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## Training for today's key challenges for gospel mission across the globe

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### Missionary Training

1. The Argentinean Experience
2. Why cross-cultural missionary training is necessary?
3. Trends and needs in missions training

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### The Argentinean Experience

- The Church has changed (Global South)
- There are many indigenous missionary movements
- The missionary task-force now comes "from anywhere to anywhere"
- The Church is being impacted by Globalization

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### The Argentinean Experience

**The Brethren movement**

- British missionaries arrived in Argentina in 1882
- The pioneers came to Argentina to work with British-owned railway companies
- Many Brethren assemblies in Argentina were planted following railway lines
- They used early globalization (transportation networks, naval technology, commercial treaties, postal services, literacy tools) to fulfill the Great Commission

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### The Argentinean Experience

**Assemblies in 1905. 7**

**Assemblies in 1911. 23**

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### The Argentinean Experience

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### The Argentinean Experience

- Currently there are 80 missionaries in Argentina and 19 involved in cross-cultural mission service
- Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Honduras, Canada, Spain, Morocco, Angola, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea
- FEMA - A nonprofit, faith-based service organization to serve missionaries in Argentina and in cross-cultural missions overseas. ([www.fema.org.ar](http://www.fema.org.ar))

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### The Argentinean Experience

- Mobilize each congregation toward missions
- Communication - Prayers bulletins & mission information (email network, FB groups, Prayer groups)
- Mission seminars, workshops, conferences
- Elders & Leaders trainings
- Visa applications, flight tickets, vaccines
- Exploratory trips
- Assistance on funds transfers and fundraising
- NEXT STEP → Missionary Training Program

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### The Argentinean Experience

CeCaBíM, the first Biblical and Missionary Training Center in Argentina. Is a ministry identified with the Brethren Assemblies. Its purpose is to train and equip believers with the missionary call. This ministry offers to the church, a program based on biblical foundations with a theoretical-practical system of learning. Additionally, a cross-cultural training is offered for those who God is calling to serve in different parts around the globe. The program offers a face-to-face training complemented with online access to perform homework and tests.

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

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### The Argentinean Experience

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### WHY CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARY TRAINING IS NECESSARY?

- People in different places think and see the world differently
- The mission field is characterized for having:
  - A different culture. - Another language. - A different people group.
- Candidates need training to understand how to interact with the people they are going to serve
- We need to know how to communicate God's truth in a way they will understand.
- Challenge – "Do mission without conquering"

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## TRENDS AND NEEDS IN MISSIONS TRAINING

### Candidate characteristics

- Mission candidates have varied backgrounds, ages, capacities, learning styles, therefore, require different amounts and types of preparation.
- Candidates seem to have less biblical and theological knowledge and understanding today than in past years. Many of them lack spiritual disciplines.
- Candidates are all over the place in terms of maturity, but in general many of them exhibit a more limited ability to know how to order the private world, whether physically or emotionally.

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## TRENDS AND NEEDS IN MISSIONS TRAINING

### Training Aspects

- Learners seek to access training freely, anytime and anywhere. They desire training paced over shorter blocks of time.
- There also seems to be a significant increase in training being done by distance. The missionary program may offer online and virtual learning environments.
- Learning in community / cohorts is highly valued by this generation of workers.
- Mentoring the first year or transitional year missionaries (online).
- Learning by practice. Some basic teaching followed by role play, case studies, or interactions with people.

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## TRENDS AND NEEDS IN MISSIONS TRAINING

### Cross-cultural Needs

- The importance of language acquisition skills is something that must be strengthened (Specially English).
- Security issues are a growing concern. There is a need for having professionals teaching about this issue.
- Candidates with short term cross-cultural experiences may have unrealistic expectations about long term service.
- There is a great need for counseling missionaries pre- and on the field, both singles and families.
- Candidates should be prepared to work under national leadership, or cross-cultural teams that already exist in the countries of service.

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## TRENDS AND NEEDS IN MISSIONS TRAINING

### Ministry Topics and Needs

- Muslim/immigrant ministry understanding and methodology.
- Orality training, or other ministry specific training.
- Help or training in Islam or contextualization.
- Training in projects management.

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## TRENDS AND NEEDS IN MISSIONS TRAINING

### Missionary Care

- Team building exercises where there is conflict to solve and having to deal with poor leadership and unrealistic demands.
- Conflict resolution. Self-care and member care.
- Continued spiritual formation and personal development.
- The need of learning that 'suffering' and 'pain' actually is part of life and ministry service.
- Debriefing for missionaries as well as their children.
- Return/re-entry culture shock issues and how to handle such stresses.
- It is proved statistically that there is a large percentage of missionaries' children who do not continue in ministry. Many of them have wounds or anger because of their parents' service.

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## QUESTIONS

- How European countries are preparing in order to reach countries where missionaries are not welcomed anymore?
- What are the needs churches in Eastern Europe I are facing to reach people with the Gospel?, How other countries can contribute with this task?
- Is there a real need for evangelism in sub-Saharan Africa or do these countries need teachers instead of evangelists? Shall we train students to fulfill that role?
- What is the role for Latin American believers who God is calling to missionary work?

### QUESTIONS

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- What about the needs on the 10/40 window? Should we prepare our students to go only to Muslim countries?
- What can we do with people who want to reach refugees? Is the best option to send them to Europe? Are there some churches or agencies that our students can be in contact with?
- What should be the involvement of well-known missionary support agencies such as Echoes or GLO, others with missions training schools in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Australia?
- Shall we pursue a partnership with them?

### QUESTIONS

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- Is their role only to contribute financially to some projects?
- Could these institutions (because of their history and experience) help our missionary training program by receiving students and training them for a short period of time?
- Is it possible to create a mentorship program that will allow our students to interact with retired missionaries or former members of missions board of trustees?