

# short-term service

## Short-Term Service Directory

The most comprehensive directory of opportunities in short-term service with details of programmes in the UK and abroad.

As well as programme information from scores of organisations, the publication includes feature stories, testimonies, and details of additional resources.

It is indexed by type of work, duration and location to make it user-friendly for you.

Published annually.

Price: Free - postage £2.50

directory

## STS Workbook

Many people are discovering the benefits and challenges of taking time out and serving on a short-term basis with a Christian organisation. This booklet has been written to help you prepare for, and make the most of your Short Term Service. The style is easy to use, coming in an A4 format, with space for your notes and responses to the issues raised. You can either use this for personal study, or in a small group setting.

Price: £2.00 plus 50p Post and Packing (extra outside the UK)

For further information regarding the short-term service directory and the short-term workbook, or to order your copy, contact below.

workbook

Further copies of Guideline leaflets can be obtained from Christian Vocations online or at the address below.

[www.christianvocations.org](http://www.christianvocations.org) ( in the **RESOURCES** section )

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# Preparing to leave school

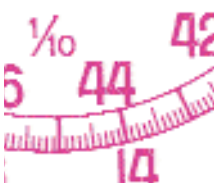
Some advice for those who believe that God is calling them to work overseas.

God can call people into new areas of service at any time in their life. God's call to us can at times surprise us and we are left wondering how to respond. This leaflet gives some practical ideas on how to prepare to answer the call to work overseas, whatever age you are.

The ideas outlined here are by no means the only ways in which God might lead you. He is able to use all your experiences to equip you for service. The key is to remain open to God, trusting that he will lead and guide you throughout your life.

Whatever stage you are at, Christian Vocations is here to give advice and help. You may want to think further about the gifts and skills you have to offer, or talk to someone about your situation face to face. If this is where you find yourself at the moment then you may find our **designate** programme of help ([www.christianvocations.org/designate](http://www.christianvocations.org/designate))

releasing God's people into God's work



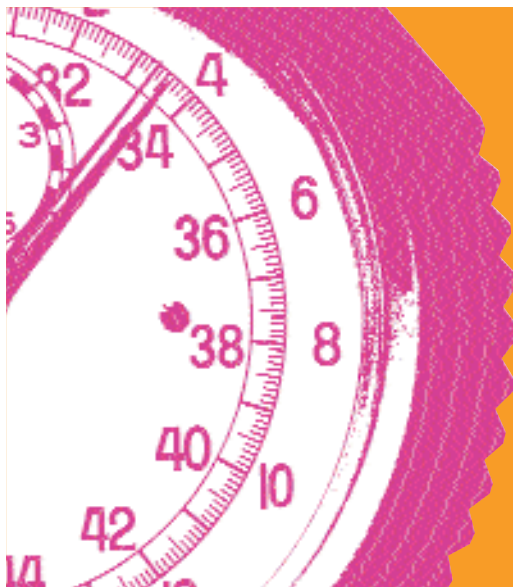
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## Using the time you have at school:

This is a good time to prove your faithfulness in small things, to grow in self-discipline and to learn to stand in the truth of your faith. None of these things are necessarily easy, but God will give you the desires of your heart as you remain open to his will and guidance.

### Things you can do to prepare yourself while you're still at school...

- Get the best school results that you can - give work a high priority, but don't give up on sports and hobbies.
- Help at your church. Be regular in attendance and be willing to become involved as appropriate opportunities arise.
- Keep close to God through times of prayer and Bible study - daily if possible.
- Be in touch with a missionary, missionary family or Christian worker - pray for them. If you don't know any personally contact a mission agency for ideas.
- Ask God to show you how he wants to prepare you for his work.
- Subscribe to the magazine or newsletter of an agency that interests you and get to know about it.
- Enjoy your relationships with your friends and work at them so that you learn how to be part of a team.
- If you can, learn some practical skills like vehicle maintenance and repair, typing, printing, computers etc. Always useful in life wherever you are.
- Talk about your thoughts and feelings on your future with older Christians who have some knowledge of missionary work.



## As you prepare to leave school

The Lord may lead in many ways...

- into an immediate job
- into vocational training
- into training for a normal profession
- to a university/college course and a degree

If you believe that God is calling you to missionary and theological training and NOT to any secular training, it might still be a good idea to do some secular work for at least two years, which will give you valuable experience.

Go on with your education/training as far as you can, and get a good qualification. This will make it easier to get into another country when the time comes. Some countries will only issue visas to people with recognised qualifications.

If you go on to further education, most training colleges and institutions have Christian Unions. Get involved with these. Lasting friendships can be made there which will stand you in good stead when you are adjusting to a totally new environment overseas.

If you leave home for college or uni, keep in touch with your **home church** and its leaders. Continue to **share with them** your experience of the Lord's leading, and listen to their advice.

The **advice** of other family members and friends who know you well is also very worthwhile. Take time to ask them what they think and listen to them.

Take quality time to **listen to God** - seek him and keep your relationship with him strong. Work at **your prayer life** and keep involved with a local church, preferably one that is lively and active in the community. Start systematic Bible study, for example using something like 'Cover to Cover' by Gerry Mathisen or something similar.

Get **more involved** with a mission agency. Attend any special events that it is running. Meet people who work for them and chat with them.

Think about getting involved in mission through **short-term programmes** during the summer holiday or by taking a year out. Consult the Short-Term Service Directory (see over) for details of 100s of projects.

People of all ages and backgrounds are able to find job opportunities overseas, but there are always a number of hurdles that need to be overcome as you prepare to go.

Be ready for delays and disappointments. The preparation process may take a long time, but time spent doing things well now will pay off in the long run.

