

Surveying a New Country

Numbers 13:1 And **the Lord spake unto Moses,** saying, **2 Send thou men, that they may search the land** of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye **send a man,** every one a ruler among them.

Numbers 13:3 And **Moses by the commandment of the Lord sent them** from the wilderness of Paran: all those men *were* heads of the children of Israel. **18 And see the land, what it *is*; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they *be* strong or weak, few or many;** **19 And**

what the land *is* that they dwell in, whether it *be* good or bad; and what cities *they be* that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; ²⁰ **And what the land *is*, whether it *be* fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not.** And be ye of good courage, and **bring of the fruit of the land.** Now the time *was* the time of the firstripe grapes.

Numbers 13:25 And they returned from searching of the land

after forty days.

1. Why make a survey trip?

a. The Bible hints at the value of spying out the land in this passage

b. Two types of survey trips

i. Trip one to check out the land and see what is needed to live there

1. It is my contention that your wife needs to know that her and the children will be taken care of

2. There will be questions to follow but I suggest your first trip be made to help her see it

3. Women need security and a nest and that is a good thing. This trip may help provide that

- ii. Trip two is to check out the land to see what the need for churches, language learning, and ministry are
 - 1. Develop your strategy of how to reach the country
 - 2. This trip is best done after you have some experience in the language and ministry
 - 3. This study will be greatly based on your personal philosophy of ministry

iii. Choose the right city!

- 1. It should be a strategic City, a crossroads of the region or the country
- 2. It should be a large city, people center
- 3. Paul developed his ministry around principal cities
- 4. People are moving into large cities and visiting them
- 5. Yes the smaller cities need to be reached but can be reached by training and sending nationals out.
- 6. It is far more intelligent to go to a central city and train men to go out. I can't be everywhere, all the time.

iv. Choose the right part of the city

1. Middle Class people, this would be the aspiring class, usually upper lower class, lower middle class
2. First class church (do it right) reaching all the classes
3. Don't go to the poorest people or garbage dumps etc.

c. **Many missionaries fail not for a lack of ability or knowledge but for lack of a strategy.**

- i. They do not know what they are going to do.
- ii. They have a good heart.
- iii. They want to do right but since they do not what to do, how to do it, or what they are facing they go to the field and do not accomplish what they really wanted to accomplish.

2. Much of the survey can be made today before you ever leave for the country.

- a. The geography of the country.
 - i. Climate
 - ii. Crops that are produced

iii. Type of roads

b. The politics and history of the country

i. Type of government

ii. Social development

iii. Conflicts

iv. Constitutions

v. Attitude towards their government

vi. Attitude towards North Americans

vii. Communism, socialism, democracy

viii. Respect for the law

ix. History of unrest

x. How the country functions

xi. How the country got to where it is

c. The economics and development of the country

i. Salary of the people

ii. Menu that the people have

iii. Type of housing

iv. Health, hospitals etc

v. Banking, how will you get money,

vi. How stable is the economy

vii. Main source of income

d. The demographics

- i. Where do the people live
- ii. How are the classes divided
- iii. How many have cars, telephones, TVs, cell phones, etc

e. The psychology

- i. What they are like
- ii. Are they organized
- iii. Open or closed
- iv. Warm or cold
- v. Trusting or distrusting
- vi. Family situation
- vii. Attitude towards missionaries.
- viii. What have missionaries done that has caused hard feelings and problems

f. The spiritual condition

- i. How many fundamental independent Baptist Churches are there in the city

- ii. What missionaries are working in the city, from what boards, what type of ministry do they have
 - iii. What national missionaries are working in the city
 - iv. Christian bookstores?
 - v. Christian radio or television?
 - vi. Other types of churches and ministries in the city or area
 - vii. History of missions in the country
 - viii. Church history in the country
- g. What you will need to know to live there as comfortably as possible

3. Questions to consider asking

- a. What things should I take with compared with what can be bought in country
- b. What are the pros and cons of taking a container
- c. What about my visa and paper work?

- d. What kind of house can I expect to live in?
- e. What is shipping my goods, clothing, etc
- f. What kind of electric current will we have?
- g. Should I take a vehicle from the states or purchase one in country?
- h. What will it cost me to set up my house
- i. How long will it be before I learn the language?
- j. What kind of grocery stores do they have or how do you buy your groceries?
- k. How do we prepare the food that we get at the market?
- l. What kind of food will we be eating?
- m. What is the weather like?

- n. How safe is it?
- o. Will my children be safe?
- p. Can we have a pet for our children?
- q. Can we take our pet with us?
- r. How long before I can start my own ministry?
- s. What kind of vehicle will we be able to buy?
- t. Who will my children play with?
- u. What activities will my children be able to participate in?
- v. How will we get our mail?
- w. What preparations can we make before leaving for the field?

- x. How are the medical facilities and medical care?
- y. What if I have to take medicine on a regular basis (i.e. insulin, etc.)?
- z. How will I get my money, banking, etc.?
- aa. Where will my small children be while I am in language school
- bb. Will we get sick?
- cc. How do we send our books (personal library)?
- dd. What are the pros and cons of having a baby in country?
- ee. Why do I need a will?
- ff. What kind of services are available should as internet, cell phones, radios, etc.

4. Questions and to dos while you are in country

a. Extra ideas for now or later

- i. You might want to consider getting international driving licenses to use until you get your in country license
- ii. Check to make sure you have copies of all documents for visa application, shot records, etc
- iii. How do you get access to money
 - 1. Is it best to change dollars
 - 2. Have bank account
 - 3. Use ATM
- iv. Make sure you have a phone that is unlocked and can be used
- v. Consider getting travel plugs and correct adapters
- vi. Pack change of clothes in carry on in case of lost luggage
- vii. Check your credit card to see how it handles foreign transaction fees
- viii. Make copies of passport, leave one in states, and other in different location in case it is lost or stolen

b. Things to avoid

- i. Living in fear because it is different etc

- ii. Don't build any more barriers between you and the nationals than you have to, you are rich and foreign
 - iii. Letting culture shock destroy you
 - iv. Tourist mistakes that get you in trouble with pick pockets, thieves.
- c. Look at several houses, go with a real estate agent
- i. Get prices
 - ii. Look for what you want
 - iii. You might remember that you will need to work on ministry location before getting too settled on housing
 - iv. Take pictures and drop pins on google maps to remember what you have learned
 - v. Are the houses secure, garage, good electricity, internet
 - vi. What are requirements to rent a house
 - vii. Get an idea about utility costs, yours will probably be much greater than a nationals
 - viii. Can I get ac and heat that I want
 - ix. Consider whether or not you want bed sheets etc from USA
- d. Go to the grocery stores and meat markets

- i. Find out what is available that you like
 - ii. Find out prices
 - iii. Find out best places to shop
 - iv. Take pictures and keep notes about prices in dollars
 - v. Find out what precautions need to be taken when buying, preparing, serving food
- e. Go to the hospital and pharmacy
- i. Can you get good medical care
 - ii. Are the medicines you need available
 - iii. Where would you go if someone broke a bone etc
- f. Check out clothing stores
- i. This helps determine what you need to take with you to the field
 - ii. Check prices
 - iii. Always take pictures and prices
- g. Check out the availability of cars, trucks, motorcycles or whatever you will want use
- h. Go to furniture store

- i. What kind of beds are available, bedding
- ii. What kind of furniture
- iii. What about refrigerators, stoves, TVs, etc
- iv. Can you get dryer, hook ups for everything
- v. What size refrigerators etc

i. Find activities that the children will be able to do so that they will learn to love the country

- i. Parks
- ii. Pools
- iii. Sports, etc

j. See if there are restaurants your family will be able to enjoy

5. Sources of information

- a. Get in touch with missionaries on that field
- b. Check out expat groups on Facebook
- c. <https://operationworld.org/>

- d. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/country-name/>
- e. <http://www.worldatlas.com/geoquiz/thelist.htm>
- f. <http://www.geographic.org/countries/countries.html>
- g. <http://www.countryreports.org/>
- h. <http://www.atlapedia.com/>
- i. <https://team.org/blog/how-to-create-a-home-overseas>

6. Learn all you can about:

- a. Their worldview
 - i. Is my host culture honor/shame based, fear/power or guilt/innocence based?
 - ii. How do people in my host country view authority and age?
 - iii. What is my host culture's view of timeliness?

iv. Is the society individualistic or collectivist in how they relate to others?

b. How to dress

i. What is the appropriate clothing for the climate of my host country?

ii. What is the typical dress of a person my age and gender in this culture?

iii. What is the culture's standard for modesty in dress?

c. Spiritual life

i. What is the primary religion of my host country?

ii. How does the average citizen practice his or her beliefs?

iii. What knowledge will the average citizen have about Jesus?

iv. How are evangelical Christians generally regarded in my host culture?

d. Their customs

i. What expectations are placed on giving and receiving gifts?

- ii. What is typical cuisine? What dining etiquette should I be aware of?

- e. Legal requirements

- i. Have a passport with plenty of time left and pages
- ii. Start visa application way before you think you need to do so
- iii. Vaccination requirements

Survey Trip Check List

Name _____

Country _____

Date of Trip _____

Cities Visited:

Living Expenses:

What is available to **rent**?

What is the cost of an apartment? _____ a house? _____

Other?

What is the cost for **utilities**?

Electricity? _____

Water? _____

Is the current 220 or 110?

Telephone? _____

Gas for house? _____ Propane, Natural, Gas bottles?

What will set up cost be for the bottles etc.?

Food? What is available and unavailable?

Clothing: What is available and unavailable?

Medical: Where can you get good medical treatment? Name of the suggested clinic or hospital

Name of good doctors?

Medicines What is available and unavailable?

Water purification? _____

Transportation? _____

Public Trains etc _____

Taxis _____

Bus _____

What will it cost to get a **car**, truck or van

What would be the most appropriate vehicle

Cost and availability of parts _____

Education of Children. Home School, Christian School, cost etc

Language School for parents. Cost etc. Child care?

Laundry and dry cleaning?

Set up expenses?

Cost of furniture

Rent and guarantee to be paid up front?

Type of contract to sign?

Cost of hotel or where to stay until you find a house etc.?

What will I need to take with me to the field from the states?

What do I do to get a visa?

How safe is it?

How will I get my money?

What about my personal library?

Ministry Expenses