

2024 EDITION

Central District Missions Handbook

Missions is central to the heart of God, who “is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) It is central to God’s plan to bring into His Kingdom people from every nation, tongue, and tribe. And because it is central to both the heart and plan of God, it is central to The Alliance. In fact, it is so important to us we have mandated for ourselves that every Alliance church:

“shall participate in the worldwide missions and church planting ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the support of the Great Commission Fund. The Governance Authority shall specify the means by which it purposes to mobilize members’ involvement, including prayer, recruitment of men and women for vocational ministry both at home and abroad. A Missions Conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization shall be held each year.”

Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches
of the Christian and Missionary Alliance

An annual missions event, however, is only a first step. To really engage your congregation, missions must become relational and all-encompassing. That is, it should involve people (your congregation) with people (international workers and the lost around the world) throughout the year. Missions must be more than a mandate to be obeyed; it must be the outworking of the passion of those whose hearts beat in unison with the heart of the King!

This handbook is designed to help you lead your congregation into that kind of engagement. Our goal is to provide you with an “Alliance Missions 101” to get you pointed in the right direction. The explanations are not meant to be comprehensive, so we’ve included websites, phone numbers, and email addresses throughout to help you

find additional information. You should always feel free to contact us with your questions as well.

We appreciate your commitment to encouraging your church to engage more fully in Alliance missions and the many hours of ministry that represents on your part. May the Lord bless your efforts so that you see much fruit for your labor – people being called and sent out as international workers, increased missions giving, loving care for our international worker families, partnership relationships built between your church and international workers and, ultimately, God being glorified as our King returns!

On behalf of the Central District Missions Committee,

Bob & Dian

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This print edition was published in 2024.
For the most up-to-date information, visit
www.cdcma.org/handbook

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TD* Teams Developer—as some fields move into having teams based on people groups that may cross geopolitical boundaries, leaders are needed to coach and develop those teams

TEFL Teaching English as a Foreign Language

TESL Teaching English as a Second Language

TESOL Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

WK Worker’s Kid – less common term for the child of an international worker

* Designates acronyms unique to The Alliance. Other acronyms listed are generally recognized across denominations.

IWiR* International Worker in Residence - Some IW’s on home assignment serve at one of the Alliance colleges

mm* marketplace ministries – lay professionals who are committed to serving Christ through secular employment overseas, especially in CAC settings

MK Missionary Kid – child of missionaries

NO* National Office—the U.S. national office of The Alliance in Reynoldsburg, OH (near Columbus)

RD* Regional Director - oversees the work and pastoral care of several mission fields in a particular region (e.g. Africa or Latin America)

STM Short-Term Mission Trip

STT Short-Term Mission Trip

TCK Third Culture Kid – includes children of missionaries, ambassadors and embassy workers; kids who grow up in a different culture or cultures than their “native” one; Used instead of MK now

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Since 1887, Alliance people have sought to reach the lost with the whole gospel – in their own communities and around the world. The need is still there today.

Pathways to Serving

The Alliance provides several pathways to overseas service, also known as specialized structures, that are outlined in the following paragraphs. While each pathway calls for academic and professional qualifications specific to that specialized structure, all international workers (IWs) are expected to be able to verbalize and exhibit God’s call on their lives, demonstrate spiritual and character development, and be in alignment with the values and vision of The Alliance. Commitments range from one to four years. Most IWs are expected to become proficient in a local language.

aXcess

aXcess workers proclaim the gospel and multiply networks of faith communities among the least reached. These roles are filled through clergy and vocational workers.

www.CMAlliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions/axcess

International Worker Clergy Track (IWC)

www.CMAlliance.org/serve/international-work/#iwc

Typically, an IWC is involved in church-planting ministries, community development, holistic outreach, evangelism, theological training, leadership development, or other outreach. IWC roles require the applicant to be consecrated and ordained. If applicable, the spouse must be accredited by their district. Consecration and ordination is encouraged but not required for the spouse. Completion of the

C&MA*	The Christian and Missionary Alliance
EFL	English as a Foreign Language
ELIC	English Language Institute China - ELIC exists to place passionate people in contact with students across Asia through the medium of teaching English
ESL	English as a Second Language
FD*	Field director - oversees the work and pastoral care of a particular mission field
GCF*	Great Commission Fund – the fund that supports Alliance IWs and their work around the world through the faithful giving of people in our Alliance churches and friends
GL*	Global Link - An office of The Alliance within Church Ministries, Global Link’s mission is to come alongside U.S. Alliance churches to increase engagement with Alliance international ministries. Comprised of people who collectively have many years of U.S. and overseas Alliance ministry experience, the Global Link team is united by a passion to create gospel access for all peoples.
IW*	International Worker

* Designates acronyms unique to The Alliance. Other acronyms listed are generally recognized across denominations.

- AM* Alliance Missions—the missions “department” of the Alliance
- AWF* Alliance World Fellowship— An organization that seeks to foster cooperation among the nearly 90 national churches and ministries related to the Alliance worldwide
- BAM Business as Mission – advancing Christ’s Kingdom through the use of business skills; businesses that are created and managed specifically for the purpose of advancing the cause of Christ in less-reached and/or less-developed parts of the world
- CAC Creative-Access Country – a country which does not allow access to traditional missionaries, necessitating a creative means of entering the country such as being a student, a teacher, a businessman, a medical professional, etc.
- CAMA* Compassion and Mercy Associates – the relief and development arm of The Alliance
- CD100* Central District 100 – unique to the Central District, this is a group of people (high school or older) from this district who are pursuing God’s call toward cross-cultural missions as a vocation
- CM* Church Ministries - the “home department” of The Alliance
- CMA* The Christian and Missionary Alliance

consecration and ordination process is not required prior to completing a MOD (Ministry Opportunity Description) preliminary application.

International Worker Vocational Track (I WV)

www.CMAlliance.org/serve//international-work/#iww

An IWV is typically involved in community development or educational, financial, medical, logistical, or other business-driven ministries. All IWV applicants must meet specific qualifications to serve.

Compassion and Mercy Associates (CAMA)

www.CAMAServices.org

www.CMAlliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions/

CAMA's mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ through short term relief and long term development that leads to transformed lives and restored communities. CAMA works in the development context of Rural and Urban Poor, Internally Displaced People (IDP) and Refugee care, and Disaster Relief. Our CAMA workers also serve with specialization in 5 fields of practice: Agriculture, Business Development, Community Wellness and Advocacy, Education and Healthcare. In accordance with CAMA’s values of being collaborative, evangelistic, local and learning, CAMA uses relief and development to alleviate suffering and poverty, and invests in local solutions led by local leaders and local churches.

marketplace ministries (mm)

www.CMAlliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions

www.joinmm.com

mm@cmalliance.org // 380-208-6056

mm facilitates the placement of marketplace professionals (business, medical, academic) who are called to serve Jesus internationally through their vocation. It is an association of Alliance lay professionals serving internationally in secular cross-cultural settings. The primary motivation and ministry is to make disciples and establish them in the local church where permissible, with emphasis on restricted or potentially restricted access. mm personnel seek to be self-supporting through their vocations; however, many rely upon partial support from the Alliance family and other financial partners.

Envision

www.WeAreEnvision.com

www.CMAlliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions

Envision is a community of leaders and environments committed to the identification and development of missional leaders. Our Envision staff is postured both to host and develop participants while remaining committed to long-term impactful ministry on the ground. Our sites are hospitable environments which are designed to invite, mobilize, and multiply those exploring their role in God's mission. Our staff and ministries are proudly a part of Alliance Missions, a part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, committed to fulfilling our role

IW Speakers

The Central District maintains an online calendar listing the IWs who are on home assignment in (or near) our district. This calendar also lists the dates these workers are available to speak. Each May, pastors and missions team leaders receive an email with a link to this calendar and an invitation to book one IW for one three-day weekend. (When an IW is available, coordination of a longer engagement is encouraged.) If dates remain available on the calendar after all district churches have selected one speaker, an invitation to book additional IWs is sent. Churches are encouraged to engage IWs more than once a year when possible.

Churches are encouraged to select speakers from the list provided through the online calendar. However, if your church has an ongoing partnership with an IW who is not listed on the district calendar, you are welcome to book that worker for your annual missions event at your own expense.

The district missions mobilizers are responsible for documenting and reporting on missions events held in our district. As such, it is important that you inform them of any missions events (IW name and event dates) not booked through the district online calendar.

An expanded list of available missions speakers which includes former IWs is available by request.

Our International Workers

Central District International Workers

www.CMAlliance.org/district/central

Bob and Dian Harner // dharner@cdcma.org // 330-414-0554

Of the 700+ Alliance IWs, over 60 call the Central District their home or sending district. In addition, nearly a dozen others have some relationship with the Central District, although they are officially sent by other districts. A partial list of our Central District IWs can be found at CMAlliance.org/district/central. More than half of our IWs are CAC workers. A complete list or contact information for our district CAC IWs is available by request.

Other Alliance International Workers

www.CMAlliance.org

To locate non-CAC Alliance IWs from other districts, go to cmalliance.org/district/central and replace “central” with one of the other districts.

Your district missions mobilizers or the Global Link Office at the Alliance National Office can also help you locate IWs from other districts.

in completing the Great Commission. The Envision team includes the National Office staff in Reynoldsburg, Ohio and over 70 full-time site workers serving around the world and in the U.S.

A Note About Creative Access Countries

It should also be noted that as our world changes and we use creative means to enter areas of the world where traditional methods are not welcome, it is possible that any of our international workers, no matter which specialized structure they choose as a pathway to service, may be considered “creative access” or “closed/restricted access.” In general, the determining factor is not the pathway to service, but the setting in which they serve. Please refer to the section on Creative Access Countries (CACs) for more clarification.

There are two main streams of giving that flow into what we call the Great Commission Fund (GCF). Learn more about the GCF and other financial information at www.CMAlliance.org/who-we-are/great-commission-fund

1. The Undesignated GCF

The Undesignated GCF is a general fund that supports all the work of The Alliance including Alliance Missions, Church Ministries, National Office administration and global support services, and district oversight.

\$3,400,000

the amount contributed each year to the GCF by the people of the Central District

people in over 65 countries. These ministries help create access to the gospel where little to no access yet exists. It is a global fund that empowers leaders and workers to be nimble and responsive—walking through doors God may suddenly open into some of the most spiritually impoverished regions on the earth.

The majority of the Undesignated GCF goes to Alliance Missions and enables hundreds of workers to care for the physical and spiritual needs of lost, hurting, and disenfranchised

17%

our target giving rate of local church budget to the GCF (current rate is 14%)

The Alliance Call to Prayer

www.CMAlliance.org/resources/church

This bulletin insert is designed to remind people to pray for Alliance needs both domestically and internationally. Read stories of answered prayer.

Alliance Life Magazine

www.cmalliance.org/alife

The hard copy version of the Alliance’s denominational magazine is bimonthly and comes to your mailbox FREE of charge. Although it is also available online, stories from CAC workers that cannot be included in the online version are often included in the print version. You can subscribe online or by filling out a printed subscription application available through your missions mobilizers.

The Alliance Mobile App

Available at both the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#).

Stay connected to The Alliance wherever you go with The Alliance Mobile App. Read current Alliance stories and news, experience Tozer daily devotionals, and lift Alliance weekly prayer requests to God’s throne.

The Mission of God and the Alliance Family

www.CMAlliance.org/resources/church/strategies-in-mission

Throughout history, God has had one, all-encompassing mission. This mission has driven all He has done from Creation to the Cross. The Mission of God and the Alliance Family is a course designed to help us discover and immerse ourselves in the single task God has given to those who follow Jesus Christ.

Helpful resources such as Alongside Journey (ideas on how to come “alongside” IWs through various phases of their ministry journey) and the Missions Engagement Assessment Tool are available here for download (or you can contact your district missions mobilizers).

Other Alliance Missions Resources

Missions Engagement Resource Page

www.CMAlliance.org/our-work/church-ministries/missions-engagement/

This helpful page directs you to resources for explaining the missiology of the Alliance, practical ways to engage your congregation with missions, ideas for engaging the next generation with missions, links to missions videos not included elsewhere on the Alliance website and much more.

A.B. Simpson’s Writings

www.CMAlliance.org/archives/history/simpson

A. B. Simpson’s writings, many on missions, can be downloaded. You must be signed in to your MyCMA account.

Alliance Prayer Requests

www.CMAlliance.org/pray

Global prayer requests are posted on a weekly basis. Sign up to receive them via email, which serves as an excellent reminder. Also available via The Alliance Mobile App for Android and Apple.

This provides support at different levels to workers with all four Alliance Missions structures: aXcess (church planting focus), CAMA (relief and development focus), Envision (leadership development focus), and marketplace ministries (business as missions focus). (Learn more at <https://cmalliance.org/our-work/alliance-missions/>)

Note: Annually there are two special giving opportunities that provide significant funding for the undesignated GCF. These are Great Commission Day (April-June) and the Year End or Christmas Offering. These special offerings yield resources to provide gospel access for people who need to know Jesus.

2. The Designated GCF

Designated GCF funds are gifts given in the name of a specific worker or project, or in the case of CAMA, a structure. (Learn more about CAMA designated giving at <https://camaservices.org/>)

When you give to a worker, you simply give in their name and it goes into a “pool” for that worker to use as needed. These funds are used for that specific worker’s compensation, strategic needs (personal or ministry), outfit (home set up), and vehicle. In the past you had to designate which of these areas you wanted to support, but that is no longer the case.

When you give to a specific project, you simply give in the name of that project. Field-approved special projects facilitate ministry through church planting, evangelism, education, leadership development, relief, and building projects to name a few.

Note: Once a project has been fully funded, excess funds will be released back to the Organization to use where most needed. If a worker has excess funds at the end of the year and the undesignated GCF is low on funds, funds may flow back into the undesignated GCF to help offset the cost of the designated worker.

News & Stories

Current News Updates

www.CMAlliance.org/stories

Stories about Alliance IWs or what it is like to be a refugee child and news updates on things like the relief efforts in our country and around the world can be found here.

Alliance Life Online

www.CMAlliance.org/alife

Both the current and archived editions of the online version of *Alliance Life* can be found online. The hard copy version of *Alliance Life* is free and often includes stories from CAC workers that cannot be included in the online version.

Specifically for Missions Leaders

MyCMA

www.CMAlliance.org/sign-in

As your church's official missions point person (designated in your church's annual report to the national office), you have access to a wealth of missions resources via your "MyCMA" account at www.CMAlliance.com. This includes information about the current year's missions emphasis theme, as well as links to other resources that are designed to help your church become increasingly engaged in Alliance missions. Contact the district missions mobilizers if you need help setting up or accessing your account.

Videos

If a picture paints a thousand words, how many does a video paint? Let professionally-produced Alliance videos give your congregation or small group a better picture—a moving picture in every sense of the word—of how God is using Alliance international workers to reach the nations.

Alliance Video Magazine (AVM) and Alliance Snapshots are short enough to be used before or during a sermon to drive a point home. They can be used to start a small group discussion or allow a youth group to see God in action.

Alliance Videos

www.CMAlliance.org/videos/

Find high quality missions videos with stories of the work on various fields and videos that show churches in the U.S. involved in reaching out to those around them. These videos are typically 1 to 4 minutes long—ideal for sermon illustrations, youth group and small group meetings. You can even filter by series, regions, genres and languages.

One of the series is Alliance Snapshots. These brief videos (usually about one minute long) are video shorts designed to grab your attention and dynamically introduce you to what the Alliance family is doing both domestically and internationally.

Another series is Missions Engagement, relating specifically to our past and present Missions Engagement themes. They contain compelling stories with the end goal of inspiring viewers to consider ways to further engage in the mission of the C&MA and the local church.

How to Give

Contributors can give in a variety of ways, including:

Your Local Alliance Church

Indicate what your gift is for on the check (payable to your church or to “The Christian and Missionary Alliance”) or offering envelope and your local Alliance Church will pass it on to the National Office for you.

By Mail

Send your gift with a note indicating the name of your local church and what the gift is for to:

The Christian and Missionary Alliance
One Alliance Place
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

By Phone Call 1-866-443-8262 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. M-F.

Online

Make a secure one-time or recurring gift online. When giving online please include the name of your church.

To see these options online or to make a gift, please visit <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>

For other ways to give, including planned giving through stocks, real estate, wills and more, please visit <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/other.jsp>.

Raising up new workers is the privilege of the whole church working together in obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word. God calls new workers through the discipleship ministry of the local church, the anointed preaching of the Word, obedience to God in the application of Scripture, and the prayers of the saints.

PRAYER TIP

Set a daily alarm on your phone for 10:02 AM or PM — see *Luke 10:2* — to remind yourself to pray that God would raise up new workers

Pray for New Workers

Jesus told us, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Luke 10:2) We need to practice and encourage regular, focused prayer for the Lord to provide workers for his harvest field. Pray for God to provide them from our district, your church, and your family!

Guiding & Encouraging Potential Workers

As we pray for new workers, we must be prepared to guide and encourage those who respond to the Lord’s call in answer to our prayers. It is important for the local church to create a greenhouse culture in which potential workers are nurtured. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every church in our district sent out international workers who were raised up from within? Following are a few of the things that could be involved in your plan or culture:

- **The Annual Missions Engagement Event(s)**
Your annual missions engagement events not only provide a means of hearing what God is accomplishing through Alliance workers,

Websites

These five websites contain a wealth of information and resources for pastors and mission team leaders.

Central District Website

www.CDCMA.org

Explore the “missions” tab for information about our district missions mobilization ministry, CD100, CD IW PowerPoints, missions videos, and links to serving overseas with the Alliance. Visit www.CDCMA.org/videos for messages from the 2016 and 2017 *Deep and Wide* events, and more. Find information about Missionary Wheels or Alliance Women ministries like TCK adoption and Love Gifts.

Compassion and Mercy Associates (CAMA) Website

www.CAMAServices.org

See how to give or go to sites to participate in relief projects. Learn about each CAMA project by location or type of work. Read great stories about God at work through CAMA workers.

The Alliance Website

www.CMAlliance.org

The Alliance World Fellowship Website

www.awf.world

Marketplace Ministries

Website www.joinmm.com

Envision Website

www.weareenvision.com

Learn about short term trips designed for people of all ages, Trek Year, Internships, and Residency. Explore Alliance Volunteer Opportunities, that allow people to serve with CAMA, mm or aXcess workers where there is no Envision site. Check out GiveBack, a program that has a primary focus on empowering retirees and experienced professionals to serve with Envision workers at one of their 20+ sites.

CD100 Follow the Call Retreat

www.CDCMA.org/cd100 // www.CDCMA.org/events

Bob and Dian Harner // dharners@cdcma.org // 330-414-0554

Members of the CD100 are invited to attend a heavily subsidized three-day retreat each summer where they learn more about the process of serving overseas with the Alliance, interact with Alliance missions leaders, receive training in an area specifically related to their preparation for service overseas, network, and enjoy recreation with Alliance IWs and others on the path to overseas ministry, whether with the Alliance or another agency.

Central District Youth Missions Trip

For information see “Short Term Missions Trips.”

but also a unique opportunity to inspire new IWs. Many receive their call to service at such an event. Encourage the participation of every age group and encourage connections between the IW and your children and youth, as well as the adults, who may be expressing an interest in missions.

- **Mentoring & Discipleship**

The Alliance looks for six core characteristics in our workers: Kingdom minded, Biblically grounded, Spirit dependent, competently skilled, self-aware and self-disciplined.

- **Short-Term Trips**

You can help provide cross-cultural experience for potential workers through short-term trips by planning, recruiting, and assisting them in preparing for short-term trips.

- **ALME**

Have a missions candidate do his or her Alliance Licensed Ministry Experience (ALME), or “home service,” at your church.

- **Partner with Youth Workers**

Partner with the youth workers in your church to identify and disciple potential new workers.

Central District 100 (CD 100)

www.CDCMA.org/cd100

Bob and Dian Harner // dharners@cdcma.org // 330-414-0554

In the Central District, our goal is to maintain a list of at least 100 of our own people who are preparing to serve the Lord long-term overseas. The CD100 exists to provide encouragement, direction and

coaching for Central District people called to serve as international workers. It does this by creating opportunities that prepare them for deployment. We encourage anyone who is part of a Central District church and pursuing a call to missions (at least in grade 9) to join the CD100, whether they anticipate serving with the Alliance or another missions organization. We rely on the recommendation of local church leaders to identify potential CD100 members and to connect us.

Short Term Trips (STT)

STTs are a great way to expose your congregation to missions, inspire new workers, and encourage potential workers. If you are contemplating sending a team or an individual from your church on a short-term missions trip, but do not know where to start, here are some places to go for assistance:

Central District Missions Mobilizers

Bob and Dian Harner // dharter@cdcma.org // 330-414-0554

Although your Central District Missions Mobilizers do not organize or lead STTs for churches except the partnership exploration trips (described in the section on Partnering with Current Workers), their experience as IWs, their experience at organizing and leading various kinds of work, vision and partnership trips, and their relationships with IWs qualify them to assist you in organizing and preparing your church team or an individual for a STT. They are available to:

- Consult regarding where to go, what to do, and how to get there.
- Give you tips on travel agencies and travel insurance.
- Provide pre-trip orientation, including resources like:
 - Prayer worksheet (to give to prayer supporters)
 - Preparation for interacting in a different culture
 - A DVD with a wide variety of helpful information

additional people who are on the missions committee or interested in missions.

Called to Serve

www.CDCMA.org

Called to Serve is an event for people of all ages that takes place every 3 years (the year of LIFE, in the fall) with the purpose of

- Providing information, resources and exposure to Alliance missions leaders to those who are exploring a call to missions and
- Motivating all generations to complete the Great Commission here, there and everywhere.

Women's Events

www.CDCMA.org/events

www.CDCMA.org/alliance-women

Various events may be held throughout the year, including a fall retreat and spring rallies, to give women opportunities to connect with international workers. Typically, the Wednesday of Bible & Missionary Conference at Beulah Beach is reserved for Ladies Day. The district website or Alliance Women Facebook page have more information.

Beulah Beach Bible and Missions Conference

www.BeulahBeach.org/bmc

Every year during the last week of July people from our district and at least two others converge on Beulah Beach for this event that features great Bible teachers, exciting missions speakers, and Spirit-filled worship. The Sunday afternoon missions rally is spectacular! Come for part of a day, a day, or the entire week.

There are myriads of great missions resources out there. For our purposes, we will stick to Alliance resources

Events

General Council

www.CMAlliance.org/events

This biennial event for the entire United States Alliance family provides many venues for exposure to missions training and stirring live reports from Alliance IWs. The Alliance Missions Network, a gathering of church, district, and national missions team leaders, usually takes place Tuesday morning or afternoon before Council officially opens.

Converge

www.CMAlliance.org/events

As a pastor or missions team leader of an Alliance congregation with an attendance of 300 or more, you are invited to *Converge*, a conference designed to stir your passion for greater Alliance missions engagement in your local church. Typically *Converge* is held in January around Martin Luther King Jr. Day and is held in Columbus, Ohio area. (Representatives from smaller churches often attend as well.)

Engage

www.CDCMA.org

The district missions mobilizers organize and meet with pastors and church missions leaders either in one place or in four regions of the district for focus groups or training events every two or three years either in the spring or fall. Churches are usually welcome to send

- Logistical info (visas, immunizations, travel agents, etc.)

Central District Youth Mission Trip

[Matt Merendino](#) // 419-886-4333 // mattm@clearforkalliance.org

Every 2-3 years a STT is scheduled overseas to give teens and young adults the opportunity to be a part of God's work in international missions. These trips expose them to the global aspect of the Great Commission as we work alongside international workers and the churches they work with to further God's kingdom.

Envision

www.weareenvision.com/trips

Envision offers a range of short-term programs to meet a variety of needs. You can do 7-10 day trips at their 20+ global sites and receive guidance for your local trip leaders with resources, insurance info, training materials, etc. In addition, Envision offers internships, residency (coming fall of 2024) and Alliance Volunteer Opportunities (AVO). No matter your stage in life, you have a role in God's mission. Let Envision help you discover what that role may be. To learn more about each of these programs and more, go to www.weareenvision.com/programs/.

Envision Cleveland

www.EnvisionCleveland.org//Tom and Nicole Schmidt// 216-925-4545
Tschmidt@envisioncleveland.org
Nschmidt@envisioncleveland.org
info@envisioncleveland.org

For a STT close to home, consider partnering with Envision Cleveland.

Strategic relationships between U.S. Alliance churches (“Christians”) and Alliance workers overseas (“Missionaries”) are the foundation of who we are: The Christian & Missionary Alliance! Not only do personal, spiritual, and financial partnerships assist our IWs in accomplishing Kingdom work, these relationships also benefit the local church by mobilizing and revitalizing a passion for missions in the North American Church that ignites personal involvement.

Forming Partnerships

The best partnerships are organic, that is, they develop naturally from a church’s relationship with an international worker or workers. The relationship is developed to a deeper level as the church gets involved in some or all of the five partnership activities:

- Strategic Prayer
- Doing Our Share (Financial Resourcing)
- IW Partner Care
- Going There (Short-term Trips)
- Staying Aware (Ongoing Connections)

Partnerships tend to begin in one of three ways: 1) interest in a person or people group, 2) interest in a place, or 3) interest in a project. The relationship with the person or people usually holds the partnership together and makes it strong. When all three elements are involved in a partnership—a person, a place and a project—there is passion!

help setting up or accessing your account.

District Resources:

[Bob and Dian Harner//dharnar@cdcma.org](mailto:dharnar@cdcma.org)
www.cdcma.org/missions/handbook

The following resources are also available by contacting your district missions mobilizers:

- Missions Event Pre-Event Checklist / Post-Event Evaluation Form
- Missions Event White Papers (from past webinars conducted by the district missions committee)
 - Considering the Theme
 - Considering Congregational Involvement
 - Considering the International Workers
 - Considering Youth
 - Considering Children’s Ministries
 - Considering Communication and Promotion
- Home Gatherings Booklet (Revised)

In addition, these resources are available for download at the district website (www.cdcma.org/missions/resource) without needing a “MyCMA” account.

- Global Link brochures—Partnerships and Engagement
- The New Face of Alliance Missions
- IW PowerPoint presentations for missions minutes, etc.
- Online and printable versions of this handbook
- Missions Engagement Assessment Tool

survey is sent out from the national office.

In addition, each IW is asked to fill out an evaluation form for the church to help you make the most of your missions engagement events. This evaluation is available to you in advance as a checklist of elements to consider as you make preparations for your missions event. The district missions mobilizer will inform you of the IW's evaluation.

Missions Event Theme & Resources

www.CMAlliance.org/resources/missions/mission-docs

Each year the national office provides a missions theme to unify our focus. Resources are produced to go along with the theme such as posters, DVDs or videos available online, bulletin inserts, faith promise cards, etc. Each Alliance church will receive a package of these materials by mail to support your local missions engagement event(s). In addition, church missions leaders can usually access information about the theme and some resources via your "MyCMA" account (see below) well before the physical resources arrive. This can greatly assist your missions team in preparing for your missions engagement event(s).

Resources for Missions Team Leaders

MyCMA: www.CMAlliance.org/sign-in

As your church's official missions point person (designated in your church's annual report to the national office), you have access to a wealth of missions resources via your "MyCMA" account at www.CMAlliance.org. This includes information about the current year's missions emphasis theme, as well as links to other resources that are designed to help your church become increasingly engaged in Alliance missions. Contact the district missions mobilizers if you need

There may be three steps to developing partnership:

Step 1: Look and See (Vision or Partnership Exploration Trip)

This may lead to a deeper cross-cultural commitment or may not.

Step 2: Work Teams

The primary objective is a hands-on experience. It may lead to a long term, deeper cross-cultural commitment.

Step 3: Partnership

A long-term commitment. Long-term positive effects can be measured by an increase in GCF giving and prayer support, as well as a growing relationship with the partner.

Partnerships can be initiated by district missions mobilizers, IWs, field leaders, clusters of local churches, pastors, and/or local missions team leaders. That's you!

Questions to Ask

Some questions to ask in considering where to partner and with whom:

- Do we already have a relationship connection with an international worker who we'd like to develop deeper ties with?
- Is there an international worker who really connected with us while touring in our church?
- Is there a region of the world we're particularly interested in?
- Does our church have a special kind of ministry that might be similar to something being done overseas?
- What are the demographics of our church (the kinds of people and their special interests) that can inform what kind of overseas ministry might really click with us?

Some Things to Remember

There are three players or actors in a healthy cross-cultural partnership:

- the sending church or group
- the Alliance IW or team
- the Alliance national church in the host country (where the church has been developed)

Be Creative

You can “partner” without having a defined “partnership”. Partnering does NOT mean that you MUST make short-term trips or make huge financial contributions. Any church, no matter how small, the age of the people in the congregation or their economic situation can partner. Do the partnership activities that you are able to do! Or be creative and work together with one or two other churches with connections to the IW or field you connect with as a cluster of churches, enabling you to possibly make a trip or contribute more than you could as one congregation alone.

Short-Term Trips

Short-term trips, when planned in coordination with your international worker partner and in conjunction with their field or team strategy, can be very helpful and encouraging for both the IW and your church. For information on where to find assistance in planning a short-term trip, refer to the “Short Term Trips” section of this handbook.

Communicate Carefully

With many of our international workers functioning in creative access situations that require special consideration in regard to communication due to security risks, it is always wise to ask your international worker partner for specific instructions regarding your communication with

Booking IWs to Speak at Your Missions Event

The Central District maintains an online calendar listing the IWs who are on home assignment in (or near) our district. This calendar also lists the dates these workers are available to speak. Each May, pastors and missions team leaders receive an email with a link to this calendar and an invitation to book one IW for one three-day weekend. (When an IW is available, coordination of a longer engagement is encouraged.) If dates remain available on the calendar after all district churches have selected one speaker, an invitation to book additional IWs is sent. Churches are encouraged to engage IWs more than once a year when possible.

Churches are encouraged to select speakers from the list provided through the online calendar. However, if your church has an ongoing partnership with an IW who is not listed on the district calendar, you are welcome to book that worker for your annual missions event at your own expense.

The district missions mobilizers are responsible for documenting and reporting on missions events held in our district. As such, it is important that you inform the district missions mobilizers of any missions events (IW name and event dates) not booked through the district online calendar.

Evaluating Missions Events

Each church is to have a designated person (typically the pastor or missions team leader) complete a survey that assesses the effectiveness of the IWs who speak at their church. Your input is valuable because it encourages IWs when they do an exceptional job and allows them to hone their skills where there is room for improvement. A link to the

The Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance mandates that every Alliance church

"shall participate in the worldwide missions and church planting ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the support of the Great Commission Fund. The Governance Authority shall specify the means by which it purposes to mobilize members' involvement, including prayer, recruitment of men and women for vocational ministry both at home and abroad. A Missions Conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization shall be held each year."

For most Alliance churches, fulfillment of this mandate is not just an obligation, but also their heart's desire. The following information is provided to help to fulfill the annual "missions conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization" part of the mandate. The rest of the mandate takes place all year long and is equally, perhaps even more, important. We strongly encourage churches to have more than one missions engagement event annually and to find other means of keeping the congregation aware of and participating in missions throughout the year.

Missions engagement events not only provide us with reports of what God is accomplishing through Alliance workers and clarification of their strategies and methods, but also inspiration to become a new international worker or to become involved in partnering with existing deployed IWs.

them. Basic, general communication guidelines for CAC workers can be found in the "International Worker Care" section, but specific guidelines and preferences vary from place to place and IW to IW.

Partnership Exploration Trips

Bob and Dian Harner // dharter@cdcma.org // 330-414-0554

Because of the value our district places on churches being involved in partnerships and pastors being a major catalyst for missions engagement in their churches, the district offers Partnership Exploration Trips. A church that desires to explore a partnership in this way must submit an application to the district missions mobilizers. The district will cover the expenses (not including passports, immunizations and souvenirs) of the lead pastoral couple if at least 3 other influencers in the church commit to taking the trip with them. (The number of additional influencers who may also take the trip will depend on the limits defined by the field/IW.) The district missions mobilizers will work together with the church and the field/international workers to organize the trip, and will also accompany the group on the trip. (If you have questions about your ability to meet all the requirements, contact the district missions mobilizers. Exceptions are made at times.)

One of our privileges as Alliance people is to develop caring relationships with our international workers. For many decades the CD Missions Committee and CD Alliance Women have worked together to care for our IWs. We've done this through prayer, sending birthday and anniversary cards, letters and gifts, raising funds for special projects and outfit funds, making wordless books, rolled bandages and other ministry materials, and a variety of other creative means of caring for our IWs.

Every man, woman, and child can contribute as we band together to make sure that our IWs receive the care that will keep them on the field knowing that they are supported by their sending district! The following are a few ways that, together, we can care for our IWs.

Love Gifts (formerly Outfit Fund)

www.CDCMA.org/alliance-women

In support of the 60+ International Workers (IWs) sent out and cared for by the Central District, we ask each of our churches to send \$250 per year to Central District Alliance Women. It's our privilege to send a LOVE GIFT to the ministry bundle for every IW household. This allows our workers to use the gift in the way that most benefits their family and ministry. The gift amount will be calculated based on the size of the family.

How to Give?

Donations may be sent in a lump sum of \$250 or in smaller payments. Send gifts as is convenient for you. No specific months are suggested. Make checks payable to: CENTRAL DISTRICT, write AW Love Gift in the memo.

places like Bhutan, Burma, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A unique ministry of Envision Cleveland is providing an opportunity for IW candidates to do their Alliance Licensed Ministry Experience (ALME) in a setting that may more closely resemble the ones they'll find themselves in overseas. When IW candidates work to fulfill Alliance requirements before being sent overseas, they often serve in larger, suburban, white, middle-class churches. However, after arriving in a new country, the candidates find a much different environment than the one they just served in: usually urban, poor, cross-cultural, pioneer work or work in house churches. Envision Cleveland's ALME experience exists to give IW candidates a more applicable experience for international work. Envision Cleveland ALME's purpose is to make Christ known to and through refugees, to give experience in Christian community development and sustainable development, as well as to experience hosting short term mission teams. The Envision Cleveland ALME Experience is one of broad ministry exposure that leaves candidates better prepared to go overseas.

The following websites offer additional helpful information about ESL:

- www.pcamna.org/esl-ministries
- <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>
- www.cdxtech.com/tools/demographicdata

Envision Cleveland

www.EnvisionCleveland.org

Tom and Nicole Schmidt // 216-925-4545

Tschmidt@envisioncleveland.org // Nschmidt@envisioncleveland.org

As one of more than 20 global Envision sites, Envision Cleveland seeks to collaborate with individuals, communities, ministries and government to transform neighborhoods across Cleveland. Envision staff have identified four main internal struggles in the city including a lack of hope, family (belonging), identity, and resources. From these internal issues, it seems there are a number of external symptoms that are produced. These include poverty, crime, gangs, drugs, trafficking, mental illness, segregation, and broken homes... to name a few. In response to these, God has called Envision Cleveland to: Restore, Reconcile, and Resource.

Central District churches and individuals are welcome to join Envision Cleveland on mission as they serve neighborhoods across the city. You can volunteer, serve at a one-day event, come on a weekend or week-long trip, intern for a summer (or longer), or come long-term as a resident.

Envision Cleveland ALME

Envision Cleveland engages with refugees from 22 countries, including

Mail checks to: Central District of the C&MA, 1231 High Street, Wadsworth OH 44281

Third Culture Kids (TCK)

www.CDCMA.org/missions

Kendra Sovine // kendra.sovine@gmail.com // 910-750-8460

Some very important people in our Central District family are our TCKs—third culture kids—formerly known as MKs (missionary kids). Our purpose is to ensure that every one of these children is “adopted” by a church who will pray for them regularly and demonstrate love in creative long-distance ways. We want our IWs to know that we’re not only praying for them and the ministry God has called them to, but that we are also praying and caring for their children.

How to Adopt A TCK

- Contact the district TCK coordinator (above) for more information.
- Establish a local point person for ongoing TCK care.
- A church may choose to adopt all the children in a family or just one child.
- The district TCK coordinator will provide support and guidance to the local point person as to how to be involved in your TCK’s life.

Want to know more about Alliance Women?

- Contact Lori Turner, AW Coordinator, at lturner@cdcma.org
- CD AW on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Central-District-Alliance-Women-147557935325818/>
- National AW website: <https://www.alliancewomen.org/>

Missionary Wheels

www.CDCMA.org/missionary-wheels

Jim Boscaljon //330-414-0561 // cdam.mwheels@gmail.com

Missionary Wheels exists to provide a vehicle for IWs when they are on home assignment. This ministry is funded in two ways:

Monetary Donations (Mug Dumps)

Whether you continue to fill glass mugs with pocket change or simply write a check, Missionary Wheels appreciates your contributions. All funds received go to Missionary Wheels. To make a monetary donation, send a check (made out to “Central District” and marked “Missionary Wheels” in the memo line) to the Central District Office, 1231 High Street, Wadsworth OH 44281.

Vehicle Donations

You can donate your vehicle to help a missionary family. Donated vehicles are tax deductible! Donated late model and low mileage vehicles are used by Missionary Wheels to replace some of our older high mileage vehicles. Donated high mileage or older vehicles may be sold and the proceeds used to maintain our current vehicles.

God is bringing the nations to our neighborhoods! We need to continue to go to other lands and seize this opportunity to impact the world at our doorsteps. Here are a few ways you might get involved.

English As A Second Language (ESL)

Bruce Lyman // 614-452-2085// lymanb@cmalliance.org//
<https://cmalliance.org/our-work/church-ministries/esl/>

Alliance ESL exists to cast vision, equip, and coach local churches to launch academically sound, evangelistically focused, cost-effective, and self-sustaining ESL ministries to reach the nations in the U.S.

ESL is a powerful ministry any local church can use to share the love of Jesus with internationals through English instruction and exposure to cultural opportunities in a loving atmosphere that promotes deep relationships. This has proven to be an effective means of drawing students to a saving and growing faith in Christ.

Getting Started

Maps are available at no cost from the district office showing where populations of immigrants and refugees live in our district.

Weekend workshops are listed on the Alliance ESL website (see above). Curriculum recommendation is available to help you get started.

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