

MINISTRY PLAN WORKSHEET

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Name(s): Josiah and Rachel Ritchie

Field of Ministry: Home Office

Category of Ministry:

(Double click the appropriate box and mark it checked in the dialog box.)

- Church planting
- Leadership training/Discipleship
- Focused evangelism (Children, Youth, Women, etc.)
- Support (Translation, Construction, Camps, etc.)
- Other (Please specify: *IT Infrastructure*)

Target audience: (i.e. people group, age group, students, women)

FIM missionaries and their supporters

CALL

What compelling desire has God implanted in your heart? **Concisely state your call to ministry.**
What specific Scripture verses played a role in your call?

*God has placed in my heart a desire to connect churches with the missionaries they support in a personal and influential way.
God started this in my heart through my own interactions with missionaries and watching others who were also influenced.
It was confirmed through examination of the skills and interests that God has given me. I find Prov. 3:5,6 to inspire me to abandon any of my own desires to support His.*

VISION

1. As you understand it, what is God using the New Testament Church to accomplish?

The New Testament church is ultimately tasked with bringing glory to God. One of the chief ways this is displayed is through sharing the good news of Christ's sacrifice in order to bring more to praise Him.

2. **What is your vision?** What do you see God using you to do toward accomplishing His plans?

*The interactions of missionaries with churches on a personal level will alleviate the problem of missionaries appearing to be of a super-spiritual persuasion and give individual Christians the opportunity to catch the heart of missionaries like a virus.
This will free them to more clearly see the glory that God receives through them sharing the Gospel and then to understand how to support them in personal ways.*

Technology alone can not solve problems. However, constant developments in technology constantly break down the barriers that keep a missionary from communicating with their supporters, both churches and individuals. Additionally, the availability of these avenues of communication are growing steadily around the world. Already, the vast majority of missionaries have Internet access and many of them have high-speed Internet access. Using the available technology will enhance the partnership between the KAP church, supporters and the missionary resulting in a more effective ministry on the field.

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3. What things has God used in your life to make His plans for your life clear to you?

As a pre-teen, I had special occasions to hear the stories of missionaries who worked at great sacrifice to themselves. My parents love for and personal, practical support of missionaries modeled an example of meeting these needs. My father's technical assistance laid down the ground work for me to see the need in the missionary community for these skills. As my interest in both missions and technical work developed I began to consider the possibility of combining these into something effective to God's goals.

4. What are at least three non-negotiable values you hold?

The truth of the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

The message of Jesus Christ's sacrifice as revealed in the Bible.

That there is no way except Jesus Christ to be cleansed of our sin and gain the favor of God.

MINISTRY

1. How do your spiritual gifts fit with your proposed ministry?

My gift of administration will allow me the strength to bring together the needs into focused and effective solutions.

2. How do your personality traits fit with your proposed ministry?

My personality tends to be content in solitude and excited in building a challenging and effective solution that empowers others to do what they do well. I am especially excited at the prospect of being able to empower missionaries to excel in their goals and lighten the administrative weight that may bog them down while improving the effectiveness of the administration methods for the home office.

My drive to learn and inject myself into how things work is needed to enjoy a job in technology. This results from the constantly changing field. Keeping up with the changes causes anxiety to many people, but in me, I find the accelerated pace of development to be exciting. It encourages me to constantly re-evaluate the methods available and to consider options to improve the work flow of the mission.

3. What leads you to believe a need exists for this proposed ministry?

I have yet to walk up to a missionary and mention my interest in this form of ministry without meeting with enthusiasm and often a question or three about their own computer needs. In FIM specifically, the resources available to the mission are under-used simply because the knowledge and time to take advantage of these resources is lacking. Additionally, the effective use of this technology has potential to reduce the time spent in duplication of work on the part of both field and home missionaries.

4. Have you researched what other missionaries or agencies, including nationals, currently carry on a similar work in the same ministry area? Please list them.

There is ministry focused work being done. Many missions organizations are recognizing the significant benefits that IT can provide for them. There are also organizations specifically focused on support of missions organizations.

5. What education, training, or experience is typically recommended for people engaged in ministries such as your proposed ministry? How does your background fit with this plan?

My training is practical, on-the-job training. I started by using the materials that my father used as he studied for computer certifications. As I progressed through high school, I took every opportunity I had to learn more about computers. In 2000, I started work as a student assistant in the Washington Bible College Information Technology department and quickly became an integral part of the department using what I learned at home. In July of 2002, I took a position as a full-time employee responsible for all the technology on the campus aside from the website. This includes email, WAN routing, Active Directory, LDAP, File Storage, backup systems and a large variety of software.

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My website skills have been developed through personal projects. Most of my projects have focused around building communities of people from around the world designed to facilitate communication and to collaborate on work of various types.

The SLOT Analysis

Strengths - What natural strengths can you identify in yourself?

I am naturally resistant to being affected by the opinion of others and have no trouble floating against the tide of opinion.

I am able to focus on a single problem with great fervor resulting in a solution

I can collect and review massive amounts of technical data to understand an area of interest fully

I do not have trouble approaching people in public situations

Limitations - List a few of your limitations. (List humility if you can't think of any.)

I am not naturally adept at social events

I can become engrossed in a task to the point of losing awareness of my self and my surroundings

I am easily emotionally drained by significant social interaction

Opportunities - Identify some of the opportunities you see to fulfill your vision.

There are many technical solutions that can be applied to bring missionaries closer to their supporters. Technology like blogs, podcasts, forums and even just email can all be leveraged to meet certain needs and groups of people. Also, I already have developed relationships in the communities I have mentioned. Being able to share my transition to a mission focused organization will provide fodder for conversations that may lead to sharing my faith and at least be another confirmation of my commitment to my God.

Threats - What circumstances or situations do you see that pose a threat to fulfilling your vision?

The only major threat that is currently obvious is being able to raise the support needed to meet the needs of this ministry. The large sum that is needed along with the expected lack of interest in a support ministry compared to the more exotic ministries available for support will very possibly cause an extended period of deputation.

SUMMARY

Based on the information above, please write a 100 word summary of your ministry. Be sure to include **WHO** you will minister to, **WHERE** you will minister, and **WHAT** you will be doing.

Based out of FIM's home office, I will be evaluating the needs of FIM in the area of technology and addressing them according to the need and benefit that could be provided. These solutions will focus on equipping the missionary to reach his ministry goal without causing expansion of their financial support of the home office. Ultimately, this will result in a suite of web-based modular programs that will provide the missionaries with the tools to handle many situations that previously may have been labor-intensive. This system should also allow automation of tasks in the home office by pulling data from this software suite.

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GOALS

1. List your long-term goals for this ministry.

- *Design and Build a solution to support the strengthening of current ministry methods*
- *Reduce the time of administrative paperwork through greater automation and access to materials*
- *Provide technological solutions that will reduce expenses and improve flexibility*

2. Identify the goals for your next uninterrupted term on the field.

- Evaluate the current resources of FIM in the area of technology*
- Evaluate the perceived communication needs of missionaries and supporters*
- Design a plan to meet the above goals*
- Begin implementation of these goals*

3. What are your goals for your next pre-field/furlough ministry?

- We currently need to raise 100% of our support in all areas. This means we have a large amount of interaction with churches and individuals that needs to occur.*
- Freshen and improve my skills in web development through college credited classes*

4. What plans do you have for gaining 100 prayer supporters for your ministry?

- As we go through deputation we will express this need and trust God to bring people to fulfill it. We will also be sharing this need with specific communities online that we have already cultivated a relationship. Traditional prayer cards will be provided to encourage them in this ministry and development of communication specifically to these individuals will allow them to be specific in their consideration of our needs.*

STRATEGY

1. Please attach an anticipated time line, including, but not limited to time frames for pre-field preparations, support discovery, language study, and departure for the field.

- *Create and use an email prayer list – Completed*
- *Complete Ministry Plan – done*
- *Refine Visual Presentation – 1st week of August*
- *Board Interview – July 29th*
- *Begin Scheduling Visits - 1st Week of August*
- *Have Prayer Cards & Display Completed - 2nd Week of August*
- *1st Prayer Letter – August 2005*
- *Begin Sharing Ministry with Churches - 3rd Week of August*
- *Begin Taking Responsibility at Home Office – June 2005*

2. What ministry relationships do you anticipate maintaining on the field? Describe your relationship to each person, entity, or organization. In the case of entities and organizations, please provide contact information and attach their Statement of Faith or Doctrinal Statement.

- We anticipate maintaining regular contact with prayer supporters in a manner that will encourage two-way communication and allow us to minister to them through prayer as they minister to us. This network will include our home church and many of its members allowing them to participate in our ministry. We will also be associated with the FIM home office in an abnormally strong manner.*

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3. In addition to your accountability to Christ, to whom will you be accountable for ministry? (i.e. ministry partners, home church, national church)

Director Wilt, Grace Baptist Church of Odenton, Ministry Partners

What can help you stay focused on your goals?

The regular evaluations as set by FIM and regularly being confronted with these goals for consideration.

4. What action plan have you created to help you reach your goals during your next uninterrupted term on the field? Give a step-by-step overview of that plan. Attach additional paper as needed.

- *Assess and Address Security Concerns*
 - *Communication Methods*
 - *Hardware Implementations*
 - *Software Implementations*
 - *Conceptions of Personnel*
- *Acclimate to Office Procedures and Protocols*
- *Investigate and analyze the current state of technical solutions*
- *Acquire knowledge of programs as needed*
- *Stand-up A Working VPN Solution*
- *Plan and Begin the development of improved web-based services for missionaries*
- *Begin a Training Program for Missionaries in Technical Proficiency*
 - *Best-Practice Security*
 - *Helpful New Technologies*
 - *Making the Best Use of What You Have*

5. What resources (i.e. equipment, materials, and facilities) will you need to accomplish your action plan?

An office provided by the home office, an Internet connection, servers and a workstation. Arrangements for all of this to be provided by the home office have already been made.

6. How will you measure whether or not you are reaching your stated goals?

Development and usage of the solutions will provide the most accurate measurement of the goals. Measurement of missionary competency and support will be provided through discussion and polling of missionaries taking advantage of this option.

7. What plans do you have for continuing education? What specific studies do you believe would be most helpful in your planned ministry?

I would like to improve my training in the area of web development with a focus on the graphical design elements in order to improve my understanding of what appeals to the eye and at least one programming language that will allow me to develop a more powerful site.

I also plan to work further in the area of biblical training with the goal of acquiring a Bachelor's Degree in Bible.

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SUCCESSION

A ministry characterized by long-term viability should result from faithful equipping of others. Missionaries must constantly guard against inadvertently creating a culture of dependence on the missionaries that ultimately damages the ministry.

What are your plans for ensuring that the ministry you are engaging in will survive past your ability to lead it? Please include an anticipated timeline.

Succession is not an immediate concern in this ministry, but I plan to watch for individuals skilled in this area and interested in missions that may feel God leading them into this area of ministry. This may include short-term missions trips or short-term projects that can be done remotely to enhance the missions IT infrastructure and give these short-termers a taste of support ministry.