

GLOBAL PARADIGM

DOES YOURS NEED CHANGING?



What are Paradigm Trips?

Paradigm trips are a cooperative effort between the Northwest Ministry Network and Assemblies of God World Missions. Each trip is intentionally crafted to inform and introduce lead pastors to some of our high level AGWM missionaries and their ministries and the national leaders and churches they work with. It is also to expose pastors to the complex realities, challenges and opportunities to building God's church around the world. This is not a typical "missions trip" designed to engage the team in cross-cultural ministry, but rather for the team to learn deeply, experience the complexities of the foreign field, see our missions ministries in action, make critical observations, ask key questions, build lasting relationships and enhance (and in many cases radically impact) your missions paradigm. Without a doubt, it will be a life-changing experience!

Q. Who is primary contact person for Paradigm?

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Q. Who is on the Paradigm trip leadership team?

Carie Jorgenson, World Missions Facilitator	Lead coordinator, cohort leader, discussion leader
Dave Cole, World Missions Director	Team treasurer, discussion leader
Debbie Cole, Alongside Ministry	Team record keeper, snack/medicine cabinet, laugh leader

Q. When do trips occur?

Currently 1 trip annually takes place in October of each year.

Q. How are participants selected?

The NWMN missions office hand selects participants each year seeking to create a diversified team of lead pastors based off the following:

- At least one under 125 church pastor
- At least one church planter
- At least one large church pastor
- At least one ethnic church pastor
- A young lead pastor
- Pastors who may not have a church missions strategy or need to recalibrate an existing one
- Pastors who may be disconnected or disillusioned with AGWM

Q. How many participants will be involved?

Our team size is typically 13 people - 3 trip leadership team members, 1 NWMN department director and 9 pastors.

Q. When is the registration deadline and other key dates?

March	Invitations are Sent
March – June	Registration Period
June 15	Registration Deadline and When the Team Roster is Solidified
July 1	Paradigm Learning Cohort Begins
July – Sept	Team Engages in Online Cohort & Reading
Sept 1	Trip Payment of \$1500 is Due
Sept or Oct	Paradigm Cohort & Trip Meeting at NWMN Office 9am – 3pm

Q. What is the cost of the trip?

Trips typically cost between \$2500 - \$3000 per person, HOWEVER, because we believe in the effectiveness of the Global Paradigm experience, each participant will only be asked to invest \$1500, and the balance of the expenses will be subsidized by the NWMN and/or AGWM. In limited cases, we may have additional sponsorship funds available if the cost is prohibitive. Please talk to us.

Q. Can spouses come?

Due to budgetary constraints, space and travel limitations, we are not able to extend this trip to spouses. While onsite, our host missionaries and their team members and our Network missionaries serving in these locations will be joining us.

Q. Where, what, and who will we visit?

Paradigm locations and the missionary partners we will visit are determined a year in advance and announced in the March invitation letter. If you are itching to know earlier, drop us an email.



Q. Why should I consider an invitation?

To stretch, expand, adjust, and energize your personal leadership paradigm in global missions.

To experience the great needs, realities and opportunities for God's mission up close and personal.

To meet some of the finest missionary personnel in the world, and to witness what God is doing through their incarnational presence.

To learn, grow, and expand your leadership and missions vision by rubbing shoulders with

fellow pastors for 12-13 days. The peer mentorship on these trips is excellent!

To have amazing fun, see some incredible cultural and historical sites, network with others, build enduring relationships and create lasting (and epic) memories.

Q. Will I be expected to make a financial commitment as a result of my participation?

No. Of course, it is hoped you will be better informed and motivated to consider the long term benefits of engagement with and support of AGWM global personnel and ministries. Ongoing support will be your call.

Q. What will I need to do to prepare if I commit to go?

- **Trip Details:** All trip details will be communicated to the team via our Paradigm Facebook group.
- **Passport:** You will need a passport with at least 6 months of validity beyond the last day of travel before it expires. To apply or renew your passport go to www.travel.state.gov and click the link on the home page to apply for or renew your passport.
- **Visa:** The Network will coordinate visas for the team if the country requires it.
- **Immunization:** Immunizations are not required in order to enter the countries we are visiting but they are highly recommended for your travel health. Immunizations are at your own expense.

Q. Will there be a pre-trip learning cohort?

Yes. This is a critical aspect to participating in a Global Paradigm trip. See topics covered below.

The Paradigm cohort is to build your missions knowledge and enhance the on-the-ground experience. **To participate in Paradigm, you must have the available time in your schedule to participate in the online 3-month cohort before the trip facilitated via our Paradigm Facebook group.** You will read Al Johnson's book "Apostolic Function in the 21st Century Missions" and a few articles. You will also watch a couple short videos and participate in online discussions/comments on the material.

Participants will also be expected to attend a final 1-day cohort meeting in person at the NWMN office to meet the team, discuss key missions topics we have been learning and review all travel logistics. This typically occurs 1-2 weeks before departure.



Q. When does the Paradigm cohort start?

The cohort starts July 1 and runs through September until we depart.

Pre-Trip Cohort July 1 thru Sept

Online Cohort Via Facebook Group

3 months leading up to departure the team engages in an informal online cohort involving short reading, video sessions and the raising of missions themes, issues & questions.

Learning Topics Covered Online:

The Why, What, Where, How and Goal of Missions
Key Missiological Definitions
Apostolic Function and God's Great Trajectory
Cross-Cultural Adaptation & Cultural Sensitivity
Global Missions Support & Local Church Engagement
Cultural Learning on Our Specific Country of Destination
Trip Planning Logistics

1 Day in Person Cohort Session

1-2 weeks prior to the trip the team will participate in a 1-day cohort session to review all the trip details, discuss the purpose and goals for the trip and engage in a time of learning and discussion on key missions topics that will enhance the trip experience.

SESSION 1: Missions and the Local Church

- 21st Century Culture Shifts in Missions, Missions Support & Missions Engagement
- Church Missions Models & Support Strategies
- Building Missions in the Local Church
- 360 Review of Missions Support System Health
- AGWM & Network Missions Resources for the Local Church

SESSION 2: Missionary-Church Relationship

- Church-Missionary Relationship – Observations, Issues, Relational Health
- The Visiting Missionary – Wins, Challenges & How to Help
- Missions Training Opportunities for Missionaries & Pastors

SESSION 3: Missions and AGWM

- AG & AGWM's Worldwide Presence, Its Roots and Its Future
- AGWM's Purpose, Mission and Structure
- National Church Partnership & Indigenous Church Principle
- Q& A on Itineration, Missionary Budgets, Faith Promises and Any Other Technical Item
- Role of the Church, Administrators, Career Missionaries, Teams and Pioneer Missionaries in Global Missions
- When Helping Can Hurt Global Missions – Common Mistakes Churches Sincerely but Unwittingly Make

SESSION 4: Specific Trip Context Learning Themes

- These themes change depending on the location and ministry context

How We Build the Daily Schedule

Daily Schedule

We build in a wide variety of ministries to help build a fuller understanding of the context. Approximately 3 ministry visits and interviews with missionary personnel, and nationals, national leaders is daily goal, though factors may force it to be otherwise.

Ministry Visits/Interviews

- 3 site visits/interviews a day plus a daily debriefing is about all that can be taken in. Much more than this and eyes glaze over.
- With each interview the interviewee will tell their "story" (i.e. the overview of where they are from, how they got to where they are doing what they are doing) BEFORE sharing about their ministry. Interviews are approx. an hour of sharing and Q&A with the team.
- Contact with as many missionary personnel and nationals is a key goal.
- Contact w/ the interviewee will be in their ministry context if at all possible is a key goal.
- Contact with nationals and ministries that are in formation and bearing fruit is a key goal.



Cultural Immersion

Going as "normal" as possible in the given environment (local food, public transportation, walking, etc.) helps build both the relational and educational components of the trip. Scheduling cultural experiences and site seeing is very helpful to build a cultural, historical, religious etc. context for the participant.

Day of Arrival

Arrival is on the 1st day is spent getting everyone checked into 1st night of lodging and resting. An orientation with the host missionaries often occurs to make thorough introductions and explanations., If time permits, we try to get out a little to see things but try to get to bed early to start the next day strong.

Accommodations

On the first night of arrival, individual rooms in a decent venue helps everyone recover from plane travel. Hotels are typically modest but comfortable. For parts of the trip, when applicable and if available, we like dorm type rooms as they will build camaraderie, dialog and collective processing, learning, and understanding.

Transportation

A part of cultural immersion is walking many places on foot and/or the use public transportation with some van or taxi service as needed. This help the team take in more of their cultural surroundings by going as "normal" as possible just like the locals. It also gives participants an appreciation for what missionaries go through when transitioning to a new culture.

Meals

We seek to work in a variety of culturally authentic foods and meal venues as much as possible as this enhances the trip. We try to avoid American fast food but we will point it out for those who want it.

Daily Debriefing

A daily debriefing helps assess how things are being processed and allows for solid group dialog. These are essential to the learning process and allows team members to process and "connect the dots."

Final Debriefing

The last afternoon/evening before departure involves a more thorough debrief that is led by the Network leaders. The debrief agenda involves feedback on impressions, learning process, "Aha!" moments and "as a result of this trip I will..." as well as suggestions for bettering the trip. We also try to build in a higher quality meal the last night as a nice way to wrap up to the trip.

How Learning Takes Place on the Trip

CULTURAL IMMERSION: To help pastors and leaders appreciate what missionaries go through in adapting to a new culture, an emphasis is placed on cultural immersion. As real as possible, they experience authentic local foods, sites and scenery, the people, public transportation, and walking the terrain.

MISSIONARY INTERVIEWS: To help pastors and leaders appreciate what missionaries go through in answering the call to cross cultural work and the faith they encounter in foreign ministry, an emphasis is placed on one-on-one time with missionaries to hear their story and ask questions.

MINISTRY VISITS: Pastors and leaders will experience a variety of ministry settings and site visits to help them see and understand the impact missionaries have in foreign lands. It also helps them understand the unique challenges they face and the creative solutions they bring to advance the gospel. Not to mention the incredible experience and expertise of our missionaries on the ground.

DEBRIEFING: With each of the above experiences comes time to debrief. In fact, daily discussion and debriefing is a critical part of the Paradigm process. Each of these experiences is an opportunity to "connect the dots" which contributes to a deeper and more fully orbbed understanding of global missions.

Sample On the Field Discussion Topics

COMPLEXITIES & BARRIERS TO THE GOSPEL ON THE FOREIGN FIELD

What does gospel ministry look like in this context? What are the issues & challenges?

- What are the unique challenges to the gospel that you observe?
- How do the people of this culture view the West and Christianity?
- How does the decline of American prestige around the globe impact missions work?
- Observe the cultural distance between our culture & their culture. How does this impact missions?
- Strategic advantages of catalyzing local indigenous believers who are culturally near, socially skilled and language competent to proclaim the gospel.

UNDERSTANDING CONTEXTUALIZATION IN CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

- How do you contextualize the gospel in a foreign culture? What are the opportunities, challenges?
- What are the best missions practices and why? What are harmful missions practices and why?
- Why is indigenous works most effective and necessary?

RE-FRAMING EVANGELISM & CHURCH PLANTING ON THE FOREIGN FIELD

What does evangelism look like? What is the strategy, challenges, issues involved?

- The role of proclamation in cross-cultural evangelism
- The role of relationship building / trust building in cross-cultural evangelism
- How does evangelism in this context compare & contrast with the Western paradigm?

What does church planting look like? What are the strategies, challenges, issues involved?

- Challenges of winning the first generation of believers
- Challenges of discipleship and raising up leaders who will go plant indigenous churches
- How does church planting in this context compare & contrast with the Western paradigm?
- Western Paradigm of Church/EV: Building Model: focus on numbers, programs, activities.

What does discipleship look like? What are the strategies, challenges, issues involved?

- Western Paradigm of Discipleship:
Information Based - focus on study, curriculum, levels of learning.
- Eastern Paradigm of Discipleship:
Obedience Based - focus on obedience through trusting in God.

RE-FRAMING MISSION "EFFECTIVENESS" ON THE FOREIGN FIELD

- What is effective / not effective on the foreign field?
- What does gospel "effectiveness", "fruitfulness" and "success" mean in this context?
- Is it fair to judge based on numbers? It is fair to judge based on how much seed is sown?
- The challenges of unreached locations and sensitive countries
- Observe the difficulty of the task. Long, slow & faithful service. Sometimes mind bending.
- What will it take to win the unreached world? – Long obedience, long suffering, long prayer

BRIDGING THE CULTURAL DISTANCE ON THE FOREIGN FIELD

- The vital importance language acquisition (being able to articulate the gospel message)
- The vital importance of socio-cultural learning and adaptation (understanding & building trust)
- The vital importance of relationship building (understanding & building trust)
- Why is the long term worker essential in the work of gospel effectiveness in a foreign context? How does this shape our understanding of missions and missionary?

Results in The Participants Own Words

"You have taken the torn missions pages of my life journal and have brought something new."

"It changed my outlook on world missions."

"It was overwhelming. I will never forget this experience."

"I will pastor differently."

"The words 'intentional' and 'missional' came alive on this trip."

"God's not done with Europe yet."

"Our missions machine is not broken."

"This experience put real flesh on my mission's understanding."

"Missionaries are not just fundraisers. They are cultural experts, church planters, and national church mobilizers."



Why Paradigm Trips Are Important

The gateway to a strong and thriving global missions paradigm in the local church is the lead pastor. A pressing challenge for missions is to connect each generation to the needs and opportunities in the world. For leaders today, particularly young and emerging leaders, brochures and photos don't cut it. Leaders need and want to experience missions deeply to validate it. When they do, they become the strongest enthusiasts for missions. The Northwest Ministry Network holds a strong conviction that the lead pastor sets the leadership tone and direction for the church which includes its staff, board, departments and ministries and volunteers. If the lead pastor has a strong missions paradigm, so will the church.

How Paradigm Trips Differ from Traditional Missions Trips

The primary difference between Paradigm trips and traditional missions trips is the FOCUS.

The focus is on seeing the missionary minister and engage in their foreign context rather than the visiting team. This puts the visiting team in a learning and observing role. When appropriate, the team may engage in some ministry but it is not the focus. This experience is all about helping pastors see, feel, experience, and understand, WHAT THE FOREIGN FIELD AND MISSIONARY LIFE IS LIKE, what they go through and the challenges and opportunities they face in bringing the gospel to a foreign culture.

Missionaries are called to go into all the world and stand before God in the gap on behalf of a land (Ezk. 22:30). They fill leadership and ecclesiastical gaps and labor to raise up ingenious leaders to carry out the work of proclaiming the gospel to their own people. Missionaries are empowered by the Spirit to extract the cultural keys that will unlock a nation and its people for the gospel. The task requires an acquisition of new skill sets, experimentation, trial and error, long labor and committed compassion.

Missionaries boldly STAND IN THE GAP and face a mission of untold promise, hope and complexities. To see this first hand is to fully appreciate the value of a career missionary. It is not for the faint of heart.

Missions Can't Be Taught & Must be Experienced

Missions is NOT something that can be taught. It must be experienced. Cross cultural missions must be "real" missions played out in "real" life and in "real" contexts. A healthy and informed theology of cross cultural missions must include an understanding of what really takes place on the mission field in foreign lands. What does it look like to carry out gospel ministry and proclamation among foreign people groups who are imbedded in another cultural, sociological, political and religious system? **The "field" is where it all happens. This is where cross cultural missions is carried out and where it is experienced. It is also where missions theology is forged, developed and understood in light of Scripture.**

A “Real” Missions Paradigm is Critical to Church Health

Defining missions is a topic of great concern for the church today. There is much confusion over the meaning of “missions” and “missionary” to the point of argument. A missions theology born from scripture and informed by real life experience leads to healthy missions engagement. It is all too common for pastors, boards and ministry leaders to hold unexamined definitions of missions which inadvertently leads to a truncated missions theology and less than optimal (and sometimes very harmful) missions practices.

A confusion over what missions is inevitably leads to a crisis of missions for the local church.

An insufficient understanding of these questions can at best lead to an inadequate practice of missions and at worst a harmful practice of missions. It can also lead to a declining relationship between the local church and foreign missionaries. This is largely due to an insufficient understanding of what a missionary is, what a missionary does, how missionaries are effective, how missionaries are impacting lives for the kingdom of God in foreign lands, and why missionaries are needed in foreign lands for the success of global evangelization. **Not answering these fundamental questions creates a waning sense of need to faithfully send, support and partner with global missionaries and missions works around the world.**

PARADIGM trips are proving to be one of the most effective ways to engage with emerging and seasoned leaders alike and see them become passionate about what God is doing around the world. Leaders who are passionate about global missions will lead their church to be passionate in global missions!





For More Information Contact

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