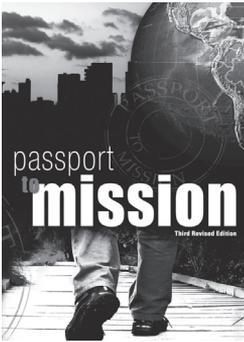


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Book Review



Cheryl Doss, ed.
2009. *Passport to Mission*
3rd rev. ed.
Berrien Springs, MI:
Institute of World Mission
\$12.00

Passport to Mission is a crash course for those choosing to cross boundaries in mission service. The third edition comes updated and revised by the current (2009) Institute of World Mission faculty and builds on the basic structure set up by two other generations of Institute's faculty.

Structured in six major parts, *Passport to Mission* shows first why one should be a missionary. The need of the world is compared with the insufficient number of missionaries available, in spite of the Great Commission which is shown to be a command, not a suggestion. The first part also introduces the reader to the way the Seventh-day Adventist Church is structured for mission and to the Adventist contribution to spreading the good news of the gospel.

The second part of the book focuses on the potential missionary. It looks at the goals, motivation, and missionary call of each Christian. This part contains some tools to assess one's spiritual life and suggests ways to strengthen spiritual practices, such as Bible study, prayer, meditation, journaling, fasting, worship, etc.

Passport to Mission introduces the reader in part three to the notions of culture and worldview. The reader is shown how presuppositions and assumptions color the way one sees the world and creates cultural stereotypes. It goes deeper, to the system of values, and shows how cultural

misunderstandings are determined by a lack of knowledge in this area. This section of the book warns the potential missionary about the inevitable cultural shock when working in a different country or culture and suggests ways to minimize its negative impact by learning the levels of communication and how to manage conflict situations caused by cultural differences.

Part four of *Passport to Mission* deals with practical aspects of actual missionary life in a different culture. Based on the incarnational approach demonstrated by Jesus, the book suggests ways of identification with the new culture, such as living like them in terms of housing, dress, eating, or worshipping. A special emphasis is placed on learning the local language and tips on how to do it are provided. Health is also important, so prospective missionaries are warned about potential hazards and how to avoid them. Two chapters in this section deal with healthy relationships with other missionaries, as well as with one's own family.

The next section of the book looks at ways to share Christ in the new culture. It encourages the missionary to develop redemptive friendships with people based on a discipleship process. The missionary will be watched and his life copied, so authenticity and honesty are fundamental requirements. Preparing a personal contextualized story or testimony is encouraged. At this stage, all the previous information about the new culture, worldview, and values becomes invaluable. The section ends with a reminder that a disciple needs time to grow to maturity and become a missionary as a result.

Part six of *Passport to Mission* wraps up the training process by providing tools and tips for the serious missionary. An area study guide is provided, as well as tips for travel, emergency procedures, and advice for the returning missionary. An appendix contains biblical promises as encouragement for missionaries in the field.

I appreciate the practicality of *Passport to Mission*, theoretical concepts being illustrated with real life situations. The book is also personalized, each part of the book ending with personal questions to be answered, and resources for further study. I highly recommend *Passport to Mission* to every person who is seriously interested in going as a missionary.