail to those who already subscribe to an e-mail newsletter.

MILLENIAL DECISION STAGES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

- 46% Teenage Years
- 42% Undergraduate
- 38% Childhood
- 35% Career
  - 4% Grad school/med school

Note: missions mobilization of children and teens is significant to many.
### GEN XER DECISION STAGES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

- 35% Career
- 32% Undergraduate
- 18% Childhood
- 15% Teenage Years
- 9% Retired
- 0% Grad school/med school

### BOOMER DECISION STAGES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

- 33% Retired
- 30% Career
- 15% Teenage Years
- 11% Childhood
- 9% Undergraduate
- 0% Grad school/med school
MILLENIAL EXPERIENCES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

46% Short-term mission trip(s)
31% Sermon(s) or worship or other with my church
23% Perspectives or other missions course
23% Mentoring relationships
15% Reading biographies
15% Sermon(s) or worship or other with a campus ministry
8% Conference

GEN XER EXPERIENCES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

62% Short-term mission trip(s)
35% Sermon(s) or worship or other with my church
21% Mentoring relationships
12% Perspectives or other missions course
  6% Reading biographies
  3% Sermon(s) or worship or other with a campus ministry
  9% Conference
# BOOMER EXPERIENCES

Which stage(s) of your life or experiences have most significantly impacted your willingness to explore relocating for the sake of the gospel? (check one or more that were significant)

- 59% Short-term mission trip(s)
- 37% Sermon(s) or worship or other with my church
- 17% Reading biographies
- 13% Mentoring relationships
- 11% Conference
- 6% Perspectives or other missions course
- 2% Sermon(s) or worship or other with a campus ministry

# EXPERIENCES SUMMARY

For all generations the top two (out of seven) most significant experiences were:

- Short-term mission trip(s)
- Sermon(s) or worship or other with my church
Any questions?

WRAP UP
SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

1. Help aspiring missionaries understand they can raise financial support and learn language in spite of previous experiences or misunderstandings.

2. Find a placement that matches well their skills and abilities.

3. Design short-term trips that bring long-term opportunities into focus.

FOR MORE ON ALL THE SURVEYS

Articles
Launch survey: Evangelical Missions Quarterly published October 2016
Relocating survey: to be submitted to EMQ for possible 2018 publication

Workshop on these surveys
Missio Nexus Mission Leaders Conference September 21-23, 2017 in Dallas

www.launchsurvey.wordpress.com
Slides and executive summary, webinars, video, audio
References Cited
Acknowledgements
Leave additional comments or questions
Enter your email address to receive future revisions of these reports

launchsurvey@inhisimage.org