



Come & See

What God is Doing in Europe

PARTICIPANT BOOKLET

An Immersive Formation Experience

Editorial and Copyright Information

Come & See Participant Handbook is a resource produced to inspire an encounter with Jesus and to encourage a lifestyle of witnessing in everyday life.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible.



Misión Cristiana Europea

MCE-Iberoamérica

Address:

Rafael Alberti 10,
28816 Camarma de Esteruelas
Madrid - España

Email:

movilizacion@mce-iberamerica.org
info@mce-iberamerica.org.

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A person in a dark coat is walking away from the camera down a narrow, cobblestone street in a European city at dusk. The street is lined with historic buildings and glowing street lamps. In the distance, a large, ornate domed cathedral, likely St. Peter's Basilica, is visible against a cloudy twilight sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Part I

Preparing for the Journey

Formation begins long before the plane departs



Europe remains one of the world's most strategic mission fields, where many communities have little meaningful connection with a local evangelical church.

CHAPTER ONE —

Welcome to Come & See

AN IMMERSIVE FORMATION EXPERIENCE

From October 22 to November 2, 2026

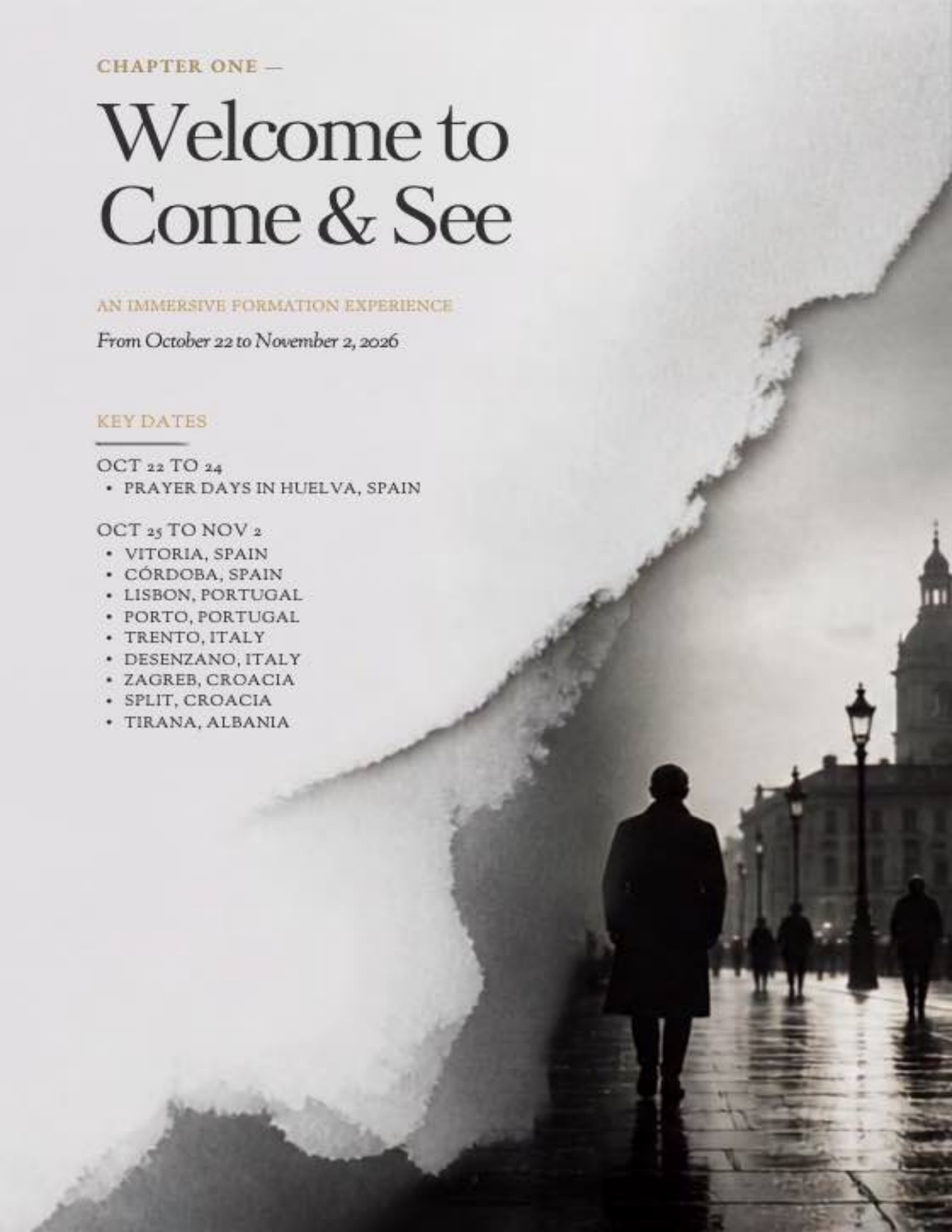
KEY DATES

OCT 22 TO 24

- PRAYER DAYS IN HUELVA, SPAIN

OCT 25 TO NOV 2

- VITORIA, SPAIN
- CÓRDOBA, SPAIN
- LISBON, PORTUGAL
- PORTO, PORTUGAL
- TRENTO, ITALY
- DESENZANO, ITALY
- ZAGREB, CROACIA
- SPLIT, CROACIA
- TIRANA, ALBANIA



WELCOME TO COME & SEE

Welcome, dear participant,

Welcome to Come & See.

Whether you are joining as a student, professional, pastor, church leader, retiree, or simply someone seeking to discern God's direction, we are grateful that you have accepted this invitation.

The next two weeks are not designed primarily as a vacation trip. They are an intentional process of listening.

Listening to God.

Listening to His Church.

Listening to communities.

Listening to ancient voices.

Listening to your own vocation.

For centuries, Europe has helped shape Christianity around the world. Today, God continues to write new chapters through its histories, congregations, cultural rhythms, renewed mission, and faithful disciples serving their neighbors with both humility and hope.

Our desire is that this journey may expand the Kingdom.

Our desire is that you return with a renewed vision of God's Kingdom and a deeper understanding of how your—and your church—may faithfully participate in His mission.

During these two weeks, you will worship, pray, travel, share meals, ask questions, observe traditions, reflect, and build relationships that we hope will continue long after your return home.

Come with curiosity.

Come with humility.

Come with expectation.

Reginaldo Braga

Reginaldo Braga, MCE
Mobilization Director, MCE-Iberoamérica



YOUR WORD
IS A LAMP
TO MY FEET
AND A LIGHT
TO MY PATH.

PSALM 119:105

WHAT IS COME & SEE?

Come & See is a two-week immersive formation experience that helps churches and individuals discover God's ongoing mission in southern Europe.

The experience is intentionally divided into two complementary phases.

WEEK ONE

Participants join MCE-Spain's Prayer Days where missionaries, church leaders, and ministry partners from across Europe gather for worship, prayer, fellowship, learning, and mutual encouragement.

WEEK TWO

Participants travel in small groups to one selected ministry field:

- Spain
- Portugal
- Italy
- Croatia

There, they spend several days alongside local churches and ministry teams, observing, serving, asking questions, and reflecting on God's work in that context.

The journey concludes when participants return home prepared to strengthen their own churches and continue discerning God's invitation.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of come & see, participants should be able to:



Spiritual Formation

- Recognize the Missio Dei as God's initiative.
- Practice prayerful discernment.
- Reflect theologically on cross-cultural ministry.



Intercultural Learning

- Appreciate the diversity of European cultures and churches.
- Listen respectfully across cultural differences.
- Recognize the gifts that local churches already possess.



Mission Understanding

- Describe the realities of church planting in Southern Europe.
- Understand the role of innovation ministries in supporting local congregations.
- Recognize the relationship between church planting, innovation, and long-term partnership.



Personal Discernment

- Clarify personal gifts and vocation.
- Identify possible pathways for future participation.
- Develop an initial personal action plan for the next twelve months.



The Come & See Covenant

**COME & SEE IS BUILT ON
RELATIONSHIPS OF TRUST.**

**EVERY PARTICIPANT IS INVITED
TO AFFIRM THE COVENANT.**

What I commit
as a participant



As a Participant, I Commit To:

The Come & See Covenant

PRAYER

I will seek God in daily prayer for the work of Come & See, for ministry partners, for those we walk alongside, and for spiritual openness in every conversation.

HUMILITY

I will come as a learner rather than an expert.

HOSPITALITY

I will receive the hospitality of others with gratitude and extend hospitality to fellow participants.

RESPECT

I will honor local customs, churches, cultures, and ministry leaders.

CURIOSITY

I will ask questions before offering solutions.

COMMUNITY

I will contribute positively to the life of my cohort through encouragement, flexibility, and mutual care.

REFLECTION

I will participate faithfully in daily reflection, journaling, and group conversations.

INTEGRITY

I will represent Christ, my sending church, and MCE-Iberoamérica with honesty, compassion, and responsibility.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Your experience unfolds in seven stages.

Stage	Focus	Primary Goal
Explore	Initial conversations	Curiosity and discernment
Prepare	Orientation and devotionals	Spiritual and practical readiness
Gather	Prayer Days	Worship, learning, and community
Immerse	Ministry field	Observation, service, and listening
Reflect	Daily journaling and debriefing	Theological integration
Return	Home church	Testimony and discernment
Continue	Ongoing pathways	Lifelong participation

This map appears throughout the handbook as a reminder that each stage contributes to a larger journey of formation.

PROGRAM VALUES

Every decision within Come & See reflects these core values.

Christ-Centered

Jesus Christ is the center of our worship, relationships, and mission.

Church-Based

Local congregations remain God's primary instrument for His mission.

Prayerful

Prayer is not a preliminary activity but the foundation of every decision.

Relational

Transformation occurs through authentic relationships.

Reciprocal

Participants come not only to serve but also to receive, learn, and be transformed.

Hopeful

We believe God is actively working throughout Europe.

Formational

The purpose is not simply to complete a trip but to cultivate lifelong discipleship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY IS THE PROGRAM CALLED "COME & SEE"?

The title comes from one of the recurring invitations found in the gospel of John.

Jesus invites people into relationship before asking them to serve.

The Samaritan woman then extends that same invitation to her community:

Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done.

Rather than beginning with recruitment or obligation, Come & See begins with encounter, discovery, and discernment.

We believe this remains the pattern for faithful participation in God's mission today.

Before We Begin

Take time to answer these questions before arriving in Spain.

1. Why did I decide to participate?
2. What am I hoping God will teach me?
3. What assumptions do I already have about Europe?
4. What concerns or fears am I bringing with me?
5. How can my church pray for me during this journey?

MY PRAYER BEFORE DEPARTURE

CHAPTER 2

Preparing Spiritually

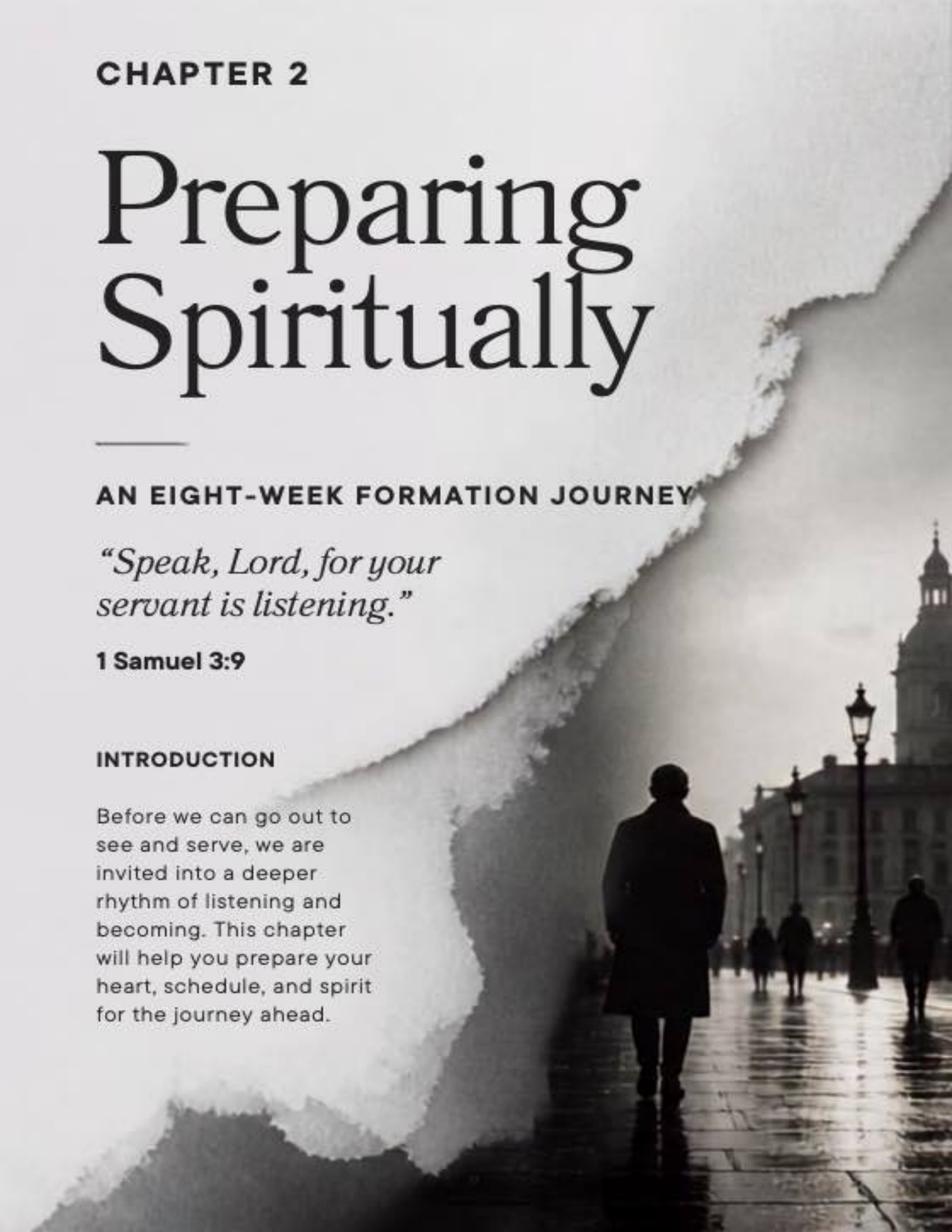
AN EIGHT-WEEK FORMATION JOURNEY

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel 3:9

INTRODUCTION

Before we can go out to see and serve, we are invited into a deeper rhythm of listening and becoming. This chapter will help you prepare your heart, schedule, and spirit for the journey ahead.





WEEK ONE —

The Invitation

THEME: Come and See

SCRIPTURE: John 1:35–39; John 4:27–42

REFLECTION

Every journey with Christ begins with an invitation.
Jesus rarely begins by assigning tasks.
He begins by inviting people into relationship.

"Come and see."

That invitation changes everything.
Come & See follows the same pattern.
You are not beginning with certainty.
You are beginning with openness.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What first attracted you to a life of faith?
- When have you personally sensed God's invitation?
- What do you hope will happen during these four weeks?
- What expectations might you need to release?

PRAYER

Help me hear Your invitation more clearly than the voices of fear, ambition, or distraction.

Open my heart to the adventure of "come and see."

Prepare me to recognize Your presence in places I do not yet expect.

Amen.



CONVERSATION

Share with your mentor:

- Your story of faith.
 - Times you've felt particularly:
 - Close to God.
 - Far from God.
-

PRACTICE

Spend fifteen minutes each day in silence before God.

Use it as a time of listening, not performing.

Simply present. Nothing more is required.

JOURNAL

Complete one page each day:

- Today I sensed God saying...
 - Today I struggled with...
 - Today I am grateful for...
-

PREPARATION

Read this weekend.

Pray this weekend.

Journal this weekend.

Download retreat begin.



Week Two – Seeing the Harvest

Theme: Missionary Imagination

Scripture: John 4:35–38; Luke 10:12

Jesus saw what others overlooked.
He saw people—tired, searching, unknown.
Mission begins with learning to see differently.

— *Consider and ask* —

What assumptions do I carry about Europe?
How does media shape my understanding?
What stereotypes need to be surm nedred?
Where do I see signs of hope?

— PRAYER —

Jesus, give me eyes to see people before projects,
communities before statistics,
and hope before obstacles.

— PRACTICE —

Read one recent story about the Church in Spain,
Portugal, Italy, or Croatia.
Pray for that community and the people you read about.

— MENTOR CONVERSATION —

How can I cultivate missionary imagination
in my daily life?

— JOURNAL —

What surprised me this week?

— PREPARATION —

- ☒ Set your heart
- ☐ List your needs
- ☐ Set your backpack
- ☐ Connect with others
- ☐ Download and go higher

Hospitality

Receiving Before Serving

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 10; ROMANS 12; HEBREWS 13

REFLECTION

God often invites us into new places not to be the answer, **but to be a guest.**

This week, practice arriving as a guest rather than with answers.

Receive hospitality when it is offered. Learn names.

Listen carefully. Ask questions.

Allow yourself to be welcomed.

In receiving, we reflect the heart of Christ.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When is it hard for me to receive help?
- Why is hospitality central to the Gospel?
- What can I learn by becoming a guest?

PRAYER

Jesus, teach me to receive with humility and gratitude.

Open my heart to the generosity of others.

Help me honor every act of hospitality as a gift from You.
Amen.

PRACTICE

Invite someone from another culture
to share a meal or coffee with you.

Listen more than you speak.

Receive their stories with gratitude.

Thank them sincerely.

JOURNAL

What might it look like for me to be fully present
as a guest this week?

What do I sense God is teaching me through others?

PREPARATION

Pray for open hands and heart.

Learn a few words in the local language.

Research local customs around hosting and meals.

Bring a small gift of appreciation.

Prepare to listen more than you speak.



Listening Across Cultures

THEME: Humility and Curiosity

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:16–34; Philippians 2:1–11

REFLECTION

Cross-cultural ministry begins with humility. In Acts 17, Paul didn't start with answers—he observed. He walked through Athens, listened, and engaged people where they were. He entered their world before inviting them into his message.

This week, our goal is to listen across cultures—really listen. We will spend our field experience observing, asking questions, and learning from the people we encounter. We are not here to be experts in a week; we are here to reflect Christ through humility and curiosity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What unfamiliar situations make you feel uncomfortable?
- How do you normally listen—out of curiosity or to respond?
- What attitudes might hinder you from truly understanding the people and culture you'll encounter?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
Help me notice Your work in different cultures and people.
Give me a heart that listens well and learns humbly.
Guard me from judgment and assumptions.
Teach me to love as You love.
Amen.

PRACTICE

Choose one European country you are visiting.
Research and learn five aspects of its culture, history, and church life.
Prepare to share with your team during orientation.
Focus on learning, not stereotypes.

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Select your country
- ☐ Research culture and traditions
- ☐ Research history and key events
- ☐ Learn about the Church and faith
- ☐ Learn basic phrases in the local language
- ☐ Prepare a 3–5 minute share for orientation



WEEK FIVE

Discernment

THEME

Listening Together

SCRIPTURE

Acts 13:1–3; Romans 12:1–8

Discernment is rarely individual. God speaks most clearly within worshiping communities that listen for the Spirit together.

Come and See is intentionally communal. We invite you to notice not only your own insights, but also what others notice about your gifts and calling.

MENTOR CONVERSATION

- Where have you experienced others affirming your gifts?
- What ministries or activities bring you deep joy and a sense of life?
- Where do you experience a holy discontent—a burden or longing for what God is doing in the world?

PRACTICE

Ask three trusted people who know you well:

“What gifts do you see God using in my life?”

Record their responses below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WEEK SIX

Vocation

THEME

Every Profession Can Serve God's Mission

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:17, 23–24; 1 Corinthians 12

God calls people through many vocations. He raises up church planters and pastors, yes—but also educators and mentors, business professionals and entrepreneurs, healthcare workers and caregivers, engineers and architects, technologists and innovators, artists and storytellers, counselors and peacemakers, researchers and scientists.

Come and See is not about discovering one “missionary profession.” It is about discerning how your gifts, your work, and your vocation can participate in God’s mission in the world. Whether in the marketplace, the home, the classroom, the hospital, the studio, or the lab—God is at work, and He invites you to join Him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- *What do you love about your work or studies?*
- *How might that be part of God’s mission?*
- *Who are the people you encounter through your vocation?*
- *How can you love and serve them in the name of Christ?*

PRACTICE

Write a one-page reflection on how your vocation might serve God’s Kingdom. Consider:

- *Your current work or studies*
- *The people you serve*
- *The skills and passions God has given you*
- *One step you can take this week to live out your calling*



WEEK SEVEN

The Church That Sends

THEME

We Go Together

SCRIPTURE

Acts 13; Ephesians 4

Mission is not an individual achievement. It is an expression of the Church's shared calling. You travel as a representative of your congregation and return to strengthen it.

PRACTICE

Write a prayer letter to your church before departure. Share why you are participating and how they can pray.

WEEK EIGHT

Commissioning

THEME

Ready to Learn

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18–20; Revelation 7:9–10

As departure approaches, resist the temptation to focus only on travel.

Remember why you are going.

You are not traveling to solve Europe's problems.

You are traveling to worship, listen, learn, discern, and participate.

FINAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for inviting me into Your mission.

As I prepare to travel, give me humility to learn, courage to follow, wisdom to discern, and joy to serve.

May everything I experience deepen my love for You, for Your Church, and for the people I will meet.

Use this journey not only to change my understanding of Europe but also to transform my own life and strengthen my church.

In Your name, Amen.



WEEK EIGHT

Final Pre-Departure Checklist

SPIRITUAL

Completed all eight devotional weeks

Met with mentor

Identified prayer partners

Participated in commissioning prayer

PRACTICAL

- Passport
- Visa (if required)
- Flights confirmed
- Insurance
- Medical information submitted
- Emergency contacts verified
- Packing completed

COMMUNITY

Shared testimony with sending church

Family informed

Church prayer network established

Cohort contact information exchanged

You are going with prayer, purpose, and preparation. Go with confidence—God is already there.



Europe needs strong churches, prepared leaders, and missionary communities. Together we can participate in what God is already doing across the continent.

CHAPTER 3

Travel Handbook & Practical Preparation

PREPARING TO TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

*“The Lord himself watching over you!”
The Lord stands beside you
as your protective shade.”*

—Psalm 121:5

INTRODUCTION

Travel is part of your learning experience.
The goal is not merely to arrive in Europe safely.
The goal is to begin practicing attentiveness,
flexibility, humility, and gratitude from
the moment you leave home.

Unexpected delays, cultural differences,
shared transportation, waiting in airports,
and conversations with fellow travelers
all become opportunities for learning.

Travel well. Travel simply.
Travel prayerly.





BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Complete this checklist at least 30 days before departure.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Passport valid for at least six months after return.
- Airline tickets confirmed.
- Travel insurance documentation.
- Emergency contact information.
- Medical information submitted.
- Copies of passport stored electronically.
- Printed copy of itinerary.
- European emergency numbers saved in your phone.

FINANCIAL PREPARATION

- Recommended: one debit card, one credit card, a small amount of Euros in cash.
- Notify your bank of international travel.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

MOBILE PHONE

- Check with your provider regarding: international roaming, European data plan, Wi-Fi calling, emergency contacts.
- Download: Google Maps (offline), Google Translate, WhatsApp, airline app, weather app.

PACKING PHILOSOPHY

- Come & See is not a tourist program.
- Pack accordingly.
- Think: simple, comfortable, respectful, flexible.
- Your luggage should allow you to walk comfortably through airports, train stations, and city streets.
- Whenever possible: one checked suitcase, one carry-on, one personal backpack.
- Avoid excessive luggage.



CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS

October weather varies across Southern Europe.

Layering is essential.

Recommended:

- 5–6 casual shirts.
- 2–3 sweaters or light jackets.
- 1 waterproof jacket.
- 2 pairs of comfortable walking pants.
- Comfortable shoes.
- One pair of dress-casual shoes.
- Sleepwear.
- Undergarments.
- Socks.
- Hat.
- Reusable water bottle.
- Small umbrella.
- Light scarf.

FOR WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Participants should bring clothing appropriate for church services and formal gatherings.

Business casual is generally appropriate.

Avoid clothing with offensive slogans or highly political messages.

MINISTRY CLOTHING

Remember: you represent Christ, your sending church, MCE-Iberoamérica.

Dress should communicate respect rather than status.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Recommended: toiletries, prescription medications, basic first-aid supplies, reusable water bottle, notebook, journal, Bible, pens, phone charger, portable battery, universal electrical adapter (Type C/F), reading glasses (if needed), sunscreen, small backpack.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Expensive jewelry, large amounts of cash, irreplaceable valuables, weapons, political materials, items that may create unnecessary customs questions.



ARRIVAL IN EUROPE

Participants normally arrive through one of two airports.

OPTION ONE — SEVILLE AIRPORT (SVQ)

Recommended for travelers arriving through Spain.

Approximate driving time to El Rompido: 1 hour 35 minutes.

OPTION TWO — FARO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FAO)

Recommended for travelers arriving through Portugal.

Approximate driving time to El Rompido: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Detailed arrival instructions will be distributed approximately two weeks before departure based on the group's finalized transportation arrangements.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Depending on the size of the group, transportation may include:

- Rental vehicles organized by MCE-Iberoamérica.
- Shared shuttle service.
- Train connections through Huelva where appropriate.
- Field-specific transportation after Prayer Days.

Participants should not make independent transportation arrangements unless previously approved by the program coordinator.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COME & SEE PROGRAM

To simplify your travel planning and ensure that your itinerary aligns with the official Come & See schedule, MCE-Iberoamérica has designated JuPaz Viagens as the preferred travel agency for all participants. Juliana Paz is familiar with the program itinerary and will assist you in purchasing your international airfare, selecting the most appropriate arrival and departure flights, and making any additional travel arrangements you may need, including connections, baggage, and local transportation.

We strongly recommend contacting JuPaz Viagens before purchasing any airline tickets to ensure your itinerary is fully compatible with the program schedule.

Official Travel Schedule

The Come & See program officially begins in Spain with participant registration and orientation.

Arrival in Spain or Portugal

- Recommended arrival date: October 21
- Arrival airport: Seville Airport (SVQ), Spain or Faro Airport (FAO), Portugal
- Participants should plan flights that arrive no later than the evening of October 21, allowing sufficient time for immigration procedures, baggage claim, and travel to the hotel.



Hotel Check-in

- October 21: Recommended arrival and overnight stay.
- October 22: All participants must be present at the hotel by 12:00 noon for registration, lunch, orientation, and the official opening of the Come & See Program.

The first portion of the program includes the Prayer Days and orientation activities in Spain.

Travel to Mission Fields

Following the Prayer Days, participants will depart together to their assigned mission fields.

- October 24 (after 12:00 noon): Group departures to the field experiences in:
 -  Portugal
 -  Italy
 -  Croatia
 - Spain

Transportation within Europe will be coordinated according to each field itinerary. Participants should not purchase separate flights or train tickets within Europe unless specifically instructed by the Come & See coordination team.

Return Travel

The field experience concludes on November 2.

Participants should arrange their international return flights for November 2, departing from the airport designated by their field coordinator. Final departure airport information will be provided before the field visits begin.

Please do not purchase return tickets before confirming your departure city with the Come & See team or JuPaz Viagens.



Estimated International Airfare*

Departure City	Faro (FAO)	Sevilla
São Paulo (Brazil)	From US\$1,100	From US\$1,100
New York (USA)	From US\$870	From US\$948
Miami (USA)	From US\$694	From US\$823

*Estimated starting fares at the time of publication and subject to airline availability, exchange rates, seasonality, and booking date. Quoted fares generally include one checked bag.

Before Purchasing Your Ticket

Please follow these steps:

1. Read the official Come & See itinerary included in this booklet.
2. Contact JuPaz Viagens to discuss the best flight options from your departure city.
3. Plan to arrive on October 21, ensuring you can be at the hotel no later than 12:00 noon on October 22.
4. Do not purchase your return ticket until your field assignment and departure airport have been confirmed.
5. If you wish to extend your stay in Europe before or after the program, discuss your plans with JuPaz Viagens before ticketing so your itinerary can be arranged accordingly.

Preferred Travel Partner

Juliana Paz – JuPaz Viagens

Your dedicated travel consultant for the Come & See Program.

WhatsApp: +55 (21) 99693-9425

Instagram: @jupazviagens

Email: vendas@jupazviagens.com

Juliana will be pleased to assist you with international airfare, itinerary planning, baggage questions, travel insurance, additional hotel nights, and any special travel arrangements related to your participation in the Come & See Program.

"I do everything for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

1 Corinthians 9:23

We look forward to welcoming you to Southern Europe as together we pray, learn, serve, and discern God's invitation to participate in His mission among the peoples of Europe. Safe travels!



PRAYER DAYS VENUE

Hotel Resort El Rompido

Carr. de Cartaya a El Rompido, km 7
21459 El Rompido, Huelva, Spain

ACCOMMODATION

Participants will stay in double-occupancy apartments for €215.
Typical arrangement: one bedroom, shared living room, sofa bed, shared bathroom.

The purpose of shared accommodation is not only logistical but also relational, encouraging community and mutual support.

SINGLE ROOMS

Limited single accommodations may be available.

Additional supplement: approximately €90.

Availability depends on hotel capacity and must be requested during registration.

MEAL PLAN

Participants receive Full Board during Prayer Days.

Meals are intentionally communal and form an important part of the program's relational life.

HOSPITALITY EXPECTATIONS

Shared accommodation requires mutual consideration.

Participants agree to: maintain quiet hours, keep common areas tidy, respect roommates' schedules, communicate openly, support one another.

AIR FARE ARRANGEMENTS

Shared accommodation requires mutual consideration.

Participants agree to: maintain quiet hours, keep common areas tidy, respect roommates' schedules, communicate openly, support one another.



MEALS

Meals are considered educational spaces.

Rather than sitting only with friends, participants are encouraged to: meet missionaries, sit with people from different countries, ask questions, practice listening, learn names.

Every meal becomes part of the Come & See experience.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Take care of yourself. Sleep adequately. Stay hydrated.

Inform staff immediately if you become ill.

Never discontinue prescription medication without consulting your physician.

Participants should immediately notify staff regarding: illness, injury, mental health concerns, medication issues, food allergies, safety concerns.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

Come & See encourages healthy digital habits.

We ask participants to: use phones respectfully, avoid excessive social media during ministry activities, ask permission before photographing individuals, protect confidential conversations, avoid posting sensitive ministry information, prioritize relationships over documentation.

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

Always ask permission.

Respect churches that request no photography.

Children should never be photographed without permission from responsible adults and local leaders.

When in doubt, ask first.



MONEY

Participants are responsible for: personal purchases, souvenirs, coffee shops, laundry, optional snacks.

Most restaurants and shops accept major credit cards.

Keep emergency cash available.

CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

Europe is culturally diverse.

Avoid assuming that practices from your home country are universal.

Observe before evaluating. Listen before speaking. Respect local customs. Ask questions with humility. Avoid comparing cultures competitively.

Remember: hospitality often begins with curiosity.

TRAVEL DELAYS

Unexpected delays occasionally occur.

If your flight is delayed: remain calm, notify the participant coordinator immediately, follow airline instructions.

Do not leave the airport without communicating with staff.

Keep emergency contact numbers accessible.

SAFETY

Come & See maintains a culture of awareness rather than fear.

Participants are encouraged to: travel in pairs when appropriate, keep passports secure, be aware of personal belongings, follow staff instructions, respect local laws, inform leaders of independent plans. Emergency contact information will be provided during orientation.



A THEOLOGY OF TRAVEL

Travel is not an interruption to discipleship.

Travel is discipleship.

Scripture repeatedly tells the story of people who encountered God while traveling.

Abraham. Moses. Ruth. The disciples. Paul.

Travel reminds us that we are pilgrims.

As you travel to Europe, pray that God will shape not only your itinerary, but your heart.

REFLECTION BEFORE DEPARTURE

Take one hour during the week before departure to answer the following questions.

What am I carrying that I should leave behind? Fear? Expectations?

Control? Assumptions?

What spiritual practices will help me remain attentive during travel?

What relationships am I most looking forward to?

How can I intentionally practice gratitude throughout the journey?

Write a prayer for your travel day.

TRAVEL DAY CHECKLIST

DOCUMENTS

Passport
Airline ticket
Insurance
Emergency contacts
Hotel information

ELECTRONICS

Phone
Charger
Power bank
Universal adapter

PERSONAL

Journal
Bible
Water bottle
Medication
Snacks

SPIRITUAL

Pray before leaving home.

Contact your prayer partner.

Read Psalm 121 during your journey.

Begin observing where God is already at work—even before arriving.

A narrow, cobblestone street in a historic town at dusk. The street is flanked by tall, stone buildings with multiple windows. Warm, golden light from street lamps illuminates the scene, casting long shadows and reflecting off the wet cobblestones. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting twilight. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

Part II

Prayer Days

GATHERING BEFORE GOING



*Church planting,
discipleship, and
leadership development
continue to be essential
priorities for
strengthening the
Christian witness across
Europe.*

CHAPTER 4

Welcome to Prayer Days

Worship. Listen. Discern. Belong.

They all joined together constantly in prayer...
—Acts 1:14

WELCOME

Welcome to Prayer Days.

For the next four days you will worship alongside missionaries, church leaders, mobilizers, pastoral, professionals, church planters, innovation practitioners, and believers from many different countries.

This gathering is intentionally placed before your field experience.

That decision is not accidental.

We believe prayer comes before strategy.
Community comes before ministry.
Listening comes before serving.
Discernment comes before decisions.

Prayer Days are therefore not simply an event.
They are the spiritual foundation of the entire Come & See journey.





WHY PRAYER DAYS COME FIRST

Many mission experiences begin with activity.
Come & See begins with worship.
Before you visit a ministry... Before you meet a church... Before you observe a project... Before you begin asking questions...
You first join God's people in prayer.
This reflects an important conviction.
Mission belongs to God before it belongs to us.
Our task is not to initiate God's work.
Our task is to recognize it and faithfully participate in it.

FOUR SPIRITUAL INVITATIONS

Prayer Days invite every participant to embrace four spiritual practices.

WORSHIP

God is the center of this week. Everything begins with Him.

LISTENING

Listen carefully. To Scripture. To missionaries. To churches. To fellow participants. To the Holy Spirit.

COMMUNITY

Friendships formed during Prayer Days often become one of the most enduring gifts of the experience.

Eat together. Pray together. Laugh together. Learn names. Share stories.

DISCERNMENT

Avoid making quick decisions. Instead ask: What is God teaching me?



THE RHYTHM OF PRAYER DAYS

Rather than focusing on the clock, focus on the rhythm.

Every day follows a similar pattern.

Time	Rhythm	Formation Purpose
Early Morning	Personal Prayer	Attentiveness to God
Morning	Corporate Worship & Bible Teaching	Shared theological foundation
Mid-Morning	Mission Conversations	Listening to practitioners
Lunch	Community Meals	Relationship building
Afternoon	Workshops & Dialogue	Reflection and learning
Late Afternoon	Quiet Reflection	Personal discernment
Evening	Worship & Prayer	Gratitude and intercession
Night	Journaling & Rest	Integration and renewal

The exact timetable may vary from year to year, but this rhythm remains constant.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Prayer Days are a temporary Christian community.

As such, every participant contributes to its health.

We practice:

Hospitality. Punctuality. Encouragement. Generosity. Flexibility. Patience. Joy. Prayer.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

During Prayer Days I will:

- Arrive on time.
- Participate fully.
- Limit unnecessary phone use.
- Respect different cultures.
- Learn names.
- Share meals with different people.
- Pray for others.
- Serve quietly.
- Leave spaces better than I found them.
- Encourage fellow participants.



MEALS AS MINISTRY

Meals are not breaks from the program.
Meals are part of the program.

Whenever possible: sit beside someone you have not yet met, ask open questions, listen more than you speak, avoid dominating conversations, learn about different ministries, pray together.

Many significant partnerships begin around tables rather than conference rooms.

REFLECTION EXERCISE

Take a few moments at the end of each day to reflect on what God is doing in your heart.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, open my eyes to see what You are doing.
Open my ears to hear what You are saying.
Open my heart to receive what You are giving.
And give me courage to respond with faith.
Amen.

DAILY PROMPTS

1. What did I notice today that surprised me?
2. Where did I sense God at work?
3. What challenged my assumptions?
4. Who did I connect with meaningfully?
5. What am I carrying into tomorrow?



PREPARING FOR FIELD ASSIGNMENT

After Prayer Days, participants move into their field assignments. This transition is not abrupt. It is prepared.

During the final sessions of Prayer Days, you will receive:

- Your field assignment details.
- The name of your host missionary or team.
- Practical travel instructions.
- A brief orientation to your context.
- Prayer commissioning from the group.

Near the conclusion of Prayer Days, you will meet with your field group. During this orientation, you will meet your field coordinator, review travel logistics, receive your country guide, pray together, discuss expectations, review safety procedures, and exchange emergency contact information.

Begin preparing spiritually for the transition into the field.

A SENDING PRAYER

Father, as we go from this place,
go before us to prepare the way.

Go beside us as companion and guide.

Go behind us as our rear guard.

And go within us as the source of all we offer.

In the name of Jesus, who sends us as He was sent.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER FOR EACH DAY

PRAYER

Gracious God,

Thank You for gathering Your Church from many nations.

Thank You for every story shared, every prayer offered, every friendship formed, and every reminder that Your Kingdom is larger than our own experience.

As we rest tonight, continue shaping our hearts.

Prepare us to recognize Your presence tomorrow.

May we become people who listen well, love generously, and participate faithfully in Your mission.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Many European cities are becoming increasingly multicultural, creating new opportunities for intercultural ministry and church planting..



Part III

Field Immersion

LEARNING ALONGSIDE THE LOCAL CHURCH



Migration is reshaping Europe, bringing people from every nation into neighborhoods where the gospel can be shared across cultures.

CHAPTER 6

Spain Field Guide

Learning from the Church in Spain

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

—John 1:14

BIENVENIDOS A ESPAÑA

Welcome to Spain.

During the coming days you will have the privilege of walking alongside churches, pastors, ministry leaders, volunteers, and communities who faithfully serve Christ in Spain.

This experience is not designed to show you “how ministry is done.”

It is designed to help you recognize how God is already at work through His people.

You are invited to become a student of God’s activity.

Observe carefully. Listen generously. Participate humbly. Reflect prayerfully. Return transformed.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the field experience, each participant will be able to:

- Describe the religious landscape of Spain.
- Identify key challenges facing the evangelical church.
- Recognize examples of church planting and innovation ministry.
- Articulate how local churches engage their communities.
- Reflect on personal calling in light of what was observed.

SPAIN AT A GLANCE

Category	Detail
Population	~47 million
Capital	Madrid
Language	Spanish (Castilian), plus regional languages
Religion	Historically Roman Catholic; growing secularism
Evangelicals	Estimated 0.5–1% of the population
Churches	~4,000 evangelical congregations
Key Challenge	Post-Christian secularism and religious indifference
Opportunity	Growing immigrant communities; openness among youth

THE CHURCH IN SPAIN

Spain has a complex religious history. For centuries, Roman Catholicism shaped national identity. The Protestant Reformation had limited impact, and evangelical communities remained small and often marginalized.

Since the transition to democracy in the late 1970s, religious freedom has expanded. Yet secularism has grown rapidly, particularly among younger generations. Church attendance has declined sharply, and many Spaniards describe themselves as non-practicing or non-religious.

The evangelical church, though small, is growing — often through immigrant-led congregations from Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

MCE-IBEROAMÉRICA IN SPAIN

MCE-Iberoamérica partners with local churches and mission organizations across Spain. Its role is to accompany, resource, and encourage — not to direct or replace local leadership.

Come & See participants are guests of these local partners. Every visit, every conversation, and every act of service takes place under the hospitality and authority of Spanish church leaders.



BEFORE ENTERING THE FIELD

Before you step into the field, take time to prepare your heart and mind.

- Pray for the people you will meet.
- Review the context notes for your assigned city.
- Prepare your observation journal.
- Rest well the night before.
- Dress modestly and practically.
- Carry only what you need.

DAILY RHYTHM IN THE FIELD

Time	Activity	Purpose
Morning	Team Devotional	Spiritual grounding
Mid-Morning	Ministry Visit	Observation and learning
Lunch	Shared Meal	Community and rest
Afternoon	Church/Project Visit	Deeper engagement
Late Afternoon	Journaling Time	Personal reflection
Evening	Group Debrief	Shared processing

HOW TO OBSERVE WELL

- Be present. Put your phone away.
- Watch before you speak.
- Notice body language, atmosphere, and relationships.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Write observations, not interpretations.
- Look for what God is already doing.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

When speaking with local leaders and church members, consider these questions:

- How did you come to faith?
- What is the greatest joy in your ministry?
- What is the greatest challenge?
- How do you see God at work in this community?
- What would you want us to pray for?
- What have you learned about mission that you wish you had known earlier?



MINISTRY PARTICIPATION

During your time in the field, you may be invited to participate in ministry activities.

- Follow the lead of local leaders.
- Serve where asked, not where you assume.
- Be willing to do unseen work.
- Participate with humility and curiosity.
- Debrief participation with your team each evening.

DAILY OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

Use this framework each day to record what you see and experience.

- What did I see today?
- What surprised me?
- What moved me?
- What challenged me?
- What question do I want to explore further?
- Where did I notice God at work?

COMMUNITY MAPPING EXERCISE

As a team, create a simple map of the community you are visiting.

- Where do people gather?
- Where is the church located in relation to daily life?
- What institutions are present (schools, clinics, markets)?
- Where are the margins and who lives there?
- What connections exist between the church and the community?

INNOVATION MINISTRY OBSERVATION

When visiting innovative or unconventional ministries, pay attention to:

- What problem is this ministry trying to solve?
- How does it engage people who are not yet part of the church?
- What risks has this ministry taken?
- What can be learned and adapted for other contexts?
- How is the gospel communicated without words?



EVENING GROUP REFLECTION

Each evening, gather as a team to process the day together.

- What stood out to you today?
- What was uncomfortable or confusing?
- Where did you see the gospel at work?
- What assumptions were challenged?
- How can we pray for what we experienced?

PRAYER GUIDE FOR SPAIN

Use these prompts to guide your prayer throughout the week.

- Pray for the local church leaders you meet.
- Pray for openness among the people of Spain.
- Pray for unity among believers across denominations.
- Pray for the next generation of Spanish Christians.
- Pray for your own heart to be changed by what you witness.

PERSONAL PRAYER NOTES

LOOKING AHEAD

As you prepare to leave the field and return home, consider:

- What will I carry with me from this experience?
- What do I need to release or surrender?
- How has my understanding of mission changed?
- What is one commitment I want to make going forward?
- Who will I share this experience with?



APPENDIX

City-Specific Inserts

The following pages contain city-specific inserts for each field location. These inserts include:

- Local church and ministry contact information
- Neighborhood orientation and safety notes
- Cultural etiquette reminders
- Suggested prayer walks and observation routes
- Key phrases in the local language

Your team leader will distribute the relevant insert before you arrive at each city. Use the space below to take additional notes as you receive your briefing.

CHAPTER 7

Portugal Field Guide

Learning from the Church in Portugal

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

—Matthew 6:10

BEM-VINDOS A PORTUGAL

Welcome to Portugal.

During the coming days you will have the privilege of walking alongside churches, pastors, ministry leaders, volunteers, and communities who faithfully serve Christ in Portugal.

This experience is not designed to show you “how ministry is done.”

It is designed to help you recognize how God is already at work through His people.

You are invited to become a student of God’s activity.

Observe carefully. Listen generously. Participate humbly. Reflect prayerfully. Return transformed.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this field experience, participants will be able to:

- Describe the current religious landscape of Portugal.
- Identify key opportunities and challenges facing the evangelical church.
- Articulate lessons learned from Portuguese ministry leaders.
- Reflect on how observations might inform future ministry practice.

PORTUGAL AT A GLANCE

Category	Detail
Population	11.4 million
Capital	Lisbon
Language	Portuguese
Religion	Historically Roman Catholic; increasing secularization and religious diversity
Evangelicals	Approximately 200,000–250,000
Churches	Diverse evangelical and Protestant congregations nationwide
Key Challenge	Secularization and low levels of active Christian practice
Opportunity	Hospitality, diaspora communities, church planting, and locally rooted innovation ministries

Note: Demographic and religious data are updated annually based on available research.

UNDERSTANDING PORTUGAL

Portugal's religious landscape has shifted significantly over the past several decades. While historically shaped by Roman Catholicism, the country has experienced growing secularization, declining church attendance, and increasing religious diversity. Evangelical and Protestant communities, though a small minority, are present throughout the country and represent a wide range of traditions, denominations, and ministry approaches. Many churches are young, multicultural, and creative in their engagement with surrounding communities. Understanding this context is essential for meaningful participation during the field experience.

MCE-IBEROAMÉRICA IN PORTUGAL

Portugal is one of MCE-Iberoamérica's priority ministry fields.

Current ministry emphases include:

- Church planting partnerships.
- Leadership development.
- Prayer mobilization.
- Diaspora engagement.
- Community-based innovation ministries.
- Formation of bi-vocational leaders.
- Strengthening collaboration between Portuguese churches and the wider European network.

Every ministry encountered should be understood within one or both strategic expressions: Church Planting, Innovation Ministries.



BEFORE ENTERING THE FIELD

Before the first ministry visit:

Pray for your hosts by name. Read the daily Scripture. Review the ministry schedule. Pray for humility. Ask God to help you become attentive rather than efficient.

DAILY FIELD RHYTHM

Although schedules vary, participants should expect a rhythm similar to the following:

Time	Activity	Formation Goal
07:30	Personal Prayer	Listening
08:00	Breakfast	Community
09:00	Ministry Orientation	Understanding context
10:00	Church or Community Visit	Observation
13:00	Lunch	Relationships
15:00	Ministry Participation	Appropriate engagement
17:30	Debrief	Reflection
19:00	Dinner	Fellowship
20:30	Evening Examen	Discernment

OBSERVING MINISTRY IN PORTUGAL

As you participate, pay attention to several dimensions.

Community

How do people greet one another? How are newcomers welcomed? How are intergenerational relationships nurtured?

Worship

What rhythms characterize worship? How is Scripture integrated? How do people participate? What themes emerge repeatedly?

Leadership

How are leaders developed? How are volunteers encouraged? How are responsibilities shared?

Neighborhood Engagement

How do churches understand the communities around them? What partnerships exist? What local needs are addressed? How do ministries build long-term trust?

Innovation

As you observe innovation ministries, ask: How did this initiative begin? What community need inspired it? How does it strengthen the local church? What relationships sustain it?

LISTENING WELL

Portugal teaches patience.

Avoid rushing conversations. Allow silence. Ask thoughtful questions. Resist filling every pause.

Often the most meaningful insights emerge gradually.



SUGGESTED CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

- 1 What gives your congregation hope today?
- 2 What changes have you seen in your community during the past decade?
- 3 How do you understand God's calling in this neighborhood?
- 4 What partnerships have been especially meaningful?
- 5 How can churches in Ibero-America pray for you?

MINISTRY PARTICIPATION

Possible ministry experiences may include:

- Church worship.
- Home fellowship groups.
- University ministries.
- Community cafés.
- Prayer walks.
- Children's ministries.
- Outreach among immigrant communities.
- Local service initiatives.
- Innovation projects responding to neighborhood needs.

Participation should always support local leadership rather than replace it.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Participants are encouraged to:

- Learn basic Portuguese greetings.
- Respect local meal rhythms.
- Dress modestly.
- Be punctual.
- Express gratitude frequently.

Avoid assuming cultural similarities simply because Portuguese is spoken elsewhere in the world. Listen carefully for regional differences.

DAILY OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

What did I notice about the life of the church today?
Where did I recognize God's presence?
What challenged my assumptions?
What questions remain?

COMMUNITY MAPPING EXERCISE

Together with your field team, identify:

- Places of gathering.
- Schools.
- Universities.
- Transportation centers.
- Public spaces.
- Immigrant communities.
- Existing churches.
- Social service organizations.
- Community assets.

Discuss: How does the church relate to each of these places? What opportunities for faithful witness emerge?



CASE REFLECTION

During one ministry visit, choose one ministry initiative for deeper observation.

Describe: The community need. The ministry response. The role of volunteers. The relationship to the local church. Lessons applicable to your own context.

EVENING DEBRIEF

Use these questions each evening.

Where did we witness hope? Where did we encounter hospitality? Where did we recognize resilience? What surprised us? How did today's experiences deepen our understanding of God's mission?

PRAYER GUIDE FOR PORTUGAL

Pray for:

- Churches throughout Portugal.
- Church planters.
- Pastors and lay leaders.
- Young adults and university students.
- Families.
- Migrant communities.
- Portuguese-speaking diaspora.
- Innovation ministries serving local neighborhoods.
- Strengthened collaboration among churches across Southern Europe.

Add names of ministries and people you encounter during the week.

RETURNING HOME

Before leaving Portugal, reflect:

What has Portugal taught me about patience? About hospitality? About faithful presence? About partnership?

How might my church become a better listener?

What one practice would I like to introduce into my own ministry?

Write one concrete action you will take within thirty days of returning home.

DAILY OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

What did I notice about the life of the church today?

Where did I recognize God's presence?

What challenged my assumptions?

What questions remain?



Appendix A Useful Portuguese Expressions

English	Portuguese
Good morning	Bom dia
Good afternoon	Boa tarde
Good evening	Bom noite
Thank you	Obrigado / Obrigada
Please	Por favor
Excuse me	Com licença
Peace be with you	A paz esteja consigo
May I pray for you?	Posso orar por si?
Thank you for your hospitality	Obrigado pela sua hospitalidade

Appendix B Portugal Ministry Observation Checklist

During the week, observe whether you encounter examples of:

- Church planting.
- Community engagement.
- Prayer initiatives.
- Leadership development.
- Innovation ministries.
- Diaspora ministry.
- Intergenerational ministry.
- Hospitality.
- Partnerships.
- Disciple-making.

Record one example of each whenever possible.

CHAPTER 8

Italy Field Guide

Learning from the Church in Italy

*For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them.*

—Matthew 18:20

BENVENUTI IN ITALIA

Welcome to Italy.

During the coming days, you will have the privilege of walking alongside churches, pastors, ministry leaders, volunteers, and communities who faithfully serve Christ in Italy.

This experience is not designed to show you “how ministry is done.”

It is designed to help you recognize how God is already at work through His people.

You are invited to become a student of God’s activity.

Observe carefully. Listen generously. Participate humbly. Reflect prayerfully. Return transformed.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of this field immersion you should be able to:

Understand

- Describe the cultural, historical, and religious context shaping ministry in Northern Italy.
- Recognize why Italy has become one of MCE-Iberoamérica's strategic expansion fields.

Observe

- Identify characteristics of church planting in Italian contexts.
- Observe how innovation ministries strengthen local churches and engage surrounding communities.

Reflect

- Connect observations to Scripture and the theology of the Missio Dei.
- Recognize how patient, relational ministry reflects the Gospel.

Discern

- Consider how your own vocation could contribute to God's mission in Italy.
- Identify lessons transferable to your own church.

ITALY AT A GLANCE

Category	Detail
Population	~60 million
Capital	Rome
Language	Italian
Religion	Historically Roman Catholic; growing secularization
Evangelicals	Approximately 500,000–700,000
Churches	Diverse evangelical congregations, many small and multicultural
Key Challenge	Deep cultural Catholicism with low active practice; fragmentation
Opportunity	Migration, multicultural churches, innovation ministries, bi-vocational leadership



UNDERSTANDING ITALY

Italy cannot be understood only through its history. It must also be understood through its neighborhoods. Across Northern Italy, long-established communities are being reshaped by migration, demographic change, economic transitions, and new patterns of religious affiliation. Many people retain a cultural connection to Christianity while having little regular involvement in church life. At the same time, churches are discovering new opportunities for faithful witness through hospitality, discipleship, neighborhood engagement, and partnerships across cultures. Come & See invites you to observe these realities with hope rather than assumptions.

MCE-IBEROAMÉRICA IN ITALY

Italy is one of MCE-Iberoamérica's strategic expansion fields. The vision is not simply to increase the number of workers but to cultivate sustainable partnerships that strengthen local churches and encourage contextual expressions of the Gospel. Current priorities include:

- Church planting in partnership with Italian congregations.
- Formation of multicultural ministry teams.
- Development of bi-vocational missionaries.
- Innovation ministries responding to local community needs.
- Leadership formation.
- Prayer mobilization.

Every ministry encountered should contribute to one or both strategic expressions: Church Planting, Innovation Ministries.



The Four Learning Cities

Milan:

A Global City, A Gospel Opportunity

Milan introduces participants to ministry within a major international metropolitan context.

Observe: Multicultural neighborhoods. University communities.

Marketplace ministry. Urban church planting. International partnerships.

Reflection Question: How does the Gospel take root within highly globalized cities?

Bergamo:

Faithful Presence in Community

Bergamo offers opportunities to observe ministry shaped by strong local identity and relational community life.

Observe: Long-term relationship building. Family networks. Local partnerships. Neighborhood engagement.

Reflection Question: What does faithful presence look like over decades rather than events?

Trent (Trento):

Learning, Dialogue, and Hospitality

Trent invites participants to observe ministry among students, professionals, and academic communities.

Observe: University ministry. Intellectual engagement. Hospitality. Small-group discipleship. Leadership development.

Desenzano del Garda:

Building Community Through Relationships

Desenzano illustrates ministry within a smaller urban environment connected to tourism, local families, and regional mobility.

Observe: Community rhythms. Hospitality. Seasonal ministry. Church collaboration.

Reflection Question: How does ministry adapt to changing populations while remaining rooted in place?

DAILY RHYTHM

Time	Activity	Formation Goal
07:30	Personal Prayer	Listening
08:00	Breakfast	Community
09:00	Ministry Orientation	Understanding context
10:00	Ministry Visits	Observation
13:00	Lunch	Relationships
15:00	Community Engagement	Participation
17:30	Debrief	Reflection
19:00	Dinner	Fellowship
20:30	Evening Examen	Discernment



OBSERVING CHURCH PLANTING

During each visit, ask yourself: How did this congregation begin? How are new disciples formed? How are leaders identified and developed? How are relationships cultivated before programs? How does the church understand its neighborhood? What signs of long-term hope do I observe?

OBSERVING INNOVATION MINISTRIES

Innovation ministries should always be interpreted as expressions of the Church's witness.

Observe: What community need is being addressed? How was that need discovered? Who participates? How does this ministry connect people with Christian community? What partnerships sustain the work? How is success understood beyond numbers?

VOCATIONAL REFLECTION

Italy provides an important opportunity to consider vocation.

As you move through ministry contexts, ask: How might my profession become part of God's mission?

Could my skills contribute through: Education? Business?

Healthcare? Engineering? Technology? Arts? Hospitality? Research?

Administration? Entrepreneurship?

Do not ask first: "Could I become a missionary?"

Instead ask: "How has God already equipped me to participate?"

COMMUNITY MAPPING EXERCISE

Working with your team, identify:

- Neighborhood gathering places.
- Universities.
- Businesses.
- Transportation corridors.
- Community organizations.
- Immigrant communities.
- Churches.
- Public spaces.
- Cultural institutions.

Discuss:

Where do relationships naturally develop? Where might Christian hospitality become visible?



DAILY OBSERVATION WORKSHEET

Today I noticed...

One ministry practice that inspired me...

One question I still carry...

One assumption that changed today...

Where I sensed God's presence...

EVENING DEBRIEF

Each evening discuss: Where did we encounter hospitality? Where did we witness courage? Where did we observe patient discipleship? How did today's experiences reshape our understanding of church planting? Where did we see innovation ministries strengthening the Church's witness?

PRAYER GUIDE FOR ITALY

Pray for:

- Churches across Northern Italy.
- Church planters and their families.
- University ministries.
- Young adults.
- Migrant communities.
- BI-vocational leaders.
- Christian professionals serving in the marketplace.
- Innovation ministries addressing local needs.
- Partnerships between Italian churches and churches throughout Ibero-America.

Add names of people and ministries encountered during the week.

RETURNING HOME

Before leaving Italy, reflect carefully.

What have I learned about patience in ministry? How has Italy reshaped my understanding of vocation? What examples of church planting challenged me? What innovation ministry most inspired me? Which relationships do I hope will continue? How has God been speaking to me during this week?

Write one six-month commitment.



Every street holds a story. Every neighborhood carries the quiet rhythm of lives being shaped by faith, community, and the slow work of the gospel.



*Mission in Europe
increasingly depends on
collaboration between
local churches,
international partners,
and missionary workers
serving together.*

Croatia Field Guide

Learning from the Church in Croatia

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God.*

—Matthew 5:9

DOBROŠLI U HRVATSKU

Welcome to Croatia.

Croatia is a country of remarkable beauty, deep historical memory, resilient communities, and growing opportunities for Christian witness. Many visitors know Croatia through its coastline, medieval cities, and national parks.

Come & See invites you to discover another Croatia. A Croatia where churches faithfully proclaim the Gospel.

Where communities continue healing from historical wounds.

Where believers serve neighbors with humility.
Where new partnerships are creating opportunities for church planting, discipleship, and innovative ministry.

You have come to learn from these brothers and sisters.





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of this immersion you should be able to:

Understand

- Describe major historical and cultural influences shaping Christian ministry in Croatia.
- Recognize why Croatia represents an important strategic expansion field.

Observe

- Notice how churches cultivate reconciliation, discipleship, and hospitality.
- Observe how ministry adapts to local cultural realities.

Reflect

- Connect field experiences with Scripture.
- Recognize the importance of patience, trust, and long-term relationships.

Discern

- Consider how your own gifts might strengthen similar ministries.
- Identify practices applicable within your own church.

CROATIA AT A GLANCE

Fact	Detail
Capital	Zagreb
Principal Ministry Areas	Depending on the annual program: Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Slavonia, other partner locations
Official Language	Croatian
Religious Landscape	Historically shaped by Roman Catholicism, while Protestant and Evangelical communities remain relatively small but increasingly collaborative. The country's recent history has also highlighted the importance of reconciliation, community rebuilding, and faithful Christian presence.

UNDERSTANDING CROATIA

Croatia's recent history cannot be ignored.

Many communities continue living with memories of conflict, displacement, and rebuilding.

As participants, we do not come to analyze political history.

We come to observe how God's people faithfully serve within communities shaped by that history.

Hope often grows quietly. Trust develops gradually. Hospitality becomes deeply meaningful. Prayer sustains ministry.

These realities shape Christian witness throughout the country.



MCE-Iberoamérica in Croatia

Croatia represents one of MCE-Iberoamérica's strategic expansion fields. The emphasis is not rapid organizational growth but faithful, long-term partnership with local churches.

Current priorities include:

- Church planting partnerships.
- Leadership formation.
- Community discipleship.
- Innovation ministries serving local needs.
- Prayer mobilization.
- Development of multicultural ministry teams.

Every ministry encountered should be understood within MCE-Iberoamérica's two principal ministry expressions: Church Planting, Innovation Ministries.

Before Entering the Field

Before your first visit: Read Psalm 85. Pray for peace. Learn your hosts' names. Review the ministry schedule. Ask God to cultivate humility and patience.

Daily Rhythm

Time	Activity	Formation Goal
07:30	Personal Prayer	Listening
08:00	Breakfast	Community
09:00	Ministry Orientation	Context
10:00	Church & Community Visits	Observation
13:00	Lunch	Relationships
15:00	Ministry Participation	Engagement
17:30	Debrief	Reflection
19:00	Dinner	Fellowship
20:30	Evening Prayer	Discernment



Observing Ministry

As you visit churches, notice:

Community

How is trust cultivated? How are newcomers welcomed? How do churches build long-term relationships?

Worship

How does worship reflect both hope and remembrance? What role does prayer play? How is Scripture taught?

Leadership

How are younger leaders encouraged? How are lay members equipped? How is leadership shared?

Neighborhood Engagement

How do churches understand local needs? What partnerships exist? How are ministries sustained over time?

Innovation Ministries

Observe carefully. Innovation in Croatia often develops quietly.

Ask: What problem is being addressed? Who identified it? How does it strengthen local discipleship? How does it build trust within the community?

Learning About Reconciliation

One of the most important learning opportunities in Croatia is understanding Christian reconciliation.

As you observe ministry, consider: How do churches respond to painful history? How is forgiveness practiced? How is hope cultivated? How does the Gospel shape relationships?

Avoid simplistic conclusions. Listen carefully. Allow local Christians to interpret their own experience.

Conversation Guide

Suggested questions:

- What gives your congregation hope today?
- What has God taught your church through difficult seasons?
- How has your community changed?
- What opportunities do you see for the next generation?
- How may we pray with you?



Ministry Participation

Possible experiences include:

- Church worship.
- Community service.
- Youth ministry.
- Prayer gatherings.
- Home fellowship groups.
- Children's ministry.
- Neighborhood walks.
- Conversations with community leaders.
- Innovation ministry projects.

Always participate under the guidance of local hosts.

Community Mapping Exercise

Working together, identify:

- Schools.
- Community centers.
- Churches.
- Public gathering places.
- Transportation hubs.
- Universities.
- Parks.
- Cultural institutions.
- Social service organizations.

Discuss: How might these places become spaces of Christian presence?

Daily Observation Worksheet

Today I experienced...

One act of hospitality I noticed...

One expression of hope I witnessed...

One question I continue carrying...

Where I sensed God speaking...

Evening Reflection

Each evening discuss: Where did we witness resilience? Where did we experience peace? What surprised us? How did today's conversations deepen our understanding of the Church? How did today's ministry express the Gospel?



Prayer Guide for Croatia

Pray for:

- Churches throughout Croatia.
- Church planters.
- Families.
- Youth and young adults.
- Community reconciliation.
- Ministry leaders.
- Innovation ministries.
- Partnerships throughout Southern Europe.
- New opportunities for faithful Christian witness.

Write additional requests gathered during the week:

Returning Home

Before leaving Croatia, reflect.

How has this experience reshaped my understanding of hope? What have I learned about reconciliation? How have local churches demonstrated perseverance? How has God been inviting me to participate? What relationships do I hope will continue?

Write one concrete commitment for the coming six months.

Appendix A — Useful Croatian Expressions

English	Croatian
Good morning	Dobro jutro
Good afternoon	Dobar dan
Good evening	Dobra večer
Thank you	Hvala
Please	Molim
Excuse me	Oprostite
Peace be with you	Mir s vama
May I pray for you?	Mogu li moliti za vas?
Thank you for your hospitality	Hvala na vašem gostoprimstvu

Appendix B Croatia Ministry Observation Checklist

Observe examples of:

- Church planting.
- Prayer.
- Leadership development.
- Hospitality.
- Youth ministry.
- Community engagement.
- Innovation ministries.
- Reconciliation.
- Cross-cultural relationships.
- Disciple-making.

Record at least one observation under each category whenever possible.



Preparation is not only logistical. It is relational—learning to sit, to listen, and to receive before we offer anything in return.



*The places we enter are not blank
canvases. They are living
communities where God has been
present long before our arrival.*

Returning Home

When the Journey Really Begins

*Were not our hearts burning within us while
He talked with us on the road...?*

—Luke 24:32

WELCOME HOME

Welcome home.

You may have expected this handbook to end when your plane landed.

Instead, this chapter marks the beginning of a new phase.

Come & See was never intended to be an isolated experience.

Its purpose is to deepen your participation in God's mission through your local church, your vocation, your relationships, and your daily life.

Your experiences in Europe now become gifts entrusted to you—not to preserve privately, but to steward faithfully for the benefit of others.





Understanding Re-entry

Re-entry is the process of returning to your home context after an immersive cross-cultural experience.

It is often more disorienting than departure.

You may feel restless, misunderstood, or disconnected from routines that once felt natural.

This is normal. It is also an invitation.

God uses the discomfort of re-entry to deepen formation and clarify calling.

Common Re-entry Experiences

Feeling that no one understands what you experienced.

Difficulty explaining what God did in simple terms.

Frustration with the pace or priorities of home life.

Grief over leaving new relationships.

A sense of calling without clarity about next steps.

Desire to return immediately.

New awareness of local needs you previously overlooked.

The First Seven Days

Rest. Do not fill your schedule immediately.

Journal daily. Write what you remember before it fades.

Pray through the names of people you met.

Resist the pressure to summarize everything at once.

Contact your mentor to schedule your first conversation.

Attend your local church. Sit. Listen. Worship.

Reflection Exercise

What moment from the journey continues to stay with me?

What did I learn about God that I did not know before?

What did I learn about myself?

How has my understanding of mission changed?

What is one thing I want to carry into my daily life?



The Emmaus Pattern

Luke 24 provides a helpful model for re-entry.

The disciples: Experienced Christ. Walked together. Reflected together. Recognized God's work. Returned to the community. Shared the story. Come & See follows the same pattern.

Experience → Reflection → Community → Witness → Participation

Telling the Story Faithfully

One temptation after returning is to describe only activities.

Instead of saying: "We visited four churches."

Tell the deeper story. For example: "I discovered how patient discipleship can transform a neighborhood over many years."

Instead of: "We traveled through Italy."

Say: "I met believers whose hospitality changed my understanding of Christian community."

Stories shape imagination. Facts alone rarely do.

Sharing with Your Church

Your testimony should strengthen your congregation.

Focus on: What God is doing. What local churches taught you. How your understanding changed. What your church might learn.

Avoid presenting yourself as the expert. Instead, serve as a witness.



Suggested Testimony Structure

Part One — What I expected.

Part Two — What surprised me.

Part Three — Where I encountered God.

Part Four — What our church can learn.

Part Five — How we can continue participating.

Fifteen minutes is usually sufficient. Leave time for questions.

Your First Mentor Conversation

Meet within two weeks.

Suggested questions: What continues to stay with you? Where have you changed? What relationships should continue? What questions remain unresolved? How is God inviting you forward?

Re-entry Prayer

PRAYER

Lord,

Thank You for all You have shown me.

Help me resist the temptation to return to old routines without reflection.

Teach me to recognize the ways You have been shaping my heart.

Show me how these experiences may strengthen my church, my vocation, and my daily life.

Give me wisdom for the next faithful step.

Amen.



The Thirty-Day Integration Plan

Rather than returning immediately to ordinary routines, intentionally create space for integration.

Week One — Remember

Review your journal. Pray through the names of people you met. Write three pages describing your experience.

Week Two — Share

Meet with your mentor. Write your church testimony. Thank your hosts. Reconnect with your field group.

Week Three — Discern

Ask: How is God inviting me to continue participating? Discuss with trusted leaders. Attend a mobilization conversation with MCE-Iberoamérica.

Week Four — Respond

Identify one concrete next step. Not five. One. Faithfulness usually begins with a single step.

Maintaining Relationships

Do not allow new friendships to disappear.

Continue praying for: Churches. Missionaries. Families. Participants. Field hosts.

Ways to remain connected include: Monthly messages. Prayer updates. Video calls. Church partnerships. Future visits. Collaborative ministry.



The Six-Month Reflection

Six months after returning, revisit your journal.

Ask: What changes have remained? What commitments have become habits? How has my church changed? Where has God continued opening doors? How has my understanding of vocation developed?

Signs of Healthy Integration

You know Come & See has become formative when:

- You pray differently.
- You notice people more attentively.
- You listen before speaking.
- You speak about God's mission more naturally.
- You encourage others to discern.
- You become more deeply connected to your local church.
- You remain curious.
- You become more hopeful.

Discernment Exercise

Prayerfully consider the following participation pathways. Which one currently seems most consistent with God's invitation?

- Continue praying intentionally.
- Strengthen my local church's global mission.
- Return for another field experience.
- Explore church planting.
- Explore innovation ministries.
- Participate as a bi-vocational professional.
- Discern long-term missionary service.
- Serve as a mentor for future participants.
- Become a Kingdom Partner.
- Help connect churches and networks.

Remember: You are not choosing a permanent identity. You are identifying your next faithful step.



Personal Rule of Life

Rather than making vague resolutions, write a simple Rule of Life for the coming year.

Include: Prayer. Scripture. Church. Hospitality. Learning. Service. Mission. Rest.

Review it monthly with your mentor.

Prayer of Commitment

Gracious God,

Thank You for inviting me to participate in Your mission.

As I return to my ordinary rhythms, help me recognize that no place is ordinary in Your Kingdom.

Teach me to love my neighbors more deeply.

Strengthen my church. Guide my vocation. Keep me attentive to Your Spirit.

May the lessons learned through Come & See continue bearing fruit for many years.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Participant Commitment

I commit, with God's help, to continue participating faithfully in His mission by:

Participant Signature

Date

