

# Skills Learned through Missionary Service

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## IN SUMMARY...

- *Full-time missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints learn valuable personal and social skills during their time of service.*
- *Skills learned as a missionary will also be beneficial in preparing for a career and future service as a member of your community.*

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## MISSIONARY SKILLS

### *What skills do missionaries learn and practice?*

- Getting to know new people and getting along with them under stressful conditions.
- **Cultural sensitivity** to people from different backgrounds, beliefs, or ethnicities.
- Handling rejection, failure, and disappointment.
- Serving others, sometimes during times of great stress, with sensitivity to their fears, needs, and desires.
- **Networking** to help bring resources to co-workers and “customers” for addiction recovery, family support, economic self-reliance, and integration into a new (faith) community.
- **Time management, goal-setting,** and resilience in the face of failure.
- Working hard while keeping a cheerful attitude.

- **Leadership** training skills such as personal coaching, encouragement, and accountability.
- **Public speaking,** explaining complex issues in simple and motivating ways.
- Creativity and **problem-solving skills** for living in new settings and communicating their message in interesting ways.
- Self-motivation in studying, working, and sometimes learning a foreign language.
- Creating a **meaningful life** through emotional self-regulation, interpersonal relating, living their values while working hard, and spiritual connection during times of stress and disappointment.

### *What do full-time missionaries do to learn these skills?*

- Live and work with an assigned (not chosen) companion 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for several months at a time – often companions from a different culture, while living in a foreign location or speaking a different language. Men serve

under these conditions for a total of 24 months and women for 18 months without vacations or visits from home.

- Share the teachings of Jesus Christ and invite others to learn about and participate in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

- **Provide community service** (such as teaching English classes, helping with disaster relief, and assisting in local charitable organizations of all kinds).

- Help others connect with Church resources to help them become economically independent, break addictive habits, strengthen their marriages and families, and learn about their ancestors.

- Plan their day and their week against assigned and self-chosen goals with minimal oversight, including making back-up plans to respond flexibly and meaningfully when original plans change.

- Study the Bible and other Church materials daily and learn a foreign language if assigned to do.

- Stick with their assignment and find meaning in their service, often despite considerable rejection, disappointment, and isolation.

### **Part-time Service Missionaries**

Part-time Service Missionaries may also be called for 6-18 months to provide part-time community service in a specific setting appropriate to their medical needs and personal skills/interests. These missionaries live at home and work under the direction of local Church leaders. They often learn skills such as a better work ethic, communicating with adults and peers, keeping rules at work, specific skills related to the work they do, and finding meaning in serving others).

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## **There are about 400 different missions worldwide**

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- Work for approximately 60 hours every week, in addition to personal study, worship, and planning.
- Provide leadership and training to newer missionaries and church members.
- Give talks and teach lessons to represent the Church and its teachings, adapting to the needs and interests of others.
- Figure out new ways to find people to help or teach, helping them resolve questions and personal problems and working out interpersonal difficulties with others.

## **MISSION ASSIGNMENT & FINANCES**

### ***How are full-time missionaries assigned and supported financially?***

- Young people submit an application to serve a full-time mission for the Church.
- Church leaders at the headquarters of the Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, review each application. These leaders assign the perspective missionary to one of approximately 400 missions throughout the world. They also assign the missionary to work in a specific language.
- Missionaries who accept these assignments serve as volunteers, **supported financially by personal savings**, family members, or donations from other Church members.
- Missionaries attend a Missionary Training Center for two weeks at the start of their mission, or 8-10 weeks if learning a foreign language.