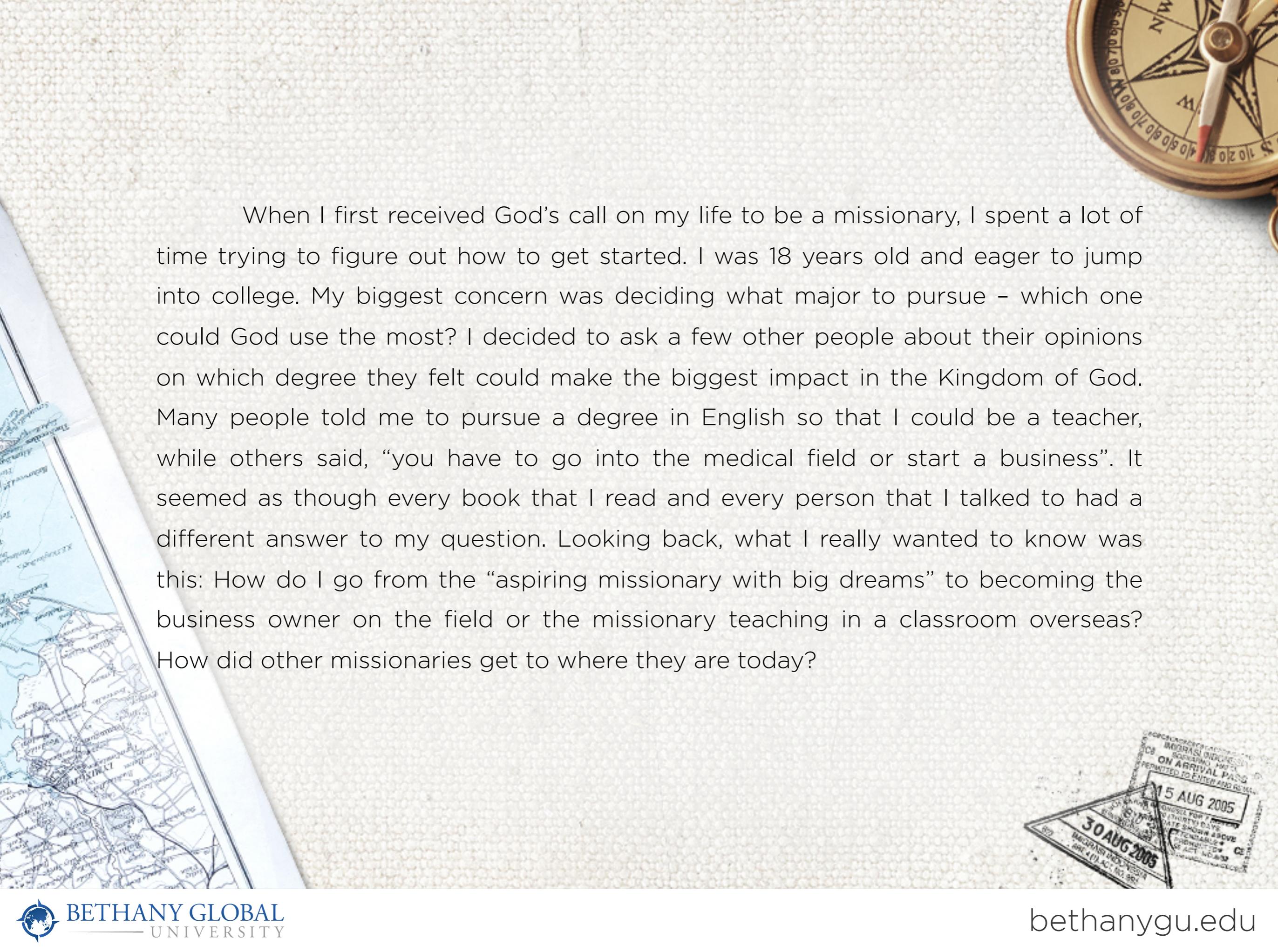




SKILLS
YOU NEED
ON THE
MISSION
FIELD
and how to
get them





When I first received God’s call on my life to be a missionary, I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to get started. I was 18 years old and eager to jump into college. My biggest concern was deciding what major to pursue – which one could God use the most? I decided to ask a few other people about their opinions on which degree they felt could make the biggest impact in the Kingdom of God. Many people told me to pursue a degree in English so that I could be a teacher, while others said, “you have to go into the medical field or start a business”. It seemed as though every book that I read and every person that I talked to had a different answer to my question. Looking back, what I really wanted to know was this: How do I go from the “aspiring missionary with big dreams” to becoming the business owner on the field or the missionary teaching in a classroom overseas? How did other missionaries get to where they are today?



Recently, I had the opportunity to interview four Bethany International missionaries who are serving in four different parts of the world. These are missionaries who excel in marketplace ministry, meaning that they have taken their skills and knowledge in business, marketing, economics, etc. and successfully implemented them into their ministries.



Nate is currently serving in Europe (primarily England) as a spiritual advisor for government officials in an effort to reconcile broken government systems and relations. His wife, Allie, is working with victims of human trafficking in the area.

In a few sentences can you share your process of deciding to go into missions?

When I was a kid, I heard missionaries speak at my church, and I went on some mission trips. I went to university, but I would say I felt called to Bethany Global University during a mission's conference. Both my wife and I went forward during an altar call and have been serving the Lord ever since. For me, it was that simple—it wasn't about a particular place, it was just about serving God for my whole life and being available to go, to say and to do whatever He asked me to do.





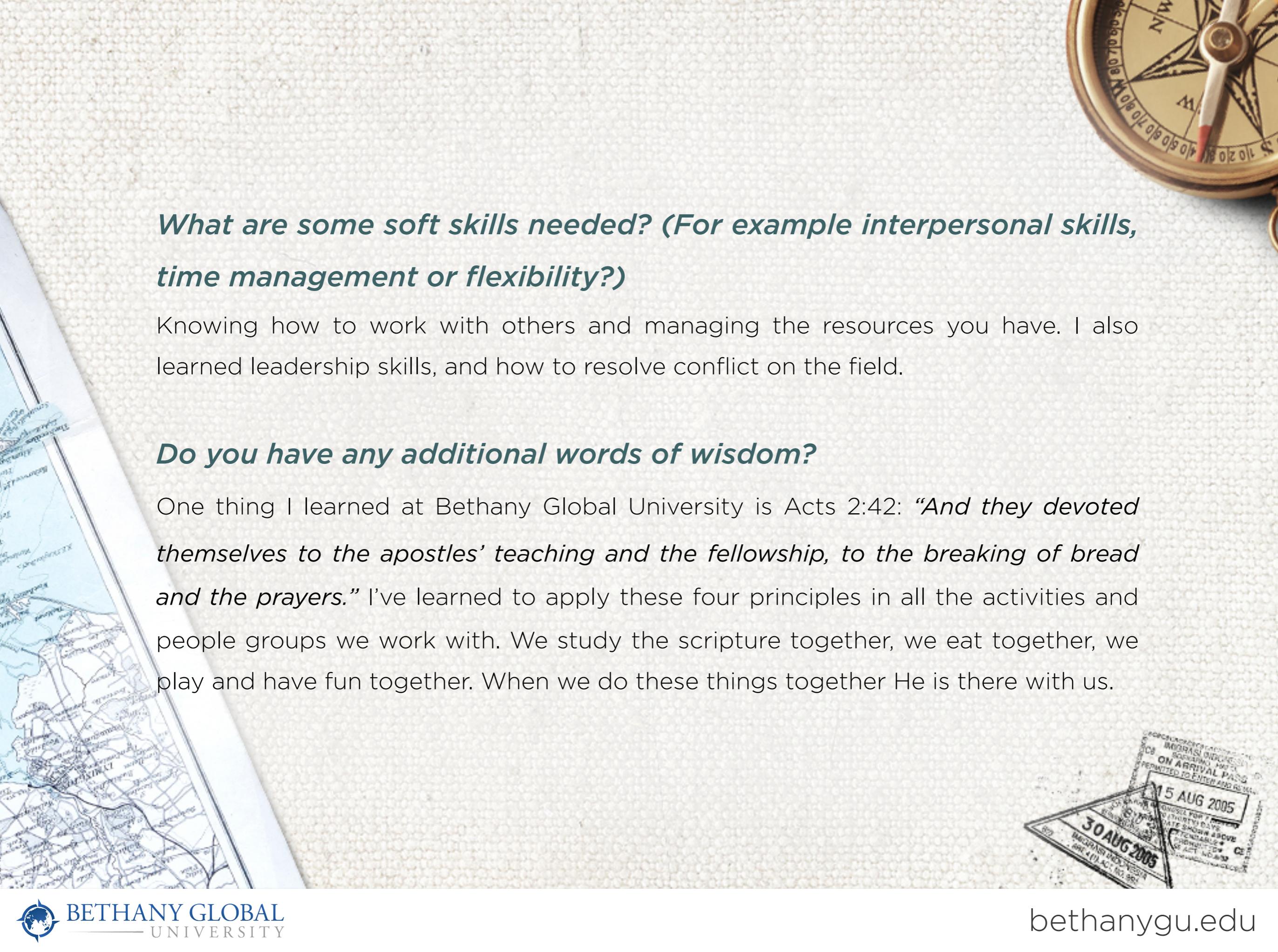
Did you participate in any training programs/formal education? If so did you find this training helpful?

I went to University before coming to Bethany and took a lot of Business Management courses. I don't think I would be able to do what I do today without this.

What are some specific hard skills needed in this ministry? (For example proficiency in a language, computer programming, or a degree)

The skills that have been best for me on the field are probably the business and management classes that I took. I learned about finances and basically how to run a business.





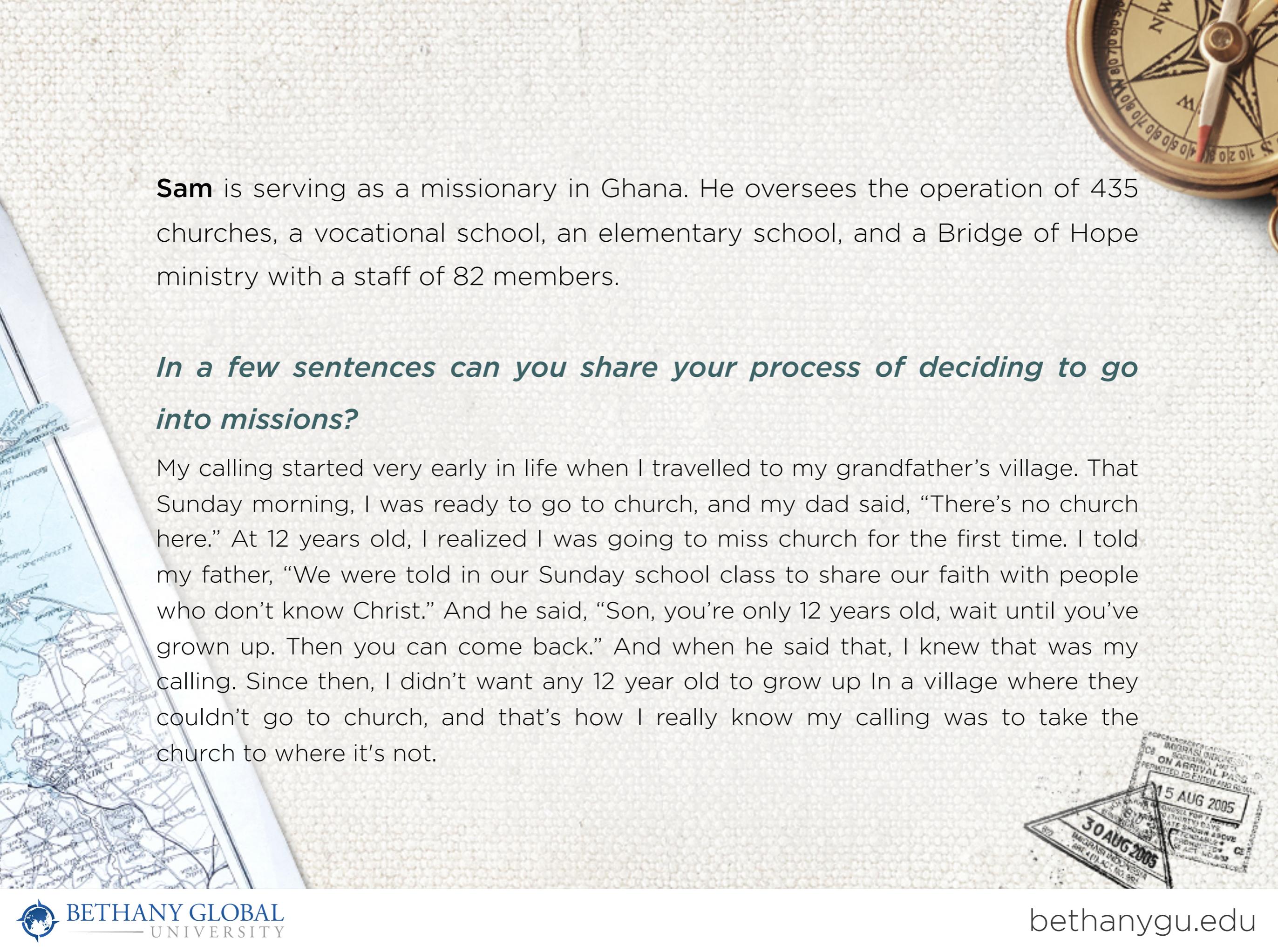
What are some soft skills needed? (For example interpersonal skills, time management or flexibility?)

Knowing how to work with others and managing the resources you have. I also learned leadership skills, and how to resolve conflict on the field.

Do you have any additional words of wisdom?

One thing I learned at Bethany Global University is Acts 2:42: *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* I’ve learned to apply these four principles in all the activities and people groups we work with. We study the scripture together, we eat together, we play and have fun together. When we do these things together He is there with us.





Sam is serving as a missionary in Ghana. He oversees the operation of 435 churches, a vocational school, an elementary school, and a Bridge of Hope ministry with a staff of 82 members.

In a few sentences can you share your process of deciding to go into missions?

My calling started very early in life when I travelled to my grandfather's village. That Sunday morning, I was ready to go to church, and my dad said, "There's no church here." At 12 years old, I realized I was going to miss church for the first time. I told my father, "We were told in our Sunday school class to share our faith with people who don't know Christ." And he said, "Son, you're only 12 years old, wait until you've grown up. Then you can come back." And when he said that, I knew that was my calling. Since then, I didn't want any 12 year old to grow up in a village where they couldn't go to church, and that's how I really know my calling was to take the church to where it's not.





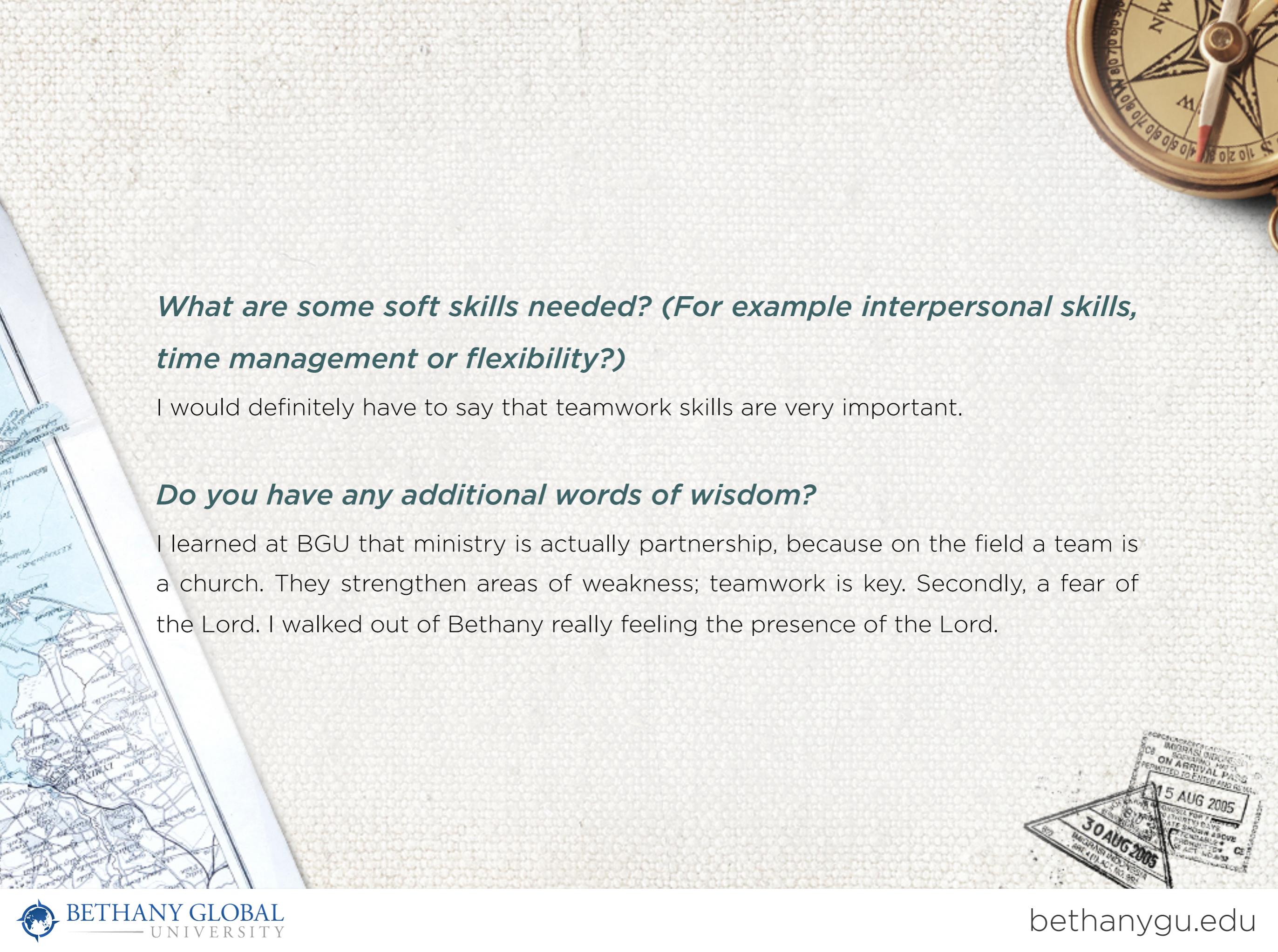
Did you participate in any training programs/formal education? If so did you find this training helpful?

I did YWAM, which led me to more training at Bethany Global University.

What are some specific hard skills needed in this ministry? (For example proficiency in a language, computer programming, or a degree)

Business administration has been the most helpful skill.





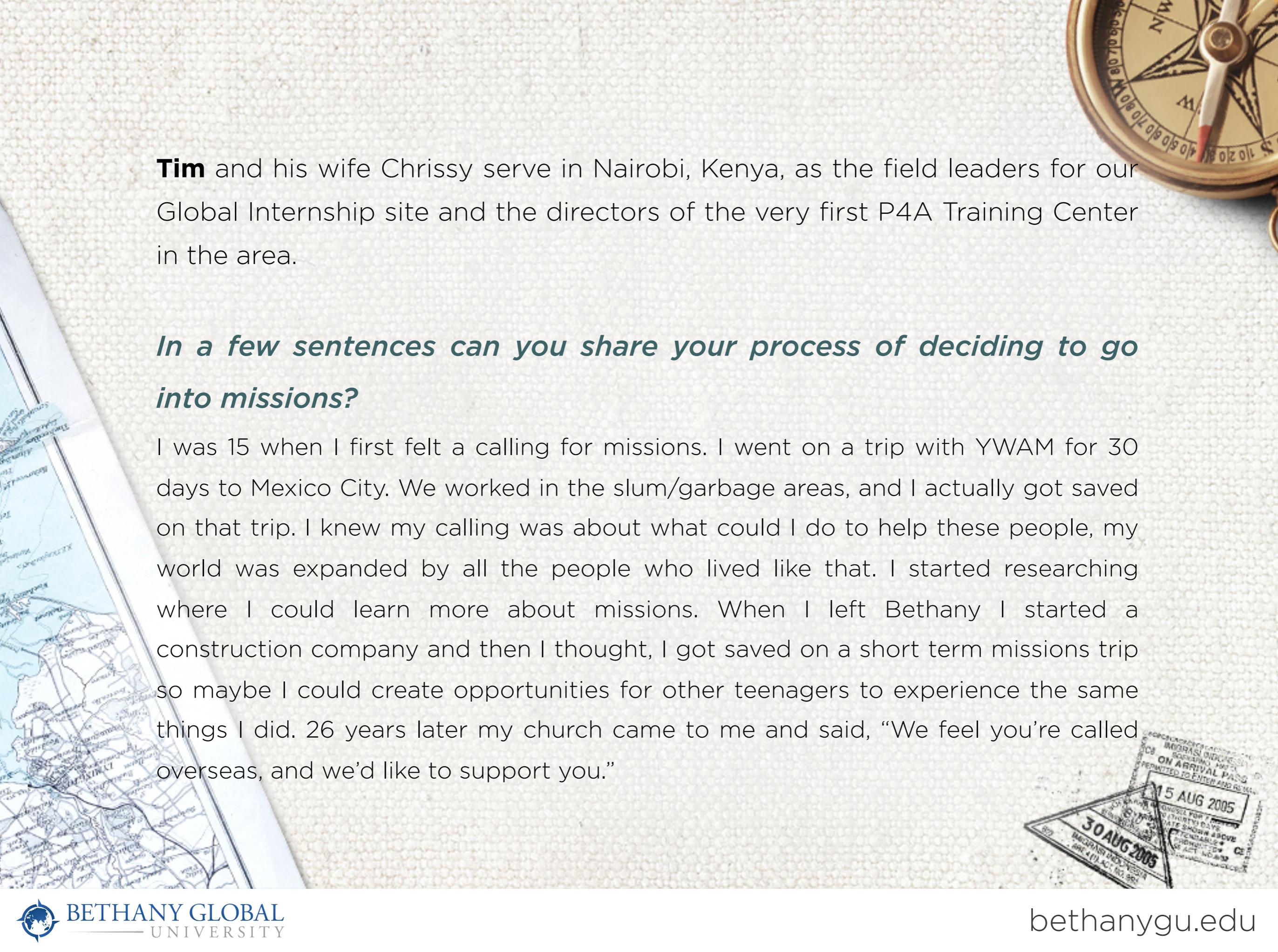
What are some soft skills needed? (For example interpersonal skills, time management or flexibility?)

I would definitely have to say that teamwork skills are very important.

Do you have any additional words of wisdom?

I learned at BGU that ministry is actually partnership, because on the field a team is a church. They strengthen areas of weakness; teamwork is key. Secondly, a fear of the Lord. I walked out of Bethany really feeling the presence of the Lord.

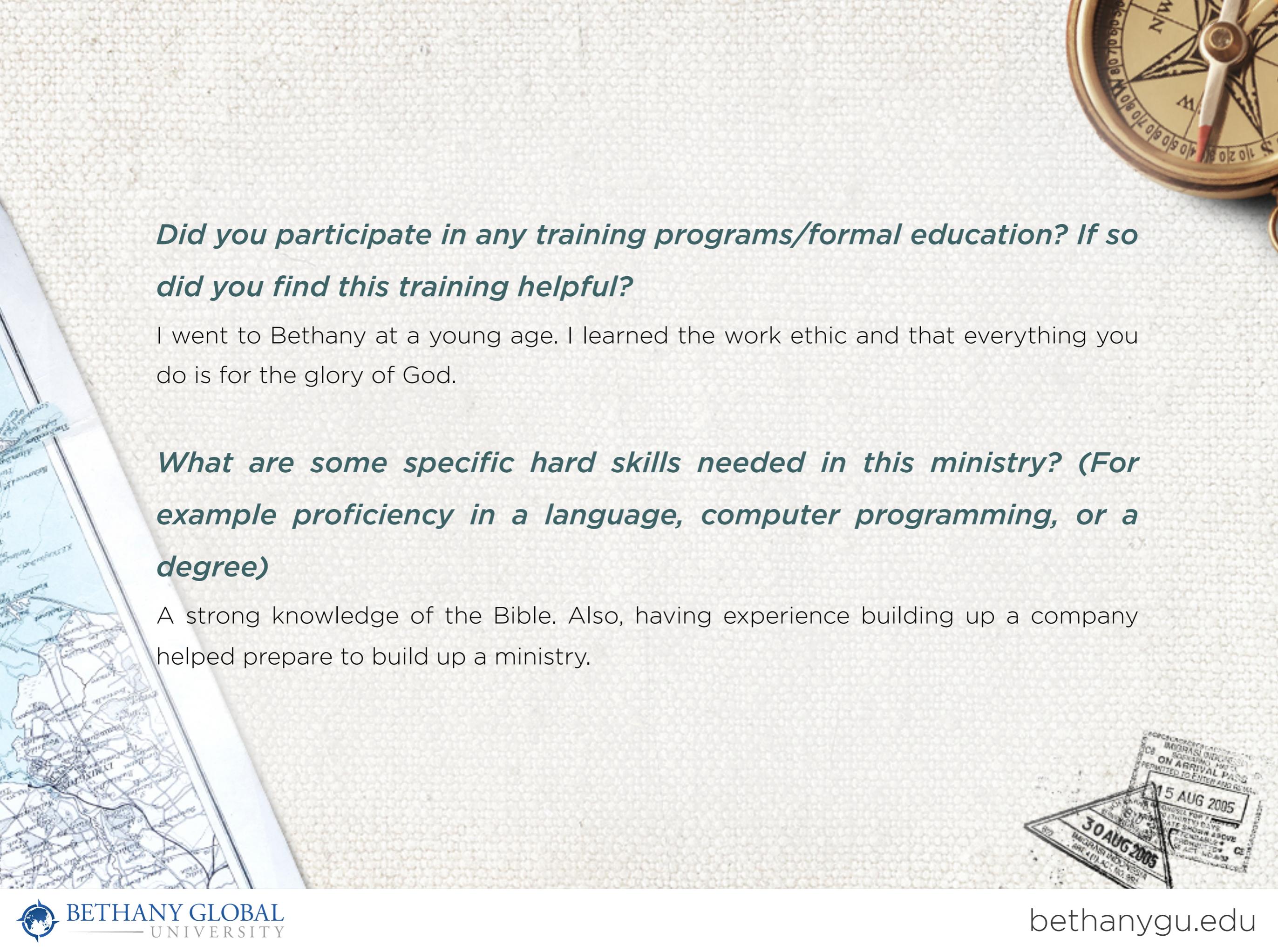


A background collage featuring a map, a compass, and travel stamps. The map is on the left, the compass is in the top right, and the stamps are in the bottom right.

Tim and his wife Chrissy serve in Nairobi, Kenya, as the field leaders for our Global Internship site and the directors of the very first P4A Training Center in the area.

In a few sentences can you share your process of deciding to go into missions?

I was 15 when I first felt a calling for missions. I went on a trip with YWAM for 30 days to Mexico City. We worked in the slum/garbage areas, and I actually got saved on that trip. I knew my calling was about what could I do to help these people, my world was expanded by all the people who lived like that. I started researching where I could learn more about missions. When I left Bethany I started a construction company and then I thought, I got saved on a short term missions trip so maybe I could create opportunities for other teenagers to experience the same things I did. 26 years later my church came to me and said, “We feel you’re called overseas, and we’d like to support you.”



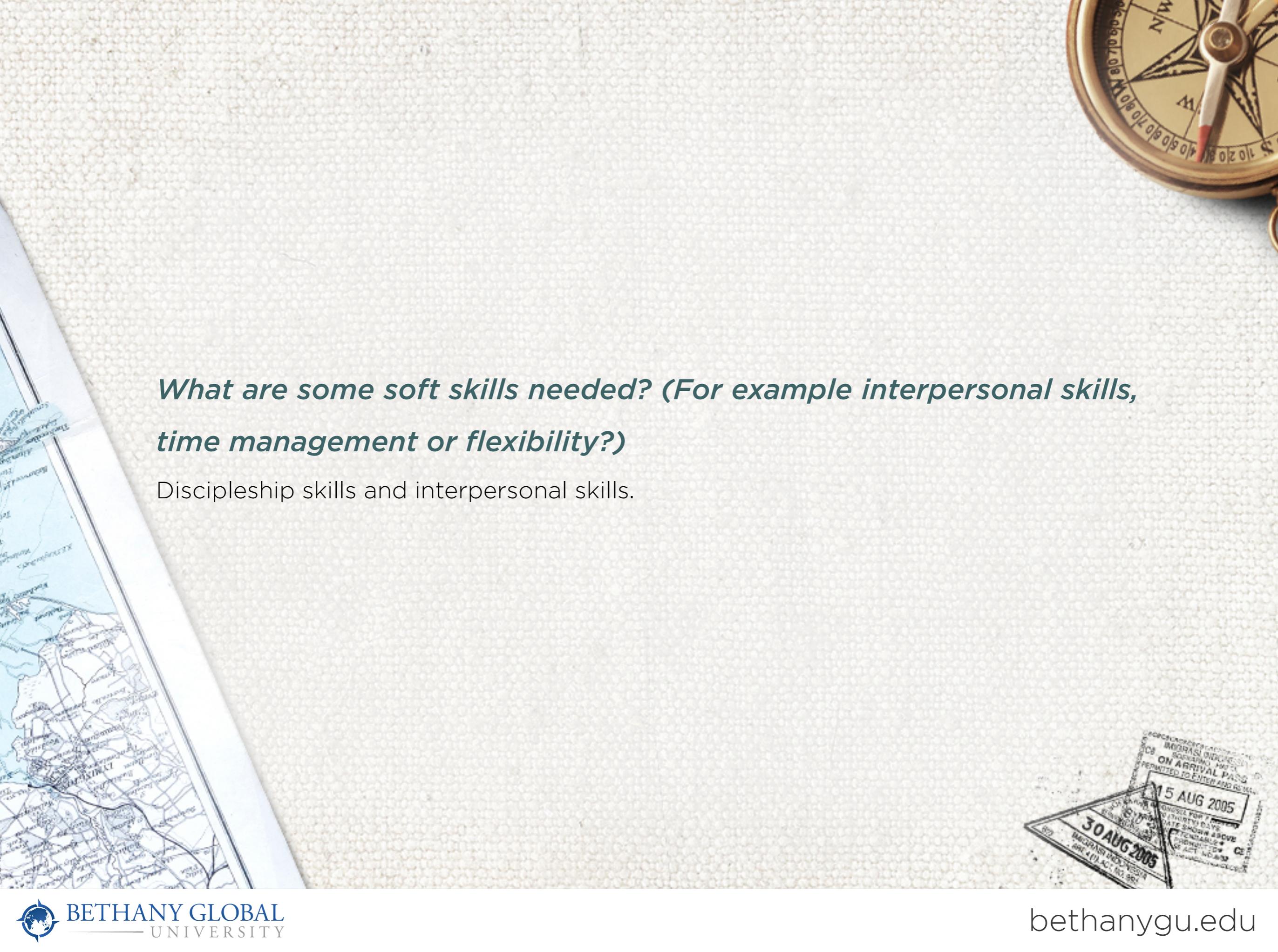
Did you participate in any training programs/formal education? If so did you find this training helpful?

I went to Bethany at a young age. I learned the work ethic and that everything you do is for the glory of God.

What are some specific hard skills needed in this ministry? (For example proficiency in a language, computer programming, or a degree)

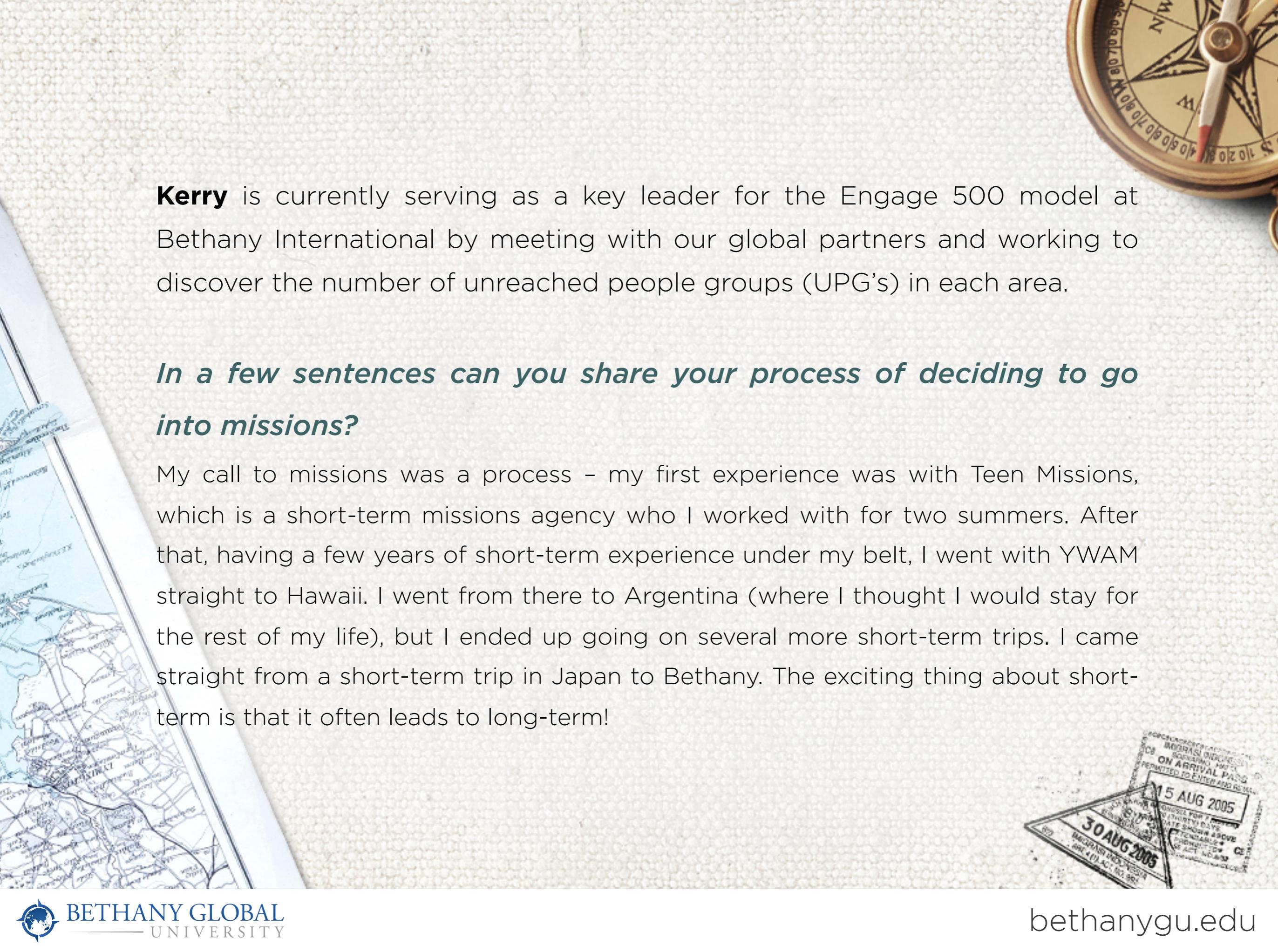
A strong knowledge of the Bible. Also, having experience building up a company helped prepare to build up a ministry.





What are some soft skills needed? (For example interpersonal skills, time management or flexibility?)

Discipleship skills and interpersonal skills.

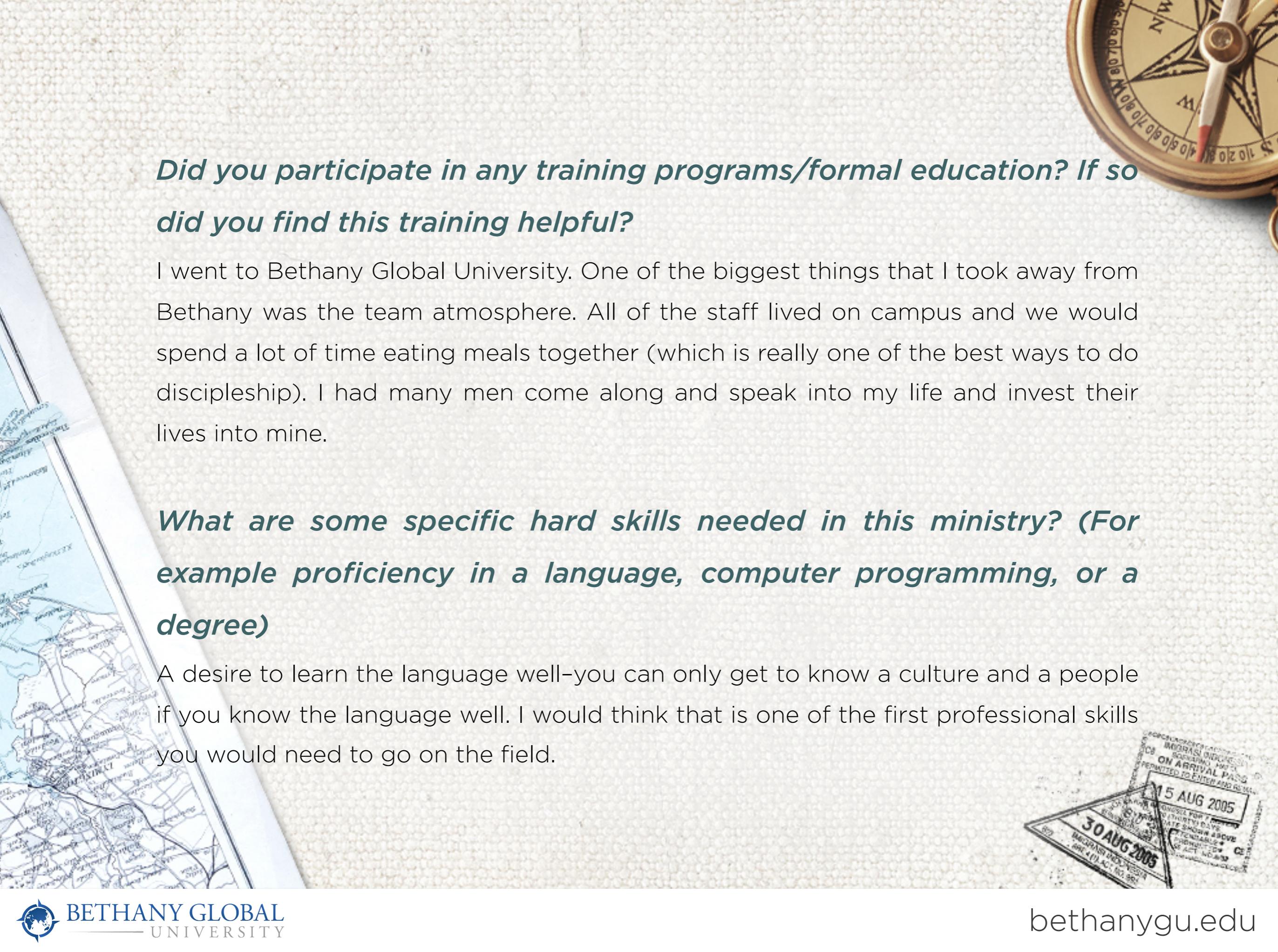


Kerry is currently serving as a key leader for the Engage 500 model at Bethany International by meeting with our global partners and working to discover the number of unreached people groups (UPG's) in each area.

In a few sentences can you share your process of deciding to go into missions?

My call to missions was a process - my first experience was with Teen Missions, which is a short-term missions agency who I worked with for two summers. After that, having a few years of short-term experience under my belt, I went with YWAM straight to Hawaii. I went from there to Argentina (where I thought I would stay for the rest of my life), but I ended up going on several more short-term trips. I came straight from a short-term trip in Japan to Bethany. The exciting thing about short-term is that it often leads to long-term!





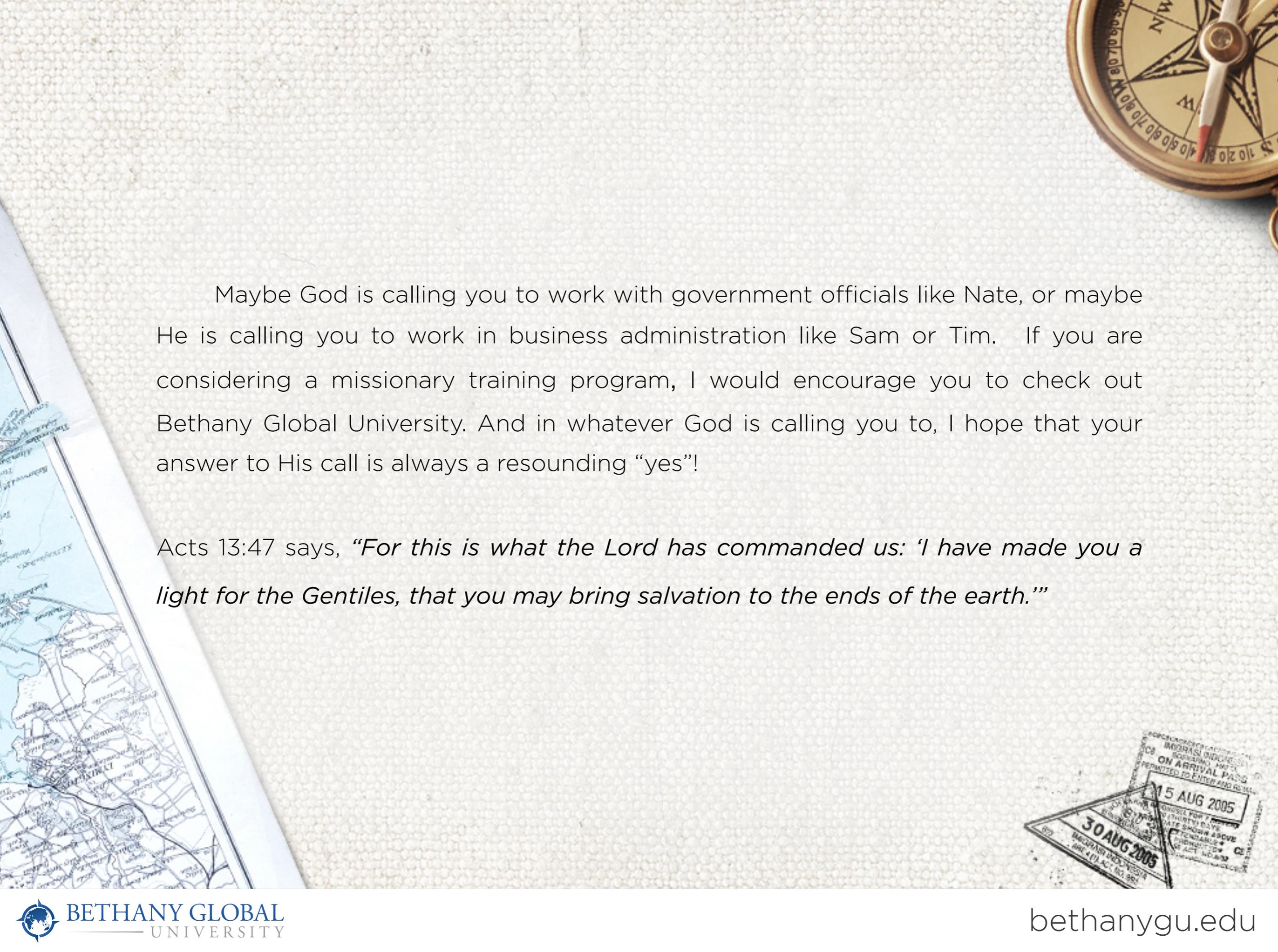
Did you participate in any training programs/formal education? If so did you find this training helpful?

I went to Bethany Global University. One of the biggest things that I took away from Bethany was the team atmosphere. All of the staff lived on campus and we would spend a lot of time eating meals together (which is really one of the best ways to do discipleship). I had many men come along and speak into my life and invest their lives into mine.

What are some specific hard skills needed in this ministry? (For example proficiency in a language, computer programming, or a degree)

A desire to learn the language well—you can only get to know a culture and a people if you know the language well. I would think that is one of the first professional skills you would need to go on the field.





Maybe God is calling you to work with government officials like Nate, or maybe He is calling you to work in business administration like Sam or Tim. If you are considering a missionary training program, I would encourage you to check out Bethany Global University. And in whatever God is calling you to, I hope that your answer to His call is always a resounding “yes”!

Acts 13:47 says, *“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”*