Meet a missionary: Toolkit

Introduction
This toolkit is designed to guide leaders to facilitate a session in which young people explore the concept of ‘mission’, interview a missionary via the internet or in person and reflect on what this means for their own lives.

Aim
To explore the concept of ‘mission’ through an encounter with a missionary.

Objectives
- To give young people time and space to think about what mission means to them in their own lives.
- To foster a “missionary attitude”, affirming and challenging young people in their everyday actions.
- To enrich a young person’s understanding of what ‘faith in action’ looks like around the world.

Age range: 10+ with scope for differentiation
Group size: 10-20
Duration: Approx 60-90 mins. Includes suggestions for additional preparation activities.

If your young people will be interviewing the missionary via Skype, you will need:

1. A computer with a web cam, microphone (most laptops have these built in) and speakers.
2. Skype downloaded on your computer and a free Skype account
3. Projector and screen/wall.
4. You may want to put credit on your Skype account and take down a phone number for the missionary so that if the internet fails, you can continue the interview via phone (calling international numbers via Skype is significantly cheaper than calling from a British landline or mobile).

Please make sure you have a free Skype account. For this project, missionaries will not be using ‘Skype for business’.

To set up an account, please visit Skype’s website.
Preparation for leader

Contacting the missionary

1. Look at the missionary profiles and choose which missionary you’d like to contact about an interview.
   Things to consider:
   - Are you looking for something specific? Perhaps a particular topic such as inter-religious dialogue or climate change, or a certain area of the world?
   - The time difference where the missionary is based.
2. In order to initiate contact, complete the online form on the missionary’s page. If you have any trouble getting in touch with the missionary, please email education@cmu.org.uk
3. To make arrangements, schedule a pre-session call with the missionary before the workshop with your group.
   Your discussion might include:
   - The topics and themes your young people might cover in their interview questions
   - The background of your young people
   - Agreeing expectations; this is a one-off learning encounter. There shouldn’t be any additional requests from the school or missionary in terms of on-going commitments.
   - Safeguarding; for example, managing the screen projection so that young people don’t see the Skype usernames. For more, please see Safeguarding guidelines in our resources section.

Optional preparation activities

Before your workshop, you may choose to do one or more of these preparation activities with your group—perhaps as homework or as small group internet research and feedback.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Research the place where the missionary is based. | - What is the culture/religion/political landscape/climate/language/etc.?  
- Encourage the group to look at a range of perspectives e.g. tourist websites, news articles, NGO/charity websites, local newspapers online. |
| 2. Research specific topics associated with the missionary’s work e.g. the borderlands between Mexico and the U.S., mining in the Philippines, faith relations in Pakistan | - This might involve looking online for news reports, local charity/church/movement websites. The missionary might be able to suggest some good places to start.  
- Don’t forget to note down any initial questions for the missionary that might come up at this stage. |
**Workshop Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 20 minutes | **Introduction**  
  Give a brief summary of the session:  
  - A warm-up activity about what we understand about “missionaries”  
  - Brainstorm some questions to ask our missionary today  
  - Interview with a missionary (don’t fully introduce the missionary until the next section)  
  - Final activity to reflect on what we’ve learned |

**Who is a missionary?**

The aim of this warm-up activity is to explore the concept of ‘missionary’.

Choose an activity or a combination of activities to do with the group:

1. Brainstorm words associated with ‘missionary’ in pairs then display.

2. Choose a couple of statements for discussion:  
   “Missionaries are always based overseas”  
   “Missionaries talk to people about the Bible”  
   “Missionaries are always priests and nuns”  
   “Missionaries make a lifetime commitment”  
   “Missionaries try to convert people”

3. Draw an outline of a person. This represents the perfect missionary. What knowledge, skills and attitudes might they have?  
   Around the head, jot down ideas about “knowledge”  
   Around the hands, jot down ideas about “skills”  
   Around the heart, jot ideas about “attitudes”

4. Work through the [‘Who is a Missionary?’ PowerPoint, available on our resources page](#).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing the interview</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduce the missionary:</strong> give a brief summary about the missionary you're going to be interviewing today which includes: Name, country(ies), themes.</td>
<td>Out of all the questions generated, which ones will be chosen for the interview?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Which young people will be nominated to ask the questions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In small groups/altogether, use the interview template (at the end of this toolkit) to write questions for the missionary for each of the different topics. Don’t worry if you have multiple questions in some boxes and none in others.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20 minutes</th>
<th>Interview</th>
<th>Things to consider:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Arrange the group so that everyone can see the screen and that those who are asking the questions can get as close to the microphone as possible.</td>
<td>- To avoid a stilted format, encourage follow-up questions to go deeper with a topic/area before moving onto the next question.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Call the missionary but don’t transfer the page to the full screen until the Skype addresses are hidden and the missionary is ready on the full screen.</td>
<td>- Have some back-up questions prepared in case the interview loses its flow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Introduce the class and explain that the group have prepared some questions.</td>
<td>- Finish by thanking the missionary and explaining that the young people will now move to follow-up activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If the internet connection is lost early in the conversation (or if it doesn’t work at all) there’s a Plan B activity in our resources section of the site.**
| 20 minutes | **What have I learned?**  
**The aim of this follow-up activity is to consolidate learning and make it relevant to the young people's own experience. We are all called to be missionaries!**  
Choose an activity or a combination of activities to do with the group: |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Look back at the words associated with 'missionary' that you brainstormed at the beginning. Do you think they are right? What other words might you add? What words might you change?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- In pairs talk about what you learned today. What surprised/encouraged/challenged you? What would you tell others about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Write your <em>own</em> mission statement. Can you think of one sentence that sums up what you feel called to do in your life? You might think about how you would like to be remembered by the people who know you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Take action- did the missionary touch upon any issues that you’d like to take action on?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation</strong></td>
<td><strong>We would love to find out how your Meet a Missionary session went. Please fill in the evaluation form on the <a href="#">homepage</a> which will be sent straight to us.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starter questions</td>
<td>About their motivations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the highs and lows</td>
<td>About faith and commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>