

### 13. How will the Leaders of local Pre-Candidate Fellowships be trained?

A special seminar is being developed to train anyone who wants to volunteer to help lead a local Pre-Candidate Fellowship. Of course, they must be a pre-candidate themselves and we recommend a leader and a co-leader for each club. Regionally, regular meetings of those local club leaders could be arranged in the future so that they can share ideas, resources and encourage one another in their role as leaders.

### 14. How do I join?

At this time there is a need for many leader members to catch this vision and start local clubs. So if no club exists in your city or church, then prayerfully consider starting one. The most important thing for every member is the commitment you will make to the other members of your club to encourage them by faithful participation until each one of you joins a mission agency.

### Content Ideas for PCF Monthly Meetings

Each local club will choose their own content. The following is just a brief list of possible ideas. The actual possibilities are unlimited. The more important thing is the ongoing encouragement from the members and the relationship you build with each other as a group.

- Discuss your progress in preparation towards become a missionary and choosing an agency.
- Have members share about their visit to a mission agency and what they learned.
- Give a presentation on your vision and dream for the kind of mission work you want to do.
- Invite missionaries to come and then ask them questions about how to prepare to be a missionary.
- Invite mission agency directors and staff to present about their agencies.
- Select articles or chapters in the Perspectives book to further discuss and learn from.
- Pray for unreached people groups.
- Read together about countries from Operation World then discuss how to reach them and PRAY.
- Learn how you can find your own personal mentor using the Operation Launch mentor training program.
- Invite experts to speak on specialized topics related to your target people group or ministry.
- And many, many other possibilities, which you and the other members can recommend.

## Join or start a Future Missionary Club at your church or with Perspectives alumni in your area.



**Future Missionary Club is a type of Pre-Candidate Fellowship. Pictured above is the prototype group meeting since 2003.**

### Need more information?

Please contact the PCF Leadership Team:

Email:

Phone:



*Need encouragement on your next steps towards joining a mission agency?*

# Future Missionary Club

A Pre-Candidate Fellowship (PCF)

### ***What is the Pre-Candidate Fellowship?***

A fellowship group made for those who want to be career missionaries but have not yet chosen an agency. It is not an academic or training class, but rather a fellowship of pre-candidates meeting to help each other get to the mission field.

#### ***Pre-Candidate:***

This means a person who has not yet chosen a mission agency to join. Once you join an agency, you will then be a candidate (a new member of a mission agency who is being trained by that agency to become an official missionary with that agency).

#### ***Fellowship:***

This is a fellowship, meaning a gathering of people with the same heart, vision and commitment, regularly in an ongoing basis. In this sense, it is much like other fellowship groups, which never stop meeting.

#### ***Realities about Career Missionary Preparation:***

1. The average missionary on the field today took 7-10 years from decision to joining an agency.
2. There is no structure that exists to regularly encourage pre-candidates during those entire 7-10 years.
3. After 7 years, only 10% of mission conference decision makers join agencies, 90% change their mind.

#### ***What the Pre-Candidate Fellowship is:***

- A place where you can be encouraged and encourage others during the long preparation years.
- A monthly meeting with the content designed by the members based on their preparation needs.
- A fellowship group with others who are committed to lifetime (career) service as missionaries.
- A place where you can think, pray, learn about and then take action on further steps of preparation.
- A local club that is owned and operated by the members who serve as the leaders.

#### ***What the Pre-Candidate Fellowship is NOT:***

- It is not training.
- It is not a program with a start and stop date.
- It is not run by a mission agency.

#### ***Pre-Candidate Fellowship Purpose Statement***

The Pre-Candidate Fellowship exists for one purpose: to continuously help and encourage pre-candidates until they join mission agencies.

### ***Questions and Answers about PCF***

#### ***1. Who is running this program?***

Other pre-candidates who have a vision to help each other join mission agencies. In the future, we hope to develop an Advisory Board made up of mission agency leaders and others committed to the PCF vision.

#### ***2. How much does it cost?***

Each local club will decide on membership dues based on the content they choose each month.

#### ***3. When does it start and when does it finish?***

New members can join whenever they meet the requirements. Current members leave upon joining agencies, even if that is many years from now!

#### ***4. What kind of training will I receive?***

The focus is not on training but rather learning about yourself and the variety of options and opportunities for further training. We believe you will learn a great deal from each other and from guests you choose to invite to your monthly meeting. Through this process you can discover, plan and take action on future training steps.

#### ***5. What are the entry requirements?***

The most important requirement is that you are sure God has called you to be a missionary and you have committed to career mission service. Other requirements are: at least one short term cross-cultural mission experience, graduation from PSP, currently serving at your local church, and willingness to meet with a personal mentor. We also suggest you complete any pre-candidate program offered by your home church.

#### ***6. When can new members join?***

Every month new members can join as long as they meet the entry requirements.

#### ***7. When do I graduate?***

There is no stop date or graduation. The goal and purpose is to join a mission agency. You are encouraged to participate in your local PCF club until you actually join a sending agency, even if that is several

years from now. So, members don't graduate from a program or school but rather, they join mission agencies.

#### ***8. What will we do at the monthly PCF meetings?***

The content for the actual monthly meetings will be decided by the pre-candidates in each local PCF club. So if you join, you can suggest content that fits your needs and that will help you towards joining an agency. (see suggestion list at end)

#### ***9. Can I start a PCF Club in my church?***

We very much encourage two types of PCF clubs. For the many pre-candidates from smaller churches, we will have Pre-Candidate Fellowship clubs made of members from many churches. Also, church-based clubs where there are at least 10-15 pre-candidates, can form one or several clubs based on the numbers of pre-candidates. Both kinds of clubs will be limited to 15 members or less.

#### ***10. My friend wants to join but does not meet one of the entry requirements?***

No problem, simply encourage them to do what they need to join (take PSP, go on a short-term, volunteer to serve at their church). Later, in 6-12 months they will most likely be ready to join!

#### ***11. When and where will we meet?***

The day of the week, time and location will be arranged by the members, a few of which will serve as the leaders for each local club. They will check schedules and arrange a place to meet.

#### ***12. Why do Pre-Candidate Fellowships meet monthly rather than weekly, quarterly or annually?***

When you were in college you may have attended a weekly campus fellowship group. Now you probably participate in your local church singles group, which also meets weekly. Most pre-candidates are very busy people, so a monthly fellowship meeting is more practical than weekly (and of course you should continue to participate in your weekly singles group at your church). But, we feel that once every year or even once every 6 months is not enough to build a close relationship with the other members. Monthly seems just right!