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New Ministry Expansion Kit Empowers Cross-Cultural Workers to Harness the Impact of Virtual Volunteering

Developed by Switchboard in partnership with Christar and Pioneers, funded by a Missio Nexus Innovation Grant

AUSTIN – March 25, 2025 – Often, cross-cultural workers face challenges that require professional skills they may not have, such as marketing, technology and financial management, limiting their impact and causing frustration and stress. At the same time, many Christians who don't serve in full-time cross-cultural ministry want to be involved in global missions, but time, resources and logistics often prevent them from actively participating in the Great Commission.

To bridge this gap, **Switchboard** (globalswitchboard.io), in collaboration with **Christar** (christar.org) and **Pioneers** (pioneers.org), is launching the **Ministry Expansion Kit**, a resource designed to help cross-cultural workers benefit from virtual volunteering that helps them address challenges and embrace new opportunities for outreach. This initiative is funded by a **Missio Nexus Innovation Grant** and was launched **March 17, 2025**.

Equipping Cross-Cultural Workers to Maximize Their Ministry Potential

The Ministry Expansion Kit provides everything cross-cultural workers need to effectively utilize Switchboard, an innovative platform that increases ministry impact by simplifying administrative tasks and offering specialized support through virtual volunteers. The kit contains:

- **Guides and interactive tools** to help cross-cultural workers clarify needs and opportunities and engage volunteers.
- **Communication and sharing materials**, including slides, templates and explainer videos.
- **Ongoing support** through access to Switchboard specialists and FAQs.

Together these tools will help more cross-cultural workers reap the benefits of virtual volunteering that many have already begun to experience through Switchboard. Peter, who serves in Spain, shares, "I signed up for Switchboard and within a day I was connected with a volunteer to help us with project management. **This has taken a level of stress off our team we didn't think possible. There wasn't enough time or resources to get all the things God has trusted us to get done ... but Switchboard helped us realize that wasn't true!**"

A Powerful Partnership for Greater Impact

The partnership between Switchboard, Christar and Pioneers ensures the Ministry Expansion Kit is built with deep global ministry expertise and practical implementation strategies.

- **Christar's** Advancement division led the kit's design, leveraging the collective experience of field workers and support staff alike.
- **Pioneers** is supporting distribution, expanding the kit's reach to its workers worldwide.
- **Switchboard** provides the technology and platform that connect skilled believers with global missions opportunities.

"The Missio Nexus Innovation Grant has enabled us to create both this kit and a companion resource to help churches involve more of their people in missions through virtual volunteering. It will also allow us to develop future tools that will further connect churches, missionaries and faith-based organizations with skilled volunteers," said Scott Elequin, Executive Director of Switchboard. **"I'm thrilled by the potential impact of this initiative to increase collaboration to fulfill the Great Commission around the world."**

How Cross-Cultural Workers Can Get Involved

Cross-cultural workers can access the **Ministry Expansion Kit** by visiting globalswitchboard.io/ministry-expansion-kit and completing a short survey. Switchboard, Christar and Pioneers are actively introducing this resource to their networks.

For more information, visit globalswitchboard.io or contact **Heather Trumpfheller** at htrumpfheller@globalswitchboard.io.

Switchboard (globalswitchboard.io)

Switchboard is an innovative platform that connects skilled Christian professionals with global missions opportunities. By leveraging virtual volunteering, Switchboard empowers cross-cultural workers, churches, and organizations to expand their impact, providing expertise in areas such as marketing, technology, and administration. Through its network, Switchboard streamlines connections, mobilizes resources, and fosters collaboration to advance the Great Commission. Learn more at globalswitchboard.io.

Christar (christar.org)

Christar is dedicated to establishing churches among least-reached communities worldwide. Since 1909, Christar has connected members of the Body of Christ, mobilizing them to invest their resources, talents, and skills in the Great Commission. Christar partners with churches to train and support believers who desire to make an eternal impact by extending the reach of Christ's Body to communities cut off from the good news of Jesus. Learn more at christar.org.

Pioneers (pioneers.org)

Pioneers mobilizes and equips Christian workers to share the gospel and make disciples among unreached people groups. With a focus on innovation, collaboration, and cultural sensitivity, Pioneers supports teams serving in diverse contexts around the world. By empowering workers with strategic resources and training, Pioneers advances the spread of the gospel where it is least known. Learn more at pioneers.org.

Missio Nexus (missionexus.org)

Missio Nexus is a network of Great Commission-focused organizations and leaders committed to advancing global missions. By providing resources, training, and strategic partnerships, Missio Nexus fosters collaboration among mission agencies, churches, and individuals working to expand the reach of the gospel. Through innovation grants, research, and networking opportunities, Missio Nexus supports the growth and effectiveness of cross-cultural ministry worldwide. Learn more at missionexus.org.