

Thanks to Bekah for assembling this special Brigada report on helps for a new mission recruit. She's 22 years old. In preparation for her work in India, she asked for your top-ten list of tips, thoughts, ideas, and principles that would help her become super-effective on the mission field. Here's the report she compiled (Thanks Bekah!). This report also shows the power of Brigada: Many in the Brigada family pitched in to help Bekah get off to a great start in cross-cultural work. God bless you for the time you took to enable her to compile this report:

#### Summary Report

#### Top 10 Tips For a Missionary- to- Be!

Hi everyone!

Thank you to everyone who participated in speaking those tidbits of wisdom, love, and encouragement to someone such as I! I seriously count each one as a precious treasure and gift from the Lord and I guarantee I will carry them with me for the rest of my life (even when life gets hard!)

I was unsure how many responses I would get or even what kind of responses I would receive. However, I was truly overwhelmed by the amount of e-mails I did receive from people! I read through each e-mail taking notes and crying as I thanked the Lord for the opportunity to sit at the feet of these missionaries and learn through the lives of the others that have gone before me.

Because I had such a tremendous response, I was unsure how to begin this summary report. I decided to write the top 10 tips that were mentioned along with several others that were given. So, here we go....

#### Top 10 List of Tips and Ideas to Keep a Person Alive on the Field: =)

##### 1. Relationship with God is KEY!

A. I received countless emails from people stating that it is true you cannot give out unless you get in. Put Him first - ALWAYS.

- Others stated that my relationship with God would see me through hard times and good times.

- People encouraged me to work on it daily and be consistent in it! Judy Gunn from Wycliffe stated it well when she said, "Our relationship with Jesus should be our #1 priority. We are in a spiritual war with the ultimate victory promised, we can win and lose daily battles with satan depending on our vital and unimpeded link to Christ. Nothing else will matter in my life if this area is not in order. You will not have an effective ministry, a clear and appealing witness, or satisfying and harmonious relationships without a deep intimate relationship with Jesus. GUARD YOUR TIME WITH GOD!"

B. Along with intimacy with God, many shared that prayer, hunger and reading of the Word is HUGE!

- I liked the way Norman from the Elijah Company put it when he said....

“Develop a hunger for the Word – Know His Word deeply and study the Bible daily. Spend time in Meditation. Base everything you know on the Word of God. God’s Word will keep you steady in hard times. It will help you to be steadfast and focused. You will be able to combat lies of the enemy when you have God’s Word hidden in your heart...We must be careful to not DO so much but spend more time BEING.”

- An anonymous friend wrote that it is helpful to especially dive into reading Proverbs where countless wisdom is gained.

C. Beyond just spending time with Jesus and reading His Word, I received tons of advice encouraging me to pursue Him in prayer! I recognized that I as a weak and broken person will never be able to save an entire nation, but recognizing I can become a partner with the Lord in saving a nation through prayer. My words will never fully change a person’s heart unless the Lord’s Breath is behind them and that can only come through consistent unceasing prayer.

- Prayer can be such a broad subject. So many facets to prayer, but many encouraged that the best way to pray is to just do it. No one fails in prayer who has prayed. Someone shared that much blessing comes through prayer and it is huge in making our ministry successful.

- Some friends in Asia stated - “You will clearly begin to see results of prayer of your years in sowing into Heaven. Make a list of big and small things. Keep pressing and believing. Prayer changes things, not always overnight, but it will!”

- When I read that, the Lord reminded me of the persistent widow and I realized how much the Lord loves the persistency in His kids. How He loves it when we partner with Him in prayer to believe for Him to move and change the nation we are in. That is what will last for all eternity!

D. I assumed that Spiritual warfare, which was another tip, could fall under Prayer. Again Norman from Elijah Company stated that although it could be different than prayer it is still wise. He said, “We have learned that the greatest way the powers of darkness attack us is through placing doubts in our minds about who we are in Christ. Accusations, condemnation, doubts of unworthiness and God’s love cause fears to mount up leading to attitudes and actions that fall short of the glory of God. Doing spiritual warfare often means coming to grips with what we are thinking and weighing it against the truth of the Word of God. Realizing the power of the blood of Christ can cancel anything sinful thing is a key to fighting the good fight and keeping the faith.”

## 2. Work on Your Character!

- I received so many tips and encouragements concerning my character and heart that I decided to

combine it under 1 tip. MaryAnn who lived in Latin America said, “ Who you are is more important than what you do!”

Many thoughts that were spoken included things such as..

A. Devotion and effort to live a Holy Life. One wrote that it is good to keep up with basic spiritual disciplines, having some sort of plan for how you will assure that you will increasingly become a disciple of Jesus and following through on most of it whenever you can, not making excuses for yourself, while being compassionate towards others.

B. Develop loveliness. There is attractiveness in Godliness.

C. Develop Spiritual maturity. This comes through trials and daily life. It is how you choose to respond that allows your heart to change and others will for sure see the way you live! Scott also stated that spiritual maturity is demonstrated in love for God, His Word, and people; integrity, spiritual sensitivity, obedience to God’s Word, teachability, experiential knowledge of spiritual disciplines, and emotional stability.

D. Develop a heart of sacrifice and endurance. Sacrifice will require us to go and do that which we may not want to do. (John 15: 13, Phil 2 were recommended for being great verses to study concerning sacrifice.) Endurance simply means that we WILL reap if we do not fail. I was reminded that our lives are not our own so push through, but be sure to hear what the Lord is saying in that moment!

E. Self Discipline – “This is shown in work habits, responsibility, promptness, and reliability.” ~ Anonymous~

F. Remain humble as well as work on being the leader the Lord has called you to be.

G. Bear the Fruit of the Spirit. ALL 9 OF THEM!

H. Last but not least Karen Bean stated “ Keep your eyes open, don’t judge, let things run off your shoulders, walk in forgiveness, find something good in every situation, and share this with the people!”

- I think as I read through many of the character qualities mentioned that are needed when overseas, I was reminded by the sermons of Jesus in Matt. 5, 6, and 7! I feel that the Lord spoke to my heart and said ‘Rebekah...if you want to live your life WELL then do as I commanded. I laid out the blue print for you. Though it will be hard, great will be your reward in Heaven!’ I felt that although I will never become perfect in my character until I make it to Heaven, it is a daily living, walking, and learning in and under His grace!!! His Grace is always enough and I have chosen that I will never stop pursuing Him or growing in His likeness daily!!!

3. Flexibility.

- I think my favorite saying that was stated in this article concerning flexibility was a saying sent in by 2 missionaries from Asia and another anonymous country
- “Blessed are the flexible for they shall not break or be bent out of shape”
- “Relax. Enjoy the journey; don’t take it all so serious, go with the flow!” ~Anonymous~
- One missionary stated that without being flexible, you would end up returning home disappointed and unfulfilled. Recognize that things won’t always go YOUR way...Let the Lord do the leading.
- Galen from Africa stated that flexibility is simply “Thy will be done oh Lord, NOT mine!”

#### 4. Confirmation of Call.

- I was quite surprised to find this being one of the top 10 tips mentioned, but as I read what others had to say, it caused me to question the Lord and ask for ONE MORE confirmation that I was to go to India. I told the Lord that if He told me one more time then I would never question it again. Lo and behold, 2 weeks later, someone I did not know came up to me during church and said, “The Lord said that the answer to your question is yes!” I looked at her and she stated, yet again, “Honey, you have been asking the Lord a question!” As I looked at her, somewhat dumbfounded, she smiled and said bluntly “YES! You will go to the nations!” I began sobbing because I was shocked that..well..shocked that the Lord actually heard and answered that prayer! Crazy, huh? HAHA!
- Many of the reasons we were encouraged to confirm our calling is because -
  - “Without confirmation of a strong call, you could leave the field early.... Ask God for a clear call – even in this “postmodern” world, He can still give you one! ~ Anonymous ~
  - “Have a clear sense of God’s call – evidence in both sustained endurance and sustained fruitfulness”. ~ Scott, Ukraine ~
  - “Sense a clear call to GO and serve the King of Kings.” ~ Anonymous ~
- “Know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has called you to a specific people, NOT a job. It will be your love for the people that will sustain you in those moments of heartache, homesickness, and hassle from government.” ~ Anonymous ~
- “Receive Confirmation through your church leadership
- Acts 13:1-2 is a good example of how the church leaders could be hearing from the Lord. The same spirit who spoke 2,000 years ago still speaks. The same purpose and plan stands. Therefore, if we are listening, we will be hearing. Seek the Lord for confirmation especially through your Church leadership.” ~ Norman, Elijah Company ~
- THEN after all is said, “COMMIT TO YOUR CALL!” ~

John, Latin America ~

- "Take ownership of your vision. By that I mean don't be a victim. Don't put it back on your mission agency, church or team. God called YOU. A calling is a holy thing. Stand on that! Fight for your success. In prayer, fasting, whatever it takes to win. Don't 'TRY' it, commit to it!" ~ Anonymous, Asia ~

#### 5. Pre-Field Training.

- Many recommended that it is wise to begin to get pre-field/cultural training. Down below I have included a list of links and organizations that have proven helpful for people that have left to go overseas.

- Others recommended that beyond taking classes, etc, I should also study as many books as possible and not just on my specific nation of choice, but more so on culture in general. It helps you prepare to interact and communicate well with various cultures.

- Someone shared that many missionaries have left the field early specifically due to the fact that they simply weren't cross- culturally trained.

- Pete who is a coordinator for the Luke 10 missions internship program of MUP (Mission to Unreached Peoples) (website down below) stated, "pre -training is valuable. He shared that training should include elements such as language and culture acquisition, ministry skills, prayer, interpersonal skills, how to feed oneself from the Word, etc."

#### 6. Learn the Language.

- I know many of you were wondering when language learning would be included in this list of top 10s.

I, also was not shocked by how much was spoken to me concerning the language, however, what I was amazed by was the various thoughts regarding when and how to learn the language.

- Many missionaries wrote in and encouraged the importance of beginning to learn the language NOW before I go, while others recommended the wisdom in doing things I only can learn now in America and wait to study the language once I reach my designated country. I see wisdom in both sides and found myself unable to decide which one was correct. I came to my conclusion that it is wise to study the language now, but don't stress out if you aren't fully fluent by the time you reach there if you choose to set your heart in studying other things before you go. It is true that language will usually come easier when you are living in that country 24/7.

- A fellow missionary also shared the importance of going in as a learner and how it is often better for you to go in as a "teachable newcomer" than as one "knowing it all"

- Even others stated the wisdom in spending from 1- 2

years specifically studying the language once you reach your country of choice and not even consider doing ministry until that is finished.

- So what is right? WHO KNOWS! They all have wisdom and truth in them! All I know is...I am going to start praying now for God to supernaturally download Bengali language into my brain! All of this language stresses me out, but as one that has a desire to work with the poor, I know I MUST know the language in order to form a deep relationship with those I come in contact with! "Oh Lord, help me! =)

#### 7. Support Team.

- Support teams can come in various ways. I received emails concerning a support team in your home country (financially and spiritually) as well as a support team I would work with overseas.

- Norman from Elijah Company stated the importance of building a support team. "Relationships are key to any ministry. 90% of everything we do in ministry has to do with relationships. We are not individuals with an isolated call. We are members of a body. Each individual should have 20-30 close relationships. These are people who feel connected in heart and mind with your vision and call for missions. There are different approaches to developing these teams. When you minister to people, they begin to sense the call you have on your life and will more readily volunteer to support you in prayer and finances."

- An Anonymous friend stated that it is important for adequate prayer covering. He recommended a person try to get 100 people to commit to pray for you daily!

- Galen from Africa shared the importance in being able to put together and communicate with and trust needs to a prayer team and for the importance of being accountable to others whether they are at home, on the field, or even the nationals!)

- Greg from Africa mentioned the importance of our parents in our lives and to never take them for granted, but to recognize the huge affects they have played and continue to play in our lives. Let's face it...it is true that without Mom and Dad, a majority of us wouldn't be where and who we are today!!!

- On top of the importance of prayer and financial support, I received a ton of emails regarding the importance of having mentors in my life as a support. Karen Bean said, "Have someone in your life you can trust that you can talk to, ask questions of, just share your frustrations and joys. Missionaries generally fail to have that person due to fear of lost of support or respect, but we are human and need someone, no matter how old or how long you have been on the field. DEVELOP THAT RELATIONSHIP. It could be someone at home or someone in the country. Someone you can trust and will not judge you!"

- Pete from MUP (Missionary to Unreached People organization) stated not only the importance of having a missionary mentor before going, but also the importance of having one while overseas. Possibly a retired missionary?
  - Mark from Pakistan stated not only the importance of having a mentor but more importantly a close friend actually in that culture!!! “..One who is totally open and honest with you. One to whom you can ask “what did I do wrong?: and will give you the straight goods. One who will correct you to your face ( not in front of others.) One who is perceptive to their own culture and can provide good advice in puzzling situations. Being a cross cultural minister means that you are working blind and need someone to interpret the context for you.”
  - On top of the importance of mentors, it was also made known to me the importance of relationships with your teams. I heard that over 70% of missionaries leave the field early and most of it is due to poor relationships with your team!
  - I was encouraged to be a part of a team with the same goals and visions. Continually working on those relationships and staying on the same page as one another is vital.
- Janice from NZ shared that when a conflict arises to quickly bring it before the Lord and keep doing so until a resolution is made.
- Also, Guard your heart from any bitterness or resentment towards your team!

#### 8. Take Time for Others.

- I received one of the most heartwarming emails from Teresa who lived in Russia. She shared a story about a girl named E. E followed Teresa everywhere and was her shadow. E loved Teresa so much that she would randomly show up at her house sometimes uninvited. Although Teresa is an extremely introverted person, she asked the Lord for grace to love. To make a long story short, E gave her life to Jesus and is now preparing to become a Bible translator. Teresa taught me the importance of being gracious about intrusions on my personal space. She shared that it is good to be the best friend you can be to the people God brings your way. She said that quite often our patient, caring love for them could lead them to Christ!
- Galen from Africa explained the importance of relinquishing our personal right to Jesus.
- John from Japan shared the importance of talking to strangers. He said that many times we become so busy creating programs for them instead of reaching out directly to them, which oftentimes proves to be more effective.
- Several others shared the importance of building friendships with the locals especially the children!
- Ohh and don't forget discipling!

## 9. Take Breaks!

- I was encouraged of the importance to work hard, but also the importance of knowing it is ok to rest!
- “Don’t try to work too hard. That might sound strange, but what I mean is that many missionaries run around at 100 miles an hour trying to do everything and reach everyone. Their zeal is commendable, but it leads to burnout and a rapid decamp back home for the missionary. Recognize we are mortal human beings who cannot do it ALL. Try not to work too hard.” ~ Stephen, anonymous ~

## 10. Embrace the Culture.

- So, we have finally reached our final tip. This was a huge one and there was so much information that I have had quite a time trying to organize this one. I will simply just put some phrases people stated that helped me.
  - “Cultural Intuition – demonstrated in a developing cross cultural sensitivity, not repeating cultural faux pas and incisive cultural observation skills.” ~ Scott, Ukraine ~
  - “...Come to not only understand, but appreciate the culture, then you can find way to share in a culturally relevant way.” ~ Maureen ~
  - “Work hard to be culturally sensitive while being Biblically faithful. Really getting below the skin surface of the culture---figuring out how they think and feel and how they interpret the messages we try to send. Then adjusting your lifestyle, method, and communication accordingly.” ~ Anonymous ~
  - Leave your culture behind! Get to know their culture, embrace it where possible and become like the people as much as you can – Jesus identified with us and we must do the same where we serve in Gods vineyard! ~ Stephen, anonymous ~
  - Develop cultural empathy and etiquette. Empathy is ability to understand and share feelings of others. Etiquette is what are good and acceptable forms of manners in a given culture. ~ Norman, Elijah Company ~
- Also, remember to never have a superior attitude towards others. They are precious to Jesus and we must look at them the same way! ( Rom. 12: 2, 2 Cor. 3:18) ~ Ron, Director of a Bible school ~
- Other recommendations were to always go as a learner and to remember to evangelize to the heart language of the people to whom you minister to!

There were various other tips given, but those above were the top 10. Other tips mentioned were...

- Prepare NOW. Get a visa, passport, support, etc!
- Stay on guard with your emotions and heart!
- Learn to communicate well!
- Keep a long-term perspective. In other words, keep

the main thing, the main thing. (IE: Gospel!)

- If you are single...watch out for loneliness!!!!
- DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH! IT IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEART!
- I think 2 of my most favorite ones were sent in by  
2 missionaries –
- One stated the importance of learning how to breathe through your mouth instead of your nose because of some of the awful smells you encounter.
- FINALLY, Alan who shared something I will remember for all my years to come. "I'll put it down Lord if you'll keep it down! (for food your host provided!) HAHA! =)

I have been extremely blessed, moved, and provoked through these many emails, tips, and encouragement I received from all of you amazing people out there! You are great and I am glad that I am running this race with you! Thank you for blessing me! I am honored! I love all of you precious brothers and sisters and if we don't meet on this side of earth, I can't wait to stand beside you in Heaven! IT WILL BE GREAT! Keep doing what your doing! The Lord is pleased and He loves you! Strength and grace to you, my friends!!!!

Love always,

Rebekah

P.S. If anyone comes to India, I would be honored to have you stay with me!!! I would love it! =)

Down below are links, books, ministries, and organizations that were sent to me. It is an honor for me to share these with you as well! May they be as helpful to you as many of them have been to me already!!!!

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#### Elijah Company News

- Missionary Training Camp - January 25-28, 2007 - This will be held at Living Waters Farm, Virginia. The camps are informative and anointed. They will impel you to the field, jump-start your call and bring you to an open door. These times of training have ministered to over 180 people, many of whom are ministering in various parts of the world. For information, see the web site [www.elijahcompany.org](http://www.elijahcompany.org) or write to [elijah@elijahcompany.org](mailto:elijah@elijahcompany.org) or call 757-226-3507.

- Elijah Company Training Materials - To order either a complete set of our DVDs from the Missionary Trainings Camp or the individual session on dealing with strongholds, write to us at [elijah@elijahcompany.org](mailto:elijah@elijahcompany.org). The complete set costs \$95. The individual session cost \$20. The Missionary

Training Camp manual is also for sale for \$25. Our e-books entitled Go Forth in Power and Intercessors Arise and Intercessors Arise II are also available on our website.

- America 24-7 Prayer - We are now beginning preparations for a month of 24-7 day and night prayer in March before the 400th anniversary of America.

This will be three 24-7 Houses of Prayer simultaneously at the birthplace of America in the cities of Richmond, Williamsburg and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Please pray for us. For information, see the blogsite [www.america247.blogspot.com](http://www.america247.blogspot.com).

- Financial donations - To give a donation for the ministry of Elijah Company and Intercessors Arise, contact us first by e-mail and we'll ask you what would be easiest for you. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To subscribe to the Elijah Company Mentorship Network for missionary mentorship, click [elijahcompany-mentorshipnetwork-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org](mailto:elijahcompany-mentorshipnetwork-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org)

To subscribe to Intercessors Arise, click and send a blank e-mail [intercessorsarise-international-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org](mailto:intercessorsarise-international-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org)

To subscribe to 24/7 Prayer Arise, click and send a blank e-mail [24-7prayerarise-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org](mailto:24-7prayerarise-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org)

To subscribe to Health Arise, click and send a blank e-mail [Health-arise-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org](mailto:Health-arise-subscribe@strategicnetwork.org)

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Recommended Training

Luke 10 missions  
Internship program of Mission to Unreached Peoples  
([www.mup.org/luke10.htm](http://www.mup.org/luke10.htm)).

Pete Errington

Luke 10 Coordinator

[www.mup.org/luke10.htm](http://www.mup.org/luke10.htm)

(509) 483-4792

Mission to Unreached Peoples

P.O. Box 30947

Seattle, WA 98113

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come." – Jesus

Cross Cultural Impact.

<http://www.nbseminary.com/cci.htm>

World Perspectives.

[www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org)

Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies.  
[www.worldview.edu.au](http://www.worldview.edu.au)

Center for Intercultural Training, Union Mills, N.C.  
[www.-cit-online.org](http://www.-cit-online.org)

WEC International  
[www.wec-int.org](http://www.wec-int.org)

Ministry Support (Paul)  
[www.MinistryHome.org](http://www.MinistryHome.org)

Recommended organizations

[www.YWAM.org](http://www.YWAM.org)

[www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org)

[www.wordmadeflesh.org](http://www.wordmadeflesh.org)

Recommended reading and language study material.

M Foyle, Honorably Wounded: stress among Christian Workers.

R. Lwasko, Some Underlying Causes of First Term Problems

Mo Loss, Culture Shock: Dealing With Stress in Cross-Cultural living.

J. Dennett, Thriving in Another Culture: A Handbook for Cross-Cultural Missions.

H Deane, Staying Missionary

[www.eri.org](http://www.eri.org) (Emmaus Road International)

\*\* I think God Wants Me to be a Missionary

Serving as Senders

(These books and many more can be found at ERI!)

[www.nationtonation.org](http://www.nationtonation.org) (Karen Bean)

\*\* A Comprehensive Guide to Missions

(This book is highly recommended!)

[www.rosettastone.com](http://www.rosettastone.com)

(One of the best language learning kits available!!!)

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