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Business as Missions Team

3-31 July 2021

Essential Information

This is a virtual student missions project with Linguae Christi. It is a Track One project and offers placement for a minimum of two students. The application deadline is 1 June 2021. Please [visit our website](#) to view projects within the categories of Business, Creation, Knowledge, Leadership, and Translation.

Programme Costs

\$250 (USD) or £180 (GBP) or €205 (Euro). Assistance with programme costs is available.

Competencies and Academic Credit

Participants should have some prior training, gifts, skills, or practical experience in (1) entrepreneurship, (2) business, (3) marketing, (4) investments, or (5) human geography. For students or educators who would like to receive or offer academic credit for this project, please view the [academic credit information sheet](#) on our website.

Rationale

The Apostle Paul said, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." The diverse contexts of Europe are often characterised by a post-Christian or secular attitude and are home to other religious and cultural differences as well. The "way-we've-always-done-it" and "one-size-fits-all" missions approach is often counter-productive here. We must constantly seek the Holy Spirit's direction in finding new means of joining communities within the people groups among whom we minister, for the sake of communicating clearly the timeless message of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the making of reproducing disciples, and the planting of new communities of faith.

This team will help to further these goals by looking specifically at a business platform as an integral component in front-line, direct missionary engagement for five of our focus people groups.

Goals

1. That the Lord Jesus would be glorified in the industry and obedience of the participants in these programmes (Col. 3:17).
2. That the participants would develop a sense of missions calling and service through utilising their existing gifts, skills, interests, and fields of study and/or training.
3. That the participants would discover, learn and grow in their:
 - Love and devotion to Christ
 - Knowledge of missions, missiology, and especially the work and mission of Linguae Christi
 - Understanding of themselves and their place in God's will and mission to the world
 - Ability to serve in a team setting
 - Ability to use their education, skills, talents, and interests for the sake of the Kingdom and to God's glory
4. That the participants in their teams and projects would produce "real world" resources with immediate and/or future applicability to the on-going ministry of Linguae Christi in the areas of mobilisation, education, and direct missionary engagement. These resources would not be possible or available were it not for these projects and participants.

Introduction

This team would research and develop strategy for business initiatives as a vehicle for missions engagement. The focus of this project is related to direct engagement on the field for evangelism, discipleship,

and church planting. The team would produce up to five “broad-strokes” business plans which could be extended at a future date into fully-formed business plans for the use of business as mission (BAM).

Background

Linguae Christi serves in areas where communities are often difficult to engage. There is a mix of isolationism among many of these language groups as well as the same secular, post-Christian attitudes that they would share with their majority-language-speaking neighbours. For this reason, business initiatives can be a primary way of direct engagement and a platform for mission in many contexts.

The following underlying principles would be important for us in any BAM initiative with Linguae Christi. Most of these elements would match BAM initiatives elsewhere, while others are specific to our work.

1. Financially self-sustaining and independent
2. Support for the local minority language in staffing, business practices, supply chain, etc.
3. Benefit to the community through its service or product as well as generating employment
4. Focus on developing niche markets. In other words, not just another competing “B&B” in an area, where the hospitality industry is the main source of income for the population.
5. Third space for Gospel engagement
6. Platform in areas with high security issues for missionaries

This team will also be divided into sub-teams to focus on specific areas and would ideally include three to five people. The number of sub-teams is dependent on the total number of participants.

Assignment

The BAM sub-teams will develop “broad strokes” business plans for up to five different areas and target people groups. We say “broad strokes” because (1) we realise that it is impossible to do a complete and thorough business plan in the time allotted; and (2) we realise that it is not possible to obtain all of the data needed without being on-site physically in these areas. Despite these challenges, there are large amounts of demographic data available publicly that should enable a good start.

The five areas and people groups in question are not hypothetical situations. These are real-world areas where we have either personnel or national partners or where we hope to establish work during the next five-year period.

The areas and people groups of focus would be:

1. The Dolomites of Northern Italy and Dolomitic Ladin speakers
2. The La Bisbal area of Catalunya in Spain and Catalan speakers
3. The Bizkaia-Gipuzkoa area of the Basque Country in Spain and Basque speakers
4. The Galway Gaeltacht in the Republic of Ireland and Irish Gaelic speakers
5. Gwynedd County in Wales and Welsh speakers

The team would then develop a business plan for each of these areas and language groups. The work done by these students would then be shared with potential missionaries and national partners to use as part of an integrated missionary strategy and approach to reach these people. The work done now would be the foundation upon which future strategies are built, saving an immense amount of time and work at the entry level of the process, and thus propelling the initiatives forward with much greater haste.

During orientation week, there will be specific tracks of direction, supervision, and planning time for projects. During this time together we would:

1. Identify the specific projects to prioritise
2. Delineate specific duties to individual members of the team and
3. Develop time-specific action plans, goals, and objectives in order to produce the desired materials.

How to Apply

Please visit Linguae Christi’s website to access our [interest form](#). Applicants will then receive access to an application form, including references and, where relevant, examples of their work. Face-to-face interviews via video calls may be required for specific placements. Please contact us at info@linguaechristi.org for more information.