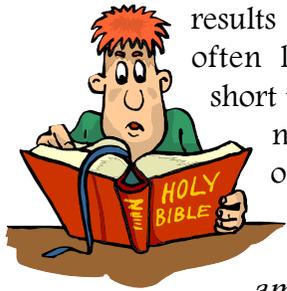


Ability to Endure Hardness

The candidate must be able to cope with the immediate drop in standards, housing, hygiene, etc.. The hours you could be asked to work may be long and difficult.

Patience



The person who expects results in a short time will often leave the field in a short time, if the work does not live up to their own expectation.

What is needed is people who say, *"I am committed to this situation, to gently and patiently serve this people for the time I am going to be here."* In some cases it may not even be the case of *"sowing the seed, but surveying the land before ploughing can begin."*

Drive, Enthusiasm, Initiative

South America is in need of people who can throw themselves into the work, plan, execute, follow up, keep at it with energy and ingenuity until it is done. You must have the ability to lead, and the humility to be led.

A Spirit of Co-Operation

The candidate must have an ability to get on with others whether they are nationals or mission partners. Usually the most

successful candidate is the one who is peaceful and can work within a team. A sense of humour is a very useful attribute.

And Finally...

This leaflet is a guide for the candidate and the Society as they work together to find God's will for a short or long term placement. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the candidate and the Society need to know the answers to all these questions before a decision to go or be sent can be made. When the facts are known the decision must be made by balancing the two truths - God wants the best and God can use us despite our weaknesses.

Above all throughout this process pray and seek the guidance of God. Speak with close Christian friends, your minister, etc., so that you can be sure that the call is from God and not your own.

If you would like any further information or would like to speak to someone more in depth, please contact:

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WHOSE CALL IS IT? ANYWAY?



The SAMS Ireland Guide to assessing God's will for Overseas Service

Whose Call is it Anyway?

This leaflet has been produced to help the candidate decide on whether or not it is right for him or her to seek selection for short term or long term service. There are certain requirements necessary for those who are considering serving overseas, whether it is in a short term or long term capacity. Listed below are some of the criteria which all prospective candidates should prayerfully and honestly consider.



Spiritual Qualifications

The candidate must have a relationship with God. The greatest and most essential qualification for service is spiritual.

There are five necessary qualifications:

- You must have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.
- You must be able to say *“I am here in South America by the will of God doing what He wants me to do.”* Once you can no longer say that, you might as well go home.
- You must have a strong disciplined devotional life. Daily private prayer, Bible study, worship, all must be part of the habits of life. Much of the spiritual back up taken for granted at home may be absent in South America. Who will minister to you? Who will keep a check

on your spiritual life? This could fall to you.

- You must have the desire and ability to love. The people you will be working with will be able to forgive much, if they see that you can love them.
- You must have experience within your own home church and be known for being a servant and worker. If these qualities are not prevalent and in evidence in your home church, it will be difficult to serve within the South American context.

Physical Qualifications.

Good consistent all round health is important because life in South America is generally harder than in Ireland. This is due in particular to the climate and a health service which is different from home, not to mention the expense of drugs and surgery.

Academic Qualifications

While no-one who has a definite call, will be turned away, a certain level of intelligence is a must. All mission partners need four things:

- General intelligence.
- A good working knowledge of the Word of God and related disciplines.
- A firm understanding of the principles and practice of Mission.

- The willingness to learn the language and culture of the country he or she will be placed in.

Personal Qualities

In this area the candidate **MUST** be open and frank with themselves, it could save a lot of heart-ache in the future. The qualities listed below are really essential for overseas service. A trusted friend could be useful in helping you to assess these qualities in your personality.

Emotional Stability

The volunteer/ mission partner may face pressures and frustrations, often without adequate Christian fellowship. The candidate needs to be mature and stable, a rock to lean on, rather than one who leans on others.

Adaptability

Some people are *“set in their ways”* and do not adapt easily to change. In South America **inflexibility** would be disastrous. The candidate will be going to a culture and a society which will be practically alien to them. You could arrive not even knowing where you will stay for the initial period. You will have to fit in.

You are the one who must change, not those around you.

