

“Enhancing Discipleship in Short-Term Missions”



GO JOURNAL

EXPERIENCE. REFLECT. DISCOVER.

Guide for Mentors and Team Leaders

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BEFORE THE MISSION TRIP

Instructions for Designated Mentors or STM Team Leaders

This section of the GOJOURNAL contains the resources that would help mentors and team leaders to prepare their mentees/goers well for Short-Term Mission Trips. GOJOURNAL recommends that mentors/team leaders guide their mentees/team members through the following:

- Mentoring Agreement Form (page 4)
 - Formalize the Mentor – Mentee relationship

- Mission Trip Information (page 5)
 - Record important information regarding the mission trip
 - Underscore the focus on the unreached
 - Familiarize yourself with the other members of the team

- The Mentor’s Role (pages 6-7)

- Resources for the Goer (see Appendices)
 - Read the articles in order to familiarize yourself with them.
 - Require your mentee to read the articles.
 - At convenient and pre-arranged times, sit down with individual team members (or with team as a group) and discuss the articles. Some of the articles have suggested guide questions for discussion.

- The GOJOURNAL and Its Features
 - What is the GOJOURNAL?
 - GOJOURNAL Features

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- Set up Prayer Partner Support
 - Help mentee draw up prayer concerns/requests for the mission trip
 - Encourage your mentee to identify and enlist prayer partners
 - List names of persons who can be mentee’s prayer partners
 - Help mentee to invite prayer partners
 - Finalize list of prayer partners for mentee
 - Regularly update prayer partners with mentee’s prayer requests

Mentoring Agreement Form

We are both voluntarily entering into this partnership. We wish this to be a rewarding experience, spending most of our time discussing developmental activities. We agree that...

1. The mentoring relationship will last for the duration of the Short-Term Mission Trip, including three (3) months **Before** and six (6) months **AFTER** the trip. The post-trip mentoring can be extended upon mutual agreement.
2. We will meet at least once every ___ weeks (or as agreed _____ times per ____). Meeting times, once agreed, should not be cancelled unless this is unavoidable. At the end of each meeting we will agree a date for the next meeting.
3. Each meeting will last a minimum of _____ minutes and a maximum of _____ minutes.
4. In between meetings we will contact each other by telephone/email no more than once every _____ weeks/days.

5. The aims of the partnership are the following:

6. We agree that the role of the mentor is to:

--

7. We agree that the role of the mentee is to:

--

8. We agree to keep the content of these meetings confidential.
9. The mentor agrees to be honest and provide constructive feedback to the mentee. The mentee agrees to be open to the feedback.

Date _____

Mentor (Print Name and Sign) _____

Mentee (Print Name and Sign) _____

Date for Review _____

MISSION TRIP INFORMATION

Mentor's Name

Mentee's Name

--	--

Mission Trip Sponsor or Host Organization

--

Title of Short-Term Mission Trip or Project

--

Trip Location or Destination

--

Inclusive dates

--

Unreached People Group (UPG) to be Ministered to

--

Team Leaders (s) Name, Mobile Numbers and Email Addresses

Team Member(s) Names, Mobile Numbers and Email Addresses



JOB DESCRIPTION OF A MENTOR

(Adapted from Ron Lee Davis, *Mentoring*, pp. 50-51, unfortunately out of print)

A willingness to spend the **time** it takes to build an intensely bonded relationship with the learner.

A commitment to believing in the **potential** and **future** of the learner; to telling the learner what kind of exciting future you see ahead for him or her; to visualizing and verbalizing the possibilities of his or her life.

A willingness to be **vulnerable** and **transparent** before the learner, willing to share not only strengths and successes, but also weaknesses, failures, brokenness, and sins.

A willingness to be honest yet **affirming** in confronting the learner's errors, faults, and areas of immaturity.

A commitment to **standing** by the learner through trials—even trials that are self-inflicted as a result of ignorance or error.

A commitment to helping the learner set **goals** for his or her spiritual life, career, or ministry, and to helping the learner dream his or her dream.

A willingness to objectively **evaluate** the learner's progress toward his or her goal.

Above all, a commitment to faithfully put into **practice** all that one teaches the learner.

Basic Principles of Mentoring

[Dallas Theological Seminary website: <https://www.dts.edu/departments/academic/internships/mentor/>]

Successful mentoring focuses on the growth needs of the mentee.

A mentor's influence has the greatest impact when the relationship addresses the mentee's current life needs. What does a mentee want to learn, or how does the mentee desire to grow? This is usually a good place to start a mentoring relationship. Quality conversation, one where the mentor asks questions and listens to learn, helps identify mentee needs.

Mentors serve as guides.

The myth that mentors must be fountains of wisdom or possess thorough Bible knowledge discourages many from mentoring. The process becomes much simpler when mentors understand the proper focus isn't on what the mentor knows—it's on what the mentee wants to learn. The mentor serves as a resource and guide for the mentee's learning process.

Guides are people who've traveled a path before, learned some things along the way, and are willing to assist another traveller. When mentors serve as guides they show a younger trekker the way, offer helpful information, warn of dangers, share their own experiences on the road, and provide first aid if necessary.

Although mentors needn't be experts on the Bible, the goal of Christian mentoring is life change, and application of biblical truth is an indispensable part of that process. If you find your mentee needs to grow in an area unfamiliar to you, don't drop out. Undertake the learning process together. Mentees often love this collaborative learning approach.

Mentees are active partners.

Mentees aren't passive receptacles to be filled by a mentor, but active partners in the learning process. They initiate discussions, bring their questions, contribute their knowledge, and set the direction and duration of their mentoring relationships. Effective mentoring flows from a reciprocal relationship between mentor and mentee.

Mentoring requires an authentic relationship.

Even though mentees admire mentors, they'll lose interest in one who pretends to have it all together. Mentees yearn for a more experienced person who'll discuss life honestly—the good, the bad, the raw. Authenticity happens when both people share real-life experiences that include not only stories of success, but brokenness and healing. Young people hunger to hear about their mentor's mistakes and experiences of grace. This type of honesty deepens their understanding of faith, gives them hope, and provides strong learning opportunities.

Mentoring is a fluid process.

Fixed schedules can be helpful, but growth takes time and people usually learn on their own timetable. A mentee who shows up because a meeting was on the schedule may not be particularly receptive to learning. Sensitivity to an appropriate pace provides the mentee with time for the critical reflection that's essential to growth.

Mentoring needs are also fluid. A mentee may initially request only one or two meetings with a mentor, but desire an ongoing relationship at a later time. It's not unusual for the mentoring process to start and stop according to the life experiences of the mentee.

Because God often uses more than one mentor to grow a person, it's natural for a number of mentors to flow in and out of a mentee's life. No one person can meet all the needs of another, so the process works best when multiple mentors are available to mentees.

There are many ways to mentor.

When we think of mentoring, a weekly one-on-one meeting usually comes to mind. This is a good option, but only one among many. Mentoring takes place a number of ways:

Formal scheduled relationship. Mentor and mentee formally agree to meet according to a predetermined schedule to address a topic or work through a curriculum.

Informal, organic relationship. Meetings take place when the mentee desires a mentor's input on everyday life. The content of the meetings varies according to the mentee's needs or interests. Although unscheduled, many turn into ongoing relationships that last for years.

Discipleship focused relationship. Meetings focus on specific spiritual disciplines to be developed by the mentee.

Coaching relationship. A mentoring coach provides practical help for the development of specific skills. The coach trains, identifies harmful habits, oversees opportunities for practice, and provides feedback. Once the mentee demonstrates competency the relationship concludes.

Group mentoring. Several people desire to spend time with a particular mentor and address a specific subject such as perseverance, fasting, disciplining children, or leadership. Group mentoring is usually short term.

One-time mentoring. A mentee seeks a mentor's input to process a situation or solve a problem. A single conversation is adequate to move the mentee forward.

Passive mentoring. This mentoring takes place during serendipitous encounters or conversations. One person makes comments or performs actions that teach another.

Distance mentoring. Those who don't even know us sometimes serve as mentors. An author, a conference we attend, a large group teacher, or the pastor who faithfully teaches each week can mentor from a distance.

Counseling relationship. This mentoring addresses deeper heart issues that hinder a mentee's growth. It might focus on subjects such as recovery from a past abortion, marriage conflict, pornography addiction, grief recovery, sexual abuse, etc. Depending on the extent of the problem, a professional counselor may be the best choice. However, trained lay people can also offer substantial assistance.

Unwise approaches can sink mentoring relationships.

The following common mistakes can damage a relationship:

Unrealistic expectations on the mentor's part. If the mentor expects the mentee to always follow his/her advice, or expects to see rapid change in the mentee the relationship will be strained.

Unrealistic expectations on the mentee's part. This happens when mentees expect a mentor to meet all mentoring and personal needs, or become their best friend.

No purpose for the relationship. Mentoring is more than hanging out. If the time spent together isn't intentional and valuable, both people lose interest.

The mentor feels responsible to fix the mentee's problems. The mentor's role is guide, not fixer. Mentees are responsible to apply this guidance to their life and work out their own problems.

Lack of confidentiality. Revealing information gained through a mentoring relationship destroys trust.

Mentor assumes the role of parent. A mentor feels like a parent if he/she tells a mentee what to do. It works better if mentors suggest, not direct.

Five Fundamentals of Mentorship

BOYD HATCHEL | DECEMBER 27 2016

At the conclusion of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the lead female character, Rey, realizes something unique about herself. She has a presence and a power she doesn't fully understand or know how to harness. To reach her full potential, she knows she will have to forfeit the familiarities of home to learn from experienced Jedis and masters. She needs a relationship with a knowledgeable person willing to help her and train her. She needs a mentor.

New missionaries benefit immensely from the same sort of wise direction from those who have gone before them. Mentors listen, observe, and interject seasoned perspective. They pray for, support, encourage, and help shape identity. They can accelerate maturity. A mentor's guidance provides much-needed wisdom that can lead to godly character and effectiveness in ministry.

Mentors Can Literally Shape the Future

Mentorship figured prominently in the apostle Paul's approach to bringing others to greater maturity in Christ: *"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you"* (Phil. 4:9 ESV).

Before I was sent overseas as a full-time missionary, an older man met with me every other week for two years. He listened to my dreams and goals as well as my frustrations and challenges. His insight into my life and ministry continue to shape my view of influence and leadership. A humble and godly man, he knew that he had not arrived. His continual desire to learn and grow was inspiring. As I reflect back on that time and consider how I, too, can be an effective mentor, here are five key fundamentals I have observed:

Five Key Fundamentals of Effective Mentoring

Closeness

Any new relationship takes time to develop trust. Shared experiences, dreams, and goals will shorten the distance between two people. Physical distance need not be a limiting factor in mentorship relationships. Technology does offer new avenues for connectivity and availability. Still, there is no replacement for face-to-face conversations and shared experiences. Good mentors strive to make shared times together happen as often and as regular as possible. Paul did not just impart information to people. He shared his life with people.

"Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become so dear to us" (1 Thess. 2:8).

Clarity

A clear understanding of the purpose and intent of the relationship can help avoid unrealistic expectations. Each new IMB missionary in Europe is involved in a mentor relationship for the first eighteen months of his or her career. The process of mentorship includes clear objectives and feedback, as well as an expectation that significant growth will take place in the life of the one being mentored.

“Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser. Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning” (Prov. 9:9).

Compassion

Mentoring is a tangible way to express the love of Christ. Mentors don't see their investment of time and expertise as merely an add-on or additional to-do item. They view it as a priority in their work and a valuable process for their own continued growth. Mentors, who have seen both theory and the real world, can translate their experiences into the current challenges and issues of the ones they are training. Agreement and support aren't the only marks of compassion, though. Good mentors also challenge. With diplomacy and kindness, good mentors share what needs to be said, even when it is not desirable to hear.

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

Cooperation

Healthy relationships are not one-sided. Although the person being trained may not have the same level of experience in the new setting, he or she has many valuable insights and discoveries to share. Great mentors know they have not arrived at their final destination. They are still growing and have a continual desire to learn from peers, from the study of history, and, yes, even from the ones they train.

“Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you, and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith” (Heb. 13:7).

Closure

Effective mentors understand that all healthy relationships have a beginning, middle, and an end. Mentors have experiences, skills, and talents to share. Although many of their ideas and principles are valid, they can also have a shelf life and a limited scope. The intent and purpose of mentorship are to develop less-experienced individuals into solid and mature leaders in their own right in a new setting, not establish a relationship of lifelong authority.

“To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—let the wise hear and increase in learning and the one who understands obtain guidance.” (Prov. 1:1–3).

Solomon understood the importance of insight, wisdom, knowledge, and discretion. He understood that great ideas are not ends in themselves. They need wise application. Receiving wise counsel from a mentor adds years to one's maturity and judgment that otherwise wouldn't be there.

Additionally, serving as a mentor extends influence beyond one's life. It's amazing how just being available and willing to listen, empathize, encourage, and challenge can positively impact future situations where a mentor can no longer be present. The mutually beneficial relationship of mentoring, then, not only blesses the two who are primarily involved but extends to every life they touch for the glory of Christ and the expansion of his kingdom.

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What is the GOJOURNAL?

GOJOURNAL is an electronic journaling tool specifically designed for Short-Term Mission Trip (STMT) Goers – regardless of where they go and what they do -- to record experiences, devotional reflections, thoughts and other notes through the course of the mission trip.

GOJOURNAL has 3 main sections: Before, During and After. Each section has templates that the User can work on to record information (experiences) and reflections concerning those experiences. Importantly, in the **After** section, a comprehensive debriefing and follow-through guide is built into the templates.

What are the templates?

Before (Pre-Field) -- The purpose of this section is to establish the institutional goals of the mission trip, and tie these in with the desired outcomes for the Goers. In addition, this section provides an opportunity for the Goer to define expectations and possible issues about cross-cultural engagement that they personally want to address.

Template Contents:

- Information regarding the mission trip
 - Trip Title
 - Organizer or Sponsor
 - Destination and Dates
 - Unreached People Group (UPG) Ministering To
 - Team Leader and Members
- Preparation
 - Mission Trip Objectives, Expectations, Personal Goals.
 - Testimony

During (On-Field) -- This is the main section for recording experiences, memories, reflections and lessons learned in the course of the on-field mission trip. There is a basic daily template that can be duplicated for the duration of the mission trip. It will also be possible to customize to some degree the kind of guide questions that are used.

Template Contents:

- Daily Record of Experiences and Reflections
 - Devotional Reading and reflection
 - Highlights of the day
 - What did you do?
 - Where did you go?
 - Who were you with?
 - Feelings/impressions
 - What did you learn today?
 - Cross-cultural experiences
 - New friends and contact information
 - Praise and Prayer Items

After (Post-Field) -- The most important section of **GOJOURNAL** is what comes after the mission trip. This section contains multi-day Debriefing and Follow-through templates. While the debriefing and follow-through guide can be self-administered (i.e., done by the Goer), it will be more effective to work on the debriefing with the Team Leader, the pastor in charge of the church's mission trip program, a trusted mentor or a mobilizer/coach from a partner mission agency.

Template Contents:

- Moving On
 - Leaving the Field
 - Expectations on Returning
 - Coming Home
- Telling Your Story
- Celebrate and Report
 - Practical Suggestions
- Share About Your Journey
- Effects of Your Mission trip
- Re-entry Fantasies
- Debriefing
- Follow-Through
- What is your next step?
- Six Ways to Reach God's World

What are the benefits of GOJOURNAL for someone who goes on a Mission Trip?

The Mission Trip Goer using **GOJOURNAL** will be able to remember and unpack the lessons they have learned; this can lead to a clearer understanding and discernment of God's leading for their life. **GOJOURNAL** will enable Users to be more intentional and reflective about their experiences Before, During and After the mission trip.

Ideally, the aim of any mission trip is to be a catalyst for life-change -- both for those who GO and for those whom they GO TO. God can work in and through you (the Goer) during the mission trip. Your main purpose may have been to make a difference in the lives of others, but God wants you to change as well. The mission trip will affect you in many ways. You will be stretched, challenged, excited, humbled, and perhaps even broken, as you allow the Holy Spirit to work in you through the circumstances that you find yourself in, and as you allow God's Word and Spirit to rock you to the core.

The system of note-taking and reflection that **GOJOURNAL** makes possible, will enable you to keep a record of what you will be going through DURING your STMT. This will help you to process and think through them AFTER the trip. Being able to write down your thoughts, reflections, experiences and learnings will hopefully enable you to more clearly hear and understand what God is trying to tell you. As you go through your Short-Term Mission trip -- Before, During and After -- LISTEN HARD for God's call.

What is the value of GOJOURNAL to the church?

From the pastor and church leadership point of view, the "spiritual growth of the team members is the primary purpose of Short-Term Mission Trips". The mission trips that a church organizes are an important form of discipleship training for its members.

Features of GOJOURNAL

- Available as a browser-based web app (<https://app.gojournal.org>)
 - Windows Edge, Apple Safari, Google Chrome
- Also available as a downloadable pdf document (upon request)
- Divided into 3 main sections
 - Before the Trip (Pre-Field)
 - During the Trip (On-Field)
 - After the Trip (Post-Field)
- There are 4 types of content that you will find in the templates
 - Readings
 - The suggested readings consist of articles, books, online blogs, etc., that you may find helpful as you prepare for and engage in the mission trip
 - Questions
 - These thought-provoking and challenging questions are intended to elicit a response from you.
 - Multiple Choice
 - This is a type of question that also requires you to type/write a response.
 - Links
 - These links will direct you to other websites or webpages where you can find articles that might be helpful.

How should GOJOURNAL be used?

We strongly recommend that you write down your responses WHILE THEY ARE FRESH IN YOUR MIND, i.e., either immediately or shortly after you experience them (say, at the end of each day). Do not wait until you come back after the trip to try and reconstruct your experiences for each day of the trip. Chances are you will forget, or the impact or significance of the moment will have faded if you wait until after you come back.

When you come back, however, we strongly recommend undergoing a debriefing process with your pastor or a trusted mentor. Most mission agencies will have a “off-the-shelf” debriefing module that they can provide to churches or to individuals who would like to derive the maximum value from your STMT. The debriefing will help you to process the reflections you entered on your GOJOURNAL.

Security and Privacy

- The entries you make on GOJOURNAL are private and confidential. GOJOURNAL admin does not have access to view these entries on the GOJOURNAL site.
 - We will be able to view the information about your STMT. This will be used to further improve GOJOURNAL and will not be shared with any third party.
- For any questions about GOJOURNAL, email GOJOURNAL.HelpDesk@gmail.com

EXPECTATIONS & GOALS

What are your expectations regarding this mission trip?

--

What are the objectives of the mission trip?

What are your personal goals in going on this mission trip?

--

GET READY TO SHARE

How did you become a born-again follower of Jesus Christ and what changes in your life have resulted from it? Write down your testimony, memorize it, and practice how to share it before you leave for the field on your trip.

PRE-TRIP RESOURCES

Note to Mentors/Team Leaders: Require mentees/team members to read the articles in the Pre-Trip section and then meet with them individually or as a team to discuss what they learned from them. Following are the articles and a suggested question as a starting point for the discussion. You can find the articles referred to in the Appendices of this Guide (page

Five Reasons You Should Go on a Short-Term Mission Trip [

Why are you (mentee) going on this mission trip?

Seven Reasons Why You Should Never Go on a Short-Term Mission Trip

**How do you (mentee or team member) feel about going on this Short-Term Mission Trip?
What is your biggest fear or concern?**

Taking Your First Short-Term Mission Trip

What is the church doing to prepare its mission trip Goers well?

Finding A Mission Trip That Fits

Why did you (mentee or STM team member) choose this particular mission trip to join?

Seven Standards of Excellence In Short-Term Missions

For the Mentor/Team Leader: How would you rate your STM versus the Seven Standards of Excellence?

Mission Team Training

Check out suggested resources for training your Short-Term Mission team members or for your mentee going on a mission trip.

Funding Your Mission Trip/Fund Raising Ideas for Short-Term Missions

Check our ideas for fund raising for a mission trip.

Six Hazardous Phrases to Avoid During the Ask

Be aware of some potential pitfalls when making the Ask.

Two Hundred Words to Know Before You Go

Help your mentee/team member learn some useful and important words and phrases

Secrets To A Life-Changing Short-Term Mission Trip

An ideal Short-Term Mission Trip should lead to transformation both to the people that are being ministered to, as well as the Goer. Here are some important tips for a life-changing experience.

“How do I find a Mentor to help me prepare for missions?”

A good Mentor is key to a life-changing mission trip experience. Here are some tips you can suggest to your team members on how to find one.

DURING THE TRIP

Overview – This is the main journaling part of GOJOURNAL. There are two important objectives of journaling:

1. **Record** the experience – There can be a lot of new and exciting experiences during a mission trip. To be better able to process learnings during a trip, it will help to record what was experienced, what was felt at the time, and details that made an impact.
2. **Reflect** on God’s Word and what He is doing in the world – Discipleship will happen during a mission trip through personal reflection.

Daily Templates – For each day of the mission trip, GOJOURNAL recommends accomplishing a Daily Template. The Daily Templates make the following possible:

- Encourage daily meditation on God’s Word with thought-provoking guide questions
- Allow the recording of experiences during the mission trip
- Stimulate reflection on what God is doing and follow-through actions as a result of learnings during the mission trip

Instructions for Team Leaders/Mentors

The daily templates are the heart of the GOJOURNAL. The templates provide a basis for careful and thought-filled **reflection** on the part of the mission trip Goer. To maximize the benefits of the GOJOURNAL for your team members/mentees, you can do the following:

- Require team members to use the day’s specified Bible verses for their Quiet Time at the beginning of the day. This includes answering the reflection question associated with the day’s Scripture passage.
- At the end of the day – ideally before they sleep – give them time to write on their daily GOJOURNAL about their experiences. Recording these experiences, as well as keeping a record of the names (and, if possible, the contact information of the people they meet) will prove to be very useful after the trip.
- Ask them to take note of any particular lessons that they believe the Lord is teaching them through the experiences they are having. Again, these records of experiences and any thoughts or feelings associated with them, will be very useful when they come back and are going through debriefing.

List of Bible Passages and Reflection Questions

Day #	GJ Page	Bible Passage	Reflection Question
1	43	Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	In the process of creating the universe and everything in it, what does the Bible say God is experiencing? How does this make you feel about God?
2	45	Genesis 2:1-13	How do you think God felt about the man He had formed from the dust of the ground? What do you feel about people who do not know God?

3	47	Genesis 2:14-19	What were God's instructions for the man? To which do you respond better: permission or restriction?
4	49	Genesis 12:1-4	Why did God ask Abram to leave? In following God, what will He be asking you to leave behind?
5	51	Psalms 67	What blessings are you enjoying from God? How can you use these to bless others?
6	53	Jonah 1	What does this story tell about the character of God?
7	55	Luke 15:3-7	Who are the "lost sheep" in your life?
8	57	Luke 15:8-10	Describe how you felt when you lost something very valuable to you. Describe how you felt when you found it. Why do you think you felt this way.
9	59	Luke 15:11-32	What does this parable tell you about God?
10	61	2 Timothy 2:14-22	What purpose do you think God has for your life?
11	63	Matthew 28:16-20	What does Jesus command his followers to do? Will this be difficult or easy for you to do? Explain why.
12	65	Mark 16:14-20	Who was Jesus talking to when he gave this command? What does this mean to you personally as a follower of Christ?
13	67	Luke 24:36-48	How will the Gospel be preached to all the nations?
14	69	John 20:19-23	What is Jesus sending his followers to do? What does this mean to you?
15	71	Acts 1:1-11	What will the Holy Spirit accomplish when He comes?
16	73	Isaiah 49:1-7	What will the Servant of the Lord do?
17	75	Ephesians 2:1-10	What has God prepared in advance for us to do? What 'good works' do you think He wants you to do?
18	77	1 Peter 1:13-25	What "hope" is being referred to in this passage? Why do you need to be "alert and fully sober"?
19	79	2 Corinthians 4:1-16	What do you think is the "treasure" being referred to here? How is this passage challenging you about your life today?
20	81	1 Chronicles 16:7-36	What has the Lord done in your life that for you is marvellous and worthy of praise?
21	83	Ephesians 6:10-20	What difficulties have you experienced during the times when you tried to share your faith with others? What piece of armor will you ask God for to make you a stronger witness?
Basic	85		How does this Bible passage apply to your life right now?

Additional Bible Passages and Reflection Questions

1 Peter 5:8-11	What temptations are you asking God to help you resist?
1 Corinthians 12:12-26	Where do you think God is calling you to serve, and why?
Mark 10:35-45	What do you want Jesus to do for you? How do you think God wants you to serve Him?
Acts 18:18-23	Who has God brought into your life to disciple? How is he/she doing?
Ephesians 4:1-6	What are the aspects of living a life worthy of the calling that we received from Christ?
John 4:34-38	How are you sowing the seeds of God's word?
Romans 5:3-5	Suffering. Perseverance. Character. Hope. Which do you think were particularly emphasized during your mission trip?
1 Corinthians 1:26-31	What would you say is different about you having gone on this mission trip?
Matthew 9:35-38	What is your response to there being so few workers?
Hebrews 13:5-6	There is 'holy' discontent. What are you "discontented" with?
Psalms 90	What work are you asking the Lord to establish?
2 Corinthians 5:18-20	In what ways have you lived as Christ's ambassadors?
2 Corinthians 5:14-15	Believing that Christ died for you, how then should you live?

Additional Daily Template Questions

Where did you go? Who were you with?
What activity were you involved in? Describe the experience. What were your impressions/feelings about what you did?

Through this activity, what did you learn about the people you were with?
Describe any new sights, sounds, flavors. Smells, and other novel cross-cultural experiences you had today and how you feel about them.
What did you learn about the character of God?
What did you learn about yourself?
Based on what you learned today, what are you thinking of doing differently when you get back?

Moving-On

This part of the GOJOURNAL would be helpful in preparing the members for **moving-on**, i.e., returning home. It is **optional**, depending on whether time can be allotted for this on the field, before returning home. If you decide to do this, schedule some time just immediately before you leave, to share answers among the team members.

The main intent of the Moving-On worksheets is to conduct a pre-departure debriefing. This will enable the members to be primed for the post-field debriefing by familiarizing them with the idea of processing their on-field experiences – while the memories are still relatively fresh.

There are three (3) sets of pre-departure Moving-On worksheets:

- Leaving (page 87 of the GOJOURNAL)
- Expectations (page 89)
- Returning (page 90)

BASIC DAILY TEMPLATE

Date :

Location:

What did God teach you from His Word today?

Scripture Passage

What is this Bible passage teaching?

Reflection: How does this Bible passage apply to your life right now?

What did you do today?

Where did you go? Who were you with?

What was the activity you were involved in? Describe the experience. What were your impressions/feelings about what you did?

Through this activity, what did you learn about the people you were with?

On-Field

Describe any new sights, sounds, flavors, smells, and other novel cross-cultural experiences you had today and how do you feel about them?

What did you learn about the nature or character of God?

What did you learn about yourself?

Based on what you learned today, what are you considering to do differently when you get back?

MOVING-ON WORKSHEET: LEAVING

Complete this Moving-On exercise worksheet with your own words before coming to your debriefing session. You may write whatever comes to your mind. Describe how you feel about leaving. Be prepared to share this in your on-field debriefing session with your Team Leader.

When I think of leaving, I feel...

My experience here has been...

For me (name of county) means...

The people I will miss are...

The things that I will miss are...

The things that I will be happy to leave behind are...

When leaving a place, I usually...

On-Field

The easiest part of leaving for me will be...

Before I leave, I really want to...

The most stressful part of leaving will be...

On-Field

MOVING-ON WORKSHEET: EXPECTATIONS

Complete this Moving-On exercise worksheet with your own words before coming to your debriefing session. You may write whatever comes to your mind. Describe how you feel about leaving. Be prepared to share this in your on-field debriefing session with your Team Leader.

I expect the process of returning will be...

I expect the reception from my family will be...

I expect the reception from my church will be...

I expect the reception from my friends will be...

I think my church will expect me to...

I think my friends at home will expect me to...

I think my friends at home will expect me to be...

For a career, I hope to...

On-Field

MOVING-ON WORKSHEET: RETURNING

Complete this Moving-On exercise worksheet with your own words before coming to your debriefing session. You may write whatever comes to your mind. Describe how you feel about leaving. Be prepared to share this in your debriefing session with your Team Leader.

When I think of returning home, I feel...

I will be going back to...

Regarding money, I will be...

Going back will enable me to...

I think the hardest part of going back for me will be...

I think the easiest part of going back for me will be...

I am really looking forward to...

[If you came on the STMT with your spouse] **When I talk to my spouse about leaving the field, he/she...**

[If you went on the STMT as a family] **When I talk to my children about leaving, they...**

I think that for my spouse, leaving this place will be...

On-Field

AFTER THE MISSION TRIP

DIRECTIONS FOR MENTORS

What happens after a person returns from a Short-Term Mission trip will have the greatest impact on his/her life. This is what the debriefing and follow-through sessions after a mission trip accomplish. The reason why many mission trips do not have a significant discipleship-building impact is because of either a lack of or insufficient/ineffective debriefing and follow-through.

The third part of the GOJOURNAL contains resources and templates for debriefing and follow-through. As a team leader/mentor, familiarize yourself with the templates, and be prepared to help your team members/mentees process their answers to the questions in the debriefing and follow-through guides. There are templates designed to be discussed together; and there are templates intended for personal processing.

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• Part 1	30	92
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KEEP THE FLAME BURNING!

As you return from the mission trip, how are you feeling physically? Emotionally? Spiritually?

For many, it's hard coming back. You have had experiences like you have never had before. You were in situations very different from what you are used to. You grew to love the people and the culture.

How do you process all that you have learned from your time in the mission field? Are you now a stronger disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ? In what way? What does it mean now that you are home?

Your mission trip is supposed to change you for the rest of your life. Has it? It should have. Actually your journey into missions has not ended. It has just begun. What, if any, changes have you begun to see in yourself?

Post-Field

[Answer the following questions and share your answers with a trusted mentor in church, e.g., your pastor, team leader, etc.]

DEBRIEF WITH MENTOR – Part 1

What was your favorite part of your host country?

What was the team you worked with like?

Tell your mentor about the people you met.

What was surprising about the culture?

What was difficult?

Post-Field

Adapted From TEAM Missions Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/ybm7ztzm>

[Answer the following questions and share your answers with a trusted mentor in church, e.g., your pastor, team leader, etc.]

DEBRIEF WITH MENTOR – Part 2

What do you miss most about your host country?

How can your mentor be praying now that you are back?

How can your mentor pray for your host country and your new friends?

What did you miss most while you were gone?

What is difficult about being back home?

Post-Field

Adapted From TEAM Missions Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/ybm7ztzm>

[Answer the following questions and share your answers with a trusted mentor in church, e.g., your pastor, team leader, etc.]

DEBRIEF WITH MENTOR – Part 3

What is God teaching you as you get back into the routine here?

How do you want to remember this experience going forward?

How did God change your view of the world?

What did God teach you about himself? How did He do that?

Post-Field

Adapted From TEAM Missions Resources: <http://tinyurl.com/ybm7ztzm>

DEBRIEFING & FOLLOW-THROUGH

The final debriefings are the culmination of your mission trip experience. We need to be aware of the process and some important underlying assumptions regarding debriefing.

1. Your Short-Term Mission Trip is not an end in itself. It should always bring about change and growth. Discerning and listening to God's call produces a deeper understanding of Scripture and the response of obedience that God desires.
2. The Goer who is changed by his/her mission trip experience will in some way feel out-of-sync with the world they return to. As a result, they will relate differently with the world around them, and could face conflict -- short-term or long-term -- that will need to be resolved.
3. Any conflict initiated by the change in the STMT Goer's life CAN be resolved.

UNFORTUNATELY, VERY OFTEN, SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP DEBRIEF IS TOO BRIEF, AND THE FOLLOW-THROUGH DOESN'T ALWAYS FOLLOW.

Good debrief does not happen on its own. And without adequate follow-through, the momentum of growth and change begins to die, and the potential benefits that could have been produced in one's life are soon lost.

Necessarily, at the end of a mission trip, one needs to re-visit the goals set-up at the start of the mission trip. If life transformation -- yours and those of the people you ministered to -- were not part of your objectives in the first place, you had no business going on that mission trip in the first place. You might as well simply have gone on a tourist adventure to another country.

And even if you did aim for a life-changing experience, if you do not go through the process of debriefing and follow-through, that transformation will never happen.

We encourage you to thoughtfully and prayerfully answer the debriefing and follow-through questions and exercises in the following pages. And if you are really serious about living God's Call on your life, you will seek the counsel of a caring and trusted pastor, mentor, missions coach or missions mobilizer.

Experience. Reflect. Discover.

SELF-DEBRIEFING 1

Looking back over the mission trip, how did it compare to what you expected?

What was the best thing about your mission trip?

What was the hardest or most challenging situation you had to address?

What was the most significant lesson that God taught you through this mission trip?

What is the most important thing you learned about yourself during your mission trip?

What impact did your mission trip have on who you are? How did it change you?

Post-Field

How would you describe your relationship with the other team members during the mission trip? How would you describe their relationship to you?

What was your greatest contribution to the team?

Are there areas for personal growth that your mission trip made you aware of? What are they?

What is one significant learning about yourself during your mission trip? What impact did this mission trip have on who you are? How did it change you?

Reflections

Read Psalm 91 – *Are there things in your life right now that requires God’s protection or comfort?*

Post-Field

SELF-DEBRIEFING 2

During the mission trip, what was your relationship with God like?

Were there times when you felt you were in a spiritual battle? What did you do? What did God do?

Did you make any special friends on this trip? Who were they? How are you going to keep their friendship? What can you do to make more friends like that where you are now?

What aspects of the culture did you enjoy most? Would you want more of that in your life? Why or why not?

Are there difficulties you have experienced in adjusting to life back home? What are they and how are you dealing with them?

Is there any unfinished business that needs to be dealt with to bring closure to this trip, e.g., hurts to be healed, relationships to be mended, etc? What do you plan to do in order to obtain closure?

Have you shared your experiences with anyone? If not, who are you going to talk to and when?

Notes and Reflections

Post-Field

SELF-DEBRIEFING 3

How has this mission trip affected your everyday Christian life? If not, what do you need to do in order to do so?

What changes (for the better) have you seen in yourself as a result of your mission trip? Be specific. How can you make sure that the changes stick?

What commitment did you make to longer-term missions as a result of your short-term mission trip? How is it going? What next steps should you take?

Write one word that describes how you feel about returning from this missions trip. Explain why you chose this word.

Write a prayer about the things you have learned or realized about God and yourself as you reflected about this trip. Ask God to help you discern clearly what His will is for your life, and to give you the courage to obey and take the next step.

Spiritual mentors and/or accountability partners can be very helpful in our Christian walk. That person can be a pastor, friend, missions coach/mobilizer, current or former missionary, or a spiritually-mature individual whom you trust and can confide in. Whom do you know that can be your mentor or accountability partner? Pray that God will prepare yours and his/her heart for this type of relationship.

Post-Field

Psalm 67

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm. A song.

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us**
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.**
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.**
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

This psalm surely speaks of the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Count yourself among that great crowd of believers worldwide who know the Saviour; and praise him for his Good News. What can you do to share that Gospel so that the harvest will be abundant?

Post-Field

SELF-DEBRIEFING 4

What has God shown you about Himself as you spent time this past week in His Word?

What commitments did you make after your mission trip? Are you following through with them? Why or why not?

Reflections

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 – *What have you learned from God's Word that you are having a hard time to stand fast and hold to?*

Post-Field

FOLLOW-THROUGH 1

What is God asking you to change in your life through your study of His Word and interaction with others?

What cross-cultural experiences have you had recently? What did they remind you of your mission trip?

Are you meeting with a mentor or accountability partner? What have you agreed to deal with? What next steps have you agreed to do?

Reflections

Read Colossians 1:9-14 – *What are the areas of your life that you are struggling with at the moment?*

FOLLOW-THROUGH 2

What have you seen God doing in the world or in the lives of others this past month? What do these tell you about the nature of God?

In what ways are you seeing God at work in you?

What cross-cultural experiences have you had this month? How do you feel about them?

What experience during your STMT made the greatest impact on you? What are you doing differently as a result of that experience?

How do you think God is leading you to become more involved in missions? How are you being obedient to what God is asking of you?

Reflections

Read Romans 15:5-6 – *What was Jesus' attitude in general to the people he encountered during his public ministry?*

Post-Field

FOLLOW-THROUGH 3

What is God teaching you through His Word?

In what ways are you seeing God at work around you? In you?

Click or tap here to enter text.

What cross-cultural experiences have you had this month? How do you see God working in your culture?

What changes have you observed in yourself after the STM trip? How are you these changes at work in your life today?

What are your thoughts regarding becoming more involved in missions? Is there a specific unreached people group, region or ministry that you believe God is calling you to serve?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Reflections

Read John 14:12 – *What do you think “asking in Jesus’ Name” means? What are you asking the Father in Jesus’ Name?*

Post-Field

FOLLOW-THROUGH 4

What has God taught you from His Word recently?

What are the ways that you are seeing God at work around you? In the world? In you?

What cross-cultural experiences have you had this month? How are they similar or different from the cross-cultural experiences during your mission trip? How do you feel about them now?

Are you still in contact with the new friends you made during your mission trip (leaders, team mates, nationals, missionaries)? Write some of them this week and tell them something that God is teaching you.

Reflections

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-18 – *What has the LORD generously given to His people? Given you?*

Post-Field

FOLLOW-THROUGH 5

The Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20

In light of Jesus' command, and given your STMT experience, what do you think God is asking of you?

SIX WAYS TO REACH GOD'S WORLD

Learn. Pray. Go. Send. Welcome. Mobilize.

LEARN

Read a missionary biography.

Pray for people you see in world news reports.

Take a course like Perspectives on the World Christian Movement.

Go to the library and check out books about countries or people groups that interest you. Visit JoshuaProject.net.

Use the internet to explore different areas of the world.

Join a Global Ministry Group in your area.

Do an internship at a missions agency or missions committee.

PRAY

Ask God to show you for whom you should pray.

Sign up to receive prayer letters or e-mail updates from workers and pray regularly for them.

Request country- or people-specific prayer points for your computer or mobile phone.

Join or start a prayer group through your church or among your friends.

Purchase the Operation World book and pray for people in a different country each day.

Check out prayer resources on the websites of missions agencies.

Go on a short-term “prayer journey” trip to another country.

Sign up for prayer bulletins and electronic newsletters.

GO

Go on a short-term cross-cultural trip with your church or college group.

Use your profession to share the good news and Christ’s love among the nations.

Students can go on a “back and forth” trip with their college group or seminary.

Contact a few mission agencies to see how they might utilize your skills short term or long term.

Use your skills in overseas opportunities.

SEND

Pray about a missions worker God might want you to encourage.
Create a local sending group. Consider sending care packages.
Encourage a missions worker by e-mail, Facebook®, telephone or Skype® webcam call.
Share a meal, your professional skills, a car or guest room with a missions worker.
Financially support a missionary or project.
Plan a trip with your life group to visit missionaries where they serve.
Start/join a home ministry team to encourage/support a missionary.
Welcome missionaries home in practical ways.
Help retire debt of recent grads who want to be missionaries.

WELCOME

Become a friendship partner with an international student through organizations like International Students Inc.
Introduce yourself to internationals in your neighborhood or while shopping.
Start an English class for internationals at your church.
Volunteer at a food bank or refugee outreach.
Connect with a local welcome ministry to a specific people group.
Go to a seminar on reaching your neighbor.

MOBILIZE

Advocate for a people group or a cause.
Invite friends to an internationally-focused class or event.
Volunteer with a mission organization.
Invite a friend to join you on a short-term trip.
Help bring a global vision course like Perspectives on the World Christian Movement to your church.
Serve as a short-term missions mentor.

Which of the 6 ways do you believe God is calling you to do?

- Learn
- Pray
- Go
- Send
- Welcome
- Mobilize

Reflections

Read John 17:1-8 – *In what ways are you making Christ known after your return from the mission trip?*

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

Prayer of Commitment

"Dear Jesus. I want you in the center of my life and commit through your power to do your will to obey and serve you -- anywhere, anytime, at any cost. Amen."

Are you willing to make this commitment? What will it take for you to be able to do this?

Explore Opportunities *Mission agency websites contain a lot of information regarding available opportunities. Check some of them out:*

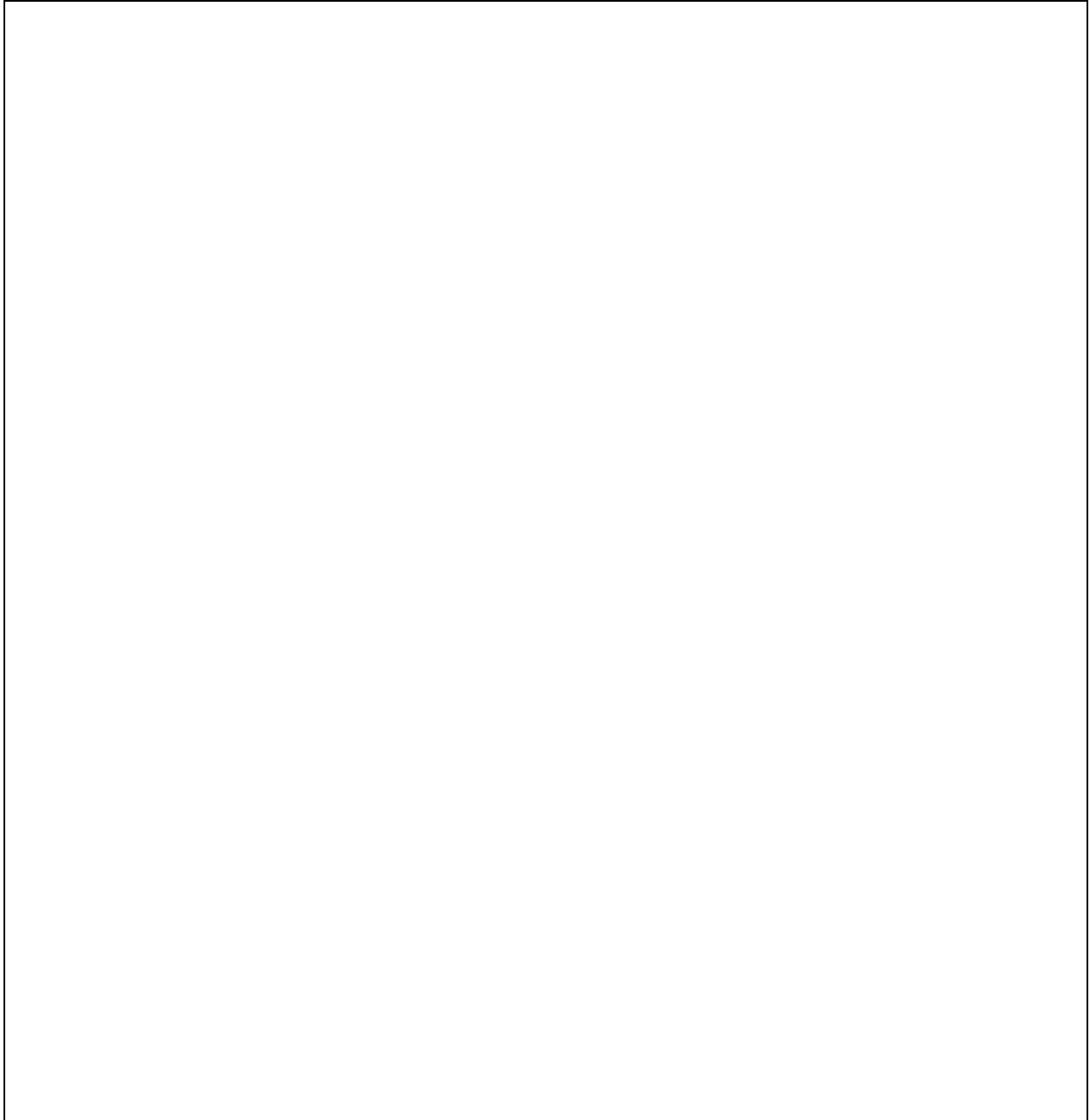
SEND	https://send.org/opportunities
Christar	https://www.christar.org/serve/
Ethnos	https://ethnos.ca/go/
TEAM	https://team.org/opportunities
OMF	https://opportunities.omf.org/opportunities-search

These are dozens of other missions organizations in Canada and North America which you will find online. In addition, your pastor and mission committee will know of mission agencies that your church would already have a relationship with. They can be most helpful in coming alongside to guide you in your missions journey.

SHARE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY

Write out the story of your mission trip experience(s) and reflections. Tell about what you learned about God and about yourself. Describe as best you can the changes that you have seen in yourself since you came back. (Refer back to the Moving-On worksheets, and read again the tips for Telling Your Story.)

Start with a full version (20-30 minutes) and use this to develop 2 shorter versions (15 minutes and 5 minutes). Be prepared to tell the version appropriate to the time you are given to share it.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their mission trip story and reflections.

PRE-TRIP APPENDICES

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Five Reasons You Should Go on Short-Term Missions

By Marti Wade



In the next year, more than a million Americans will travel on a short-term mission trip of some sort. Many are looking for ways to learn and grow, to try something they've always wanted to do, or to offer themselves in service to others. Stepping out of our comfort zones and into another part of God's world will stretch our faith and may even change us forever.

Some are drawn to go because they want to see the world through different lenses. Centuries ago St. Augustine said it well: "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page," Despite our easy access to TV and the Internet, pilgrimage and personal experience still have great appeal today. As followers of Jesus, we don't just travel to take in the sights and thrill our senses, but to be God's witnesses and to see for ourselves how he has left his fingerprints on the world.

From the earliest times, God has called people out into the unknown, often through short-term ventures and experiences. Consider the journeys of Paul, Barnabas, Philip, Steven, Nehemiah, Jonah, and the "mission teams" of Numbers 13 and Joshua 2. In each case God had something for them to see, learn, or do (and often all three). The God who sent them sends us, too. He sends us to be the salt of the earth, a light to the world, and his hands and feet, whether we're close to home or far from it.

Thinking about going on a mission trip? This may be the year for you to go. Consider these reasons to pursue a short-term mission trip experience.

1. To Obey the Great Commission and Great Commandment

The mission of God to make disciples of all nations is the mission of his church in the world today. Jesus sends us out as the Father sent him, by his grace and for his glory. Demonstrating and sharing God's love with others is something we're made for. Let's not keep the good news of the gospel to ourselves.

Can you serve God and others more effectively close to home? Quite possibly. But that does not mean he doesn't want to use you for a season somewhere else. Often such an experience helps us see our lives at home through different eyes and better serve the people who live right next to us, too.

2. To Walk with God's Global Servants

The short-term mission movement is sometimes criticized for absorbing resources that could support long-term work and workers. Yet many mission teams work alongside these global servants and under their direction, assisting in their work. Such a trip can give you the chance to explore what motivates them, learn from them, and discover how they see their work and their world. Perhaps God would have you partner further with one of these global servants, join their ranks, or take skills and lessons you learn and apply them in another context.

3. To Step Out in Faith

Do you think God is calling you to surrender more to him? If a mission trip is your next big step, you'll have to trust him for the resources to make it happen, for others to walk with you, for love for those you meet, for grace to be flexible as the experience unfolds, and for mercy when you fall. By engaging the unknown on a mission trip, many learn how to better walk with God day by day and moment by moment.

4. To Take a Journey of Personal Growth

It's almost a cliché now. As most mission trip participants report, you may receive more than you give. While taking a mission trip solely for what you can get out of it may be irresponsible, many find the journey of personal faith and growth to be life-changing. The German philosopher Martin Buber said it well: "All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware." If God is tugging on you to be part of a mission team, it's likely he has something he wants to do in your life through this experience.

5. To Encourage Others

The world needs more missionaries, even those who only go for a short time. Not enough people are willing to leave behind their comforts and routines to serve the poor and vulnerable, share the message of the gospel, listen to those who have no voice, and learn from God's global church. If God is nudging you to go, look to him to overcome the opposition and obstacles you may face. Your service can encourage others to glorify God for what he's doing in your life and to pursue their own God-given purposes. If you are willing to go, others may be able to picture themselves going too.

- ❖ See also [Opening the World: A Look at the Scope of Worldwide Opportunities](#), [Finding a Mission Trip That Fits](#), and [other articles](#) related to choosing and preparing for a mission trip.

Marti Wade has been a mission mobilizer since 1995 and has trained dozens of short-term teams for relationship-based research among the world's least-reached peoples.

This article first appeared in the ShortTermMissions.com eNewsletter.

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Seven Reasons Why You Should Never Go on a Short-Term Mission Trip

By David Armstrong



[Danger](#) photo by Martin Abegglen, Flickr/Creative Commons

1. It will distort your perception of the world!

Seeing it through the plastic lenses of our society is sufficient. They may be distorted, but you are used to them! Don't needlessly mess yourself up.

2. You could get sick or robbed!

It's dangerous out there! Some places have a crime rate almost as high as our inner cities.

3. It will make you harder to live with!

The way you view life and even your likes and dislikes are liable to change. Your friends and family probably won't understand or appreciate your sudden changes.

4. Afterwards, you will feel awkward.

...at some of the jokes and comments you currently enjoy. They will not seem as funny when you have seen life from the other side.

5. You will experience sadness you haven't felt before.

After you see real suffering, you won't pay much attention to your complaining about how hard you've got it. You are even liable to feel guilty and uncomfortable about the nice things in your house and the food on your table. Stay home and stay comfortable!

6. You might lead someone to the Lord.

I know that is a laudable goal, but it tends to cause excitement and further interest in Christian service.

7. You could feel a pull toward going overseas again.

...for the adventure, of course. The problem is that you could slowly, subtly get sucked into thinking about being a missionary!

My advice? Stay home and stay comfortable!

It is too late for me—but there is still hope for you! So keep praying for both me and yourself!

David Armstrong is Co-founder and Executive Director for [Mission Data International](#) and serves on the Board of Directors for the [Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission](#).

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http://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/seven_reasons

Taking Your First Short-Term Missions Trip

By Steve Collins



If you have never participated on a short-term missions trip, we are excited that you are considering it! You can expect that this could be the beginning of a journey that will change your life. That is, if you make the right choice for the agency that will organize your mission project. We are sorry to say that not everyone has a good first experience and sometimes that is because they chose either the wrong organization for their particular needs or they chose an agency that simply did a poor job.

We want to help you have a good first experience. So here are some questions to consider before you sign up.

Questions to Ask Yourself

By asking yourself the following questions to begin with, you help clarify essential information that will enable you to know what to look for in a sending agency:

1. *Why are you going on a short-term missions project?*

Of course we assume part of your motivation is founded in your desire to be obedient to the Great Commission. But delve deeper into your motivation. For example: Are you going on this project because you want to test the waters to see if career missions might be what God is calling you to? If that is a consideration, then you might want to look at an agency that has both short-term (we usually define this as two years or less) and long-term assignments. Many people find that it is the first agency they go with that captures their heart and if you might end up as a career missionary, why not consider going with an agency that can make that available? It is not at all unreasonable for someone to take one trip and fall in love with a particular location and want to commit their ministry years to that location with that organization.

Of course, you may not be testing the waters for a career in missions. Maybe you want to simply give God a week or two of your vacation time or a break from school to do something for Him,

rather than yourself. If that is the case, then it makes no difference if the agency you pick has long-term opportunities available or not.

2. *What type of experience do you want?*

Short-term mission trips can involve you in construction, evangelism, teaching, medical work, ministry to street kids or other areas. Do you have a particular skill that will enable you to contribute something to the team when you participate? Don't feel like you have to be a gifted carpenter to work on a construction project. You will be amazed at what novices can do when you add the right amount of on-site coaching and the motivation to serve the Lord. Most mission agencies are happy to have anyone who has a servant heart. Oftentimes, just your presence on the project brings the intangibles such as encouragement and support to the folks you work with. But if you do have a particular field of interest or experience in an area of work, you may want to find a project that gives you the best option of serving a specific need. The more you feel that you made a significant contribution, the more you will be motivated to participate on a second and third project in the future!

Let me say one word about cross-cultural evangelism projects. Be realistic about the depth of evangelism you will be able to do in the particular cross-cultural setting you are involved in. Many people expect that their cross-cultural efforts during a two-week period will result in conversions for Christ. Realistically, a group of high school students working cross-culturally without foreign language skills probably will not see many people accept Christ personally. This should not diminish the impact their participation will have in a process that brings those individuals to receive Christ as Lord.

3. *What level of cross-cultural experience do you want or need?*

There could be two answers to this question. The cross-cultural level you want may not be the cross-cultural level you need. One of the most common mistakes people make in short-term missions is starting out with a cross-cultural experience they simply aren't ready for.

Here are some steps of cross-cultural difficulty to think through. Notice that as you add additional elements, the stress heightens and the demands increase.

Basic levels of cross-cultural barriers may include only one or two stress factors. For instance, a project in the Appalachian mountains involving construction work in poor coal mining communities is a good place to start. You will have the cross-cultural barriers of educational level and income level. You could go to an Indian reservation in the United States and add even another barrier between you and those you serve—an ethnic level. You will speak the same language for the most part, but this is a great cross-cultural experience for beginning your short-term missions experience.

Now add to that mix the stress of traveling to another country where they may or may not speak your language. Perhaps you might want to consider being a member of a larger team on your first overseas or international project where your lodging is in a camp or dormitory setting. Here you have a safe place to retreat to in the evenings where you can speak with people who speak your language and the food is familiar. This type of setting is a smart way to go with a junior high or high school group for the first time.

The next level of difficulty is traveling as a smaller group to a foreign country and living within the community of those you serve. You still have your teammates close by to provide familiarity with your own language and customs, but you are more fully immersed into the culture in terms of where you work, what you eat, how you communicate, and what you do in your free time.

The most demanding type of experience is when you are either on your own or in a small group and you live in the home of a national family who cannot speak your language, nor can you speak theirs! It would not be wise to sign up for a two-week trip of this nature if you have not tested your ability to handle cross-cultural barriers in less intense experiences.

Level	Project components	Stress	Experience
1	Same country, same language, possible different ethnic group, large group	Low	First-timers, jr. high & high school aged
2	Different country, same language, different ethnic group, housed together in familiar setting	Low to medium	Mature first-timers or those with little experience overseas
3	Different country, different language, different ethnic group, small group housed together in community	Medium	Previous STM experience recommended
4	Different country, different language, different ethnic group, individual or small group housed separately with national families	High	Previous STM experience recommended

There are other questions to consider about yourself, but these issues at least give you something to think about as you plan.

Questions to Ask an Agency

What questions do you need to ask an agency on the phone, in person, or as you visit their website?

1. How well do they match up with the answers you gave to the previous questions?

Does it appear from what you read or hear that they can meet your needs? It is very important for you to know what your expectations are and to find an agency whose project description matches up with your expectations.

Let me say a word about expectations. The first questions I suggested you ask yourself are designed to help you identify basic expectations. But you probably have some hidden expectations. The more you can fully understand those expectations, the better served you will be. BUT you need to hear one word of caution. That word of caution is flexibility.

One thing is for sure, regardless of the agency you go with, you will at some point in time hear them say, "You must be flexible." Whenever you are doing cross-cultural ministry, nothing is guaranteed. The best-laid plans of the best agencies can fall apart before your feet touch the ground. If you are one to demand that your expectations be met, then you might want to consider something other than a short-term mission trip.

What I am saying is this: have expectations, understand them and work to fulfill them. But remain flexible because (1) working cross-culturally is not like working in the United States. You cannot just insist that something happen a particular way. While in another country, you are at their

mercy in many respects. They will most likely not have the same appreciation for the value of time as you do. So if you have only ten days to get a construction project done and the supplies are held up for three days, you will see it as a loss. However, they will see it as an opportunity to do something more important than build a building, which is to visit together and interact.

You also need to be flexible because (2) even though you pray about your trip and your motivation, you are really on God's trip and he will be far more concerned about His agenda in your life than in the project's agenda. If those supplies don't show up, see that as God doing a different work in your heart and life than you anticipated. You see, many people go on these trips with the anticipation that they are going to do for someone else, but they soon realize that there is a higher agenda at work. God wants to use your experience to make you more like him. And he will and can use anything that happens, regardless of who is to blame, to accomplish his purpose.

Now, having said all that, don't take that to mean that it's okay if the agency you want to go with does a poor job of planning and set-up of your experience.

Another very important question to ask is:

2. *Does the agency do what it says it will do (both in its pre-project preparation and on the field itself)?*

This is such an important question for you. There are hundreds of organizations out there. Sadly, some are not very thorough. There is nothing worse than preparing for a trip and saving or raising the money, only to find once you are on the field that the agency you picked simply is not very professional or competent.

So how do you evaluate an agency in this regard? Contact others who have gone with them in the past. Most agencies will give you references of those who have had a good experience with them. Even though you are probably getting the names of groups or individuals the agency knows had a positive experience, call them anyway. I find that most people will give an honest evaluation of the agency. But once you get on the phone, ask those people for the names and numbers of others they know who have used that agency. Take the time to make these calls. You do not want to experience your first mission trip with the wrong agency.

Second, as you work with the agency in the pre-project preparation, does the agency follow through with its commitments in a timely fashion? For example, if they said they would send you a manual on February 1st and it does not come until the end of February, note that and ask for an explanation. It could be very legitimate. But if you find several issues like this, it could mean that the agency is not on top of details in the office. And if they are not on top of details in the office they work in every day, how will they be on top of details on the field?

3. *Ask about the on-site leadership the agency provides.*

Do they provide the leadership or do they expect you to find your way to the site? Know what they expect from you once you are on the field and decide if you are ready to add their expectations to the responsibilities that you already have. If you are leading a youth group on a project, keep in mind how added responsibilities from the sending agency could take you away from your team. You have to decide if you want to take on these added responsibilities or if another agency that handles everything for you is a better option.

4. Ask about the emergency management procedures they have *in place*.

Have they thought through what they will do in the event of a natural disaster or if someone is seriously injured? I personally would not go on a trip with an organization that has not taken the time to think through how they will protect their participants in an emergency. Make sure you are comfortable with the thoroughness of their preparation.

Don't hesitate to ask them to tell you about a past crisis experience and how it was handled on the field. They can say they have a plan, but if you hear them tell you how they worked the plan, you will have more confidence. Keep in mind that if you are taking a team of youth, you will have parents raising this question. Do your homework ahead of time so the parents will have confidence that you have done a thorough job of investigating the agency with which you are asking them to entrust their kids.

These are some of the main issues for you to work through before you decide on an agency. If you still have questions, any of the folks at ShortTermMissions.com are glad to help you think through your decisions. We hope you have a wonderful experience!

A good first short-term missions experience doesn't happen by accident. If you do your homework and pick the right agency, as well as understand the expectations that you and/or your team bring to that first experience, then you are well on your way to experiencing new insights. Insights not only about the God you serve, but about the person he has created you to be.

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http://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/first_mission_trip

Finding a Missions Trip That Fits

By Marti Wade



Finding a Fit for Yourself

The short-term mission movement has exploded!

What began in the 1960s and grew dramatically through the 1980s and 1990s today draws more than a million participants each year from America alone. More than a thousand mission organizations and ministries in the U.S. send people on short-term mission trips of one kind or another. Tens of thousands of churches, and more than a thousand Christian colleges, seminaries, and high schools also sponsor trips.

What short-term missions are “like” now defies description.

Teams may be sent to every corner of the earth or serve close to home. Activities may vary from construction and soccer tournaments to teaching in churches or caring for orphans. Some mission trips have a strong focus on the personal development of those who go, while others are all about serving those they meet. While many short-termers go out in groups, some of the richest opportunities place individuals, pairs, or small teams in ministries where they work alongside long-term missionaries or locals.

Find the diversity of options daunting?

Consider another way to look at it. With so many types of mission trips, it's all the more likely that there's one that's just what you're looking for. Maybe you can't go in the summer like your friends do, but you could get away for a few weeks or months in the winter. Perhaps you're afraid of public speaking or squeamish about the slums, but you have just what it takes to care for missionary children or fix computer systems.

Where do you fit?

Pray and ask God to lead you. Reflect on the skills and passions you have been given. Talk to those who know you well. Consider going with people you know, following in the footsteps of friends from your church or school, or working with an organization you already understand and respect. Or, if God is leading you into the unknown, trust him and step out!

We can help.

Services like ShortTermMissions.com allow you to discover options and narrow your search to those that best match your hopes and limitations. Search for opportunities by location, length, type of ministry, team size, age range, sponsoring group (and yes, cost). Read trip descriptions closely and ask for more information, especially about the values, practices, and priorities of the sending organization. Pray about and discuss what you learn with others.

Knowing yourself and what things are important to you can make a big difference.

Take the time to reflect on what you are looking for and how God is leading you. And with that in mind, don't expect your mission trip to go exactly as designed and described; God seldom works that way, does he? You can rest in the knowledge that he is in control of the twists and turns and can provide grace and patience just as he has provided the time and resources for you to be there.

Our prayer for you is this: that as you step out in mission, God will bless you and make you a blessing to those who send you, those who receive you, and those who serve alongside you.

Finding a Fit for Your Team

Many of the people looking for mission trips are seeking a team to join – but what if you already have one?

Good news! Dozens of short-term mission agencies love to work with church and school groups, and quite a few of them post their opportunities on ShortTermMissions.com. When you do a search on the site, use the menu on the left-hand side to refine your search to trips that take groups.

Consider partnering with an agency.

You may be wondering, though, if you have a ready-made team, do you need to go through an agency? Can you just design a project on your own? Of course you can! But be sure you have the time and experience to design a recruitment, application, and selection process, figure out training and logistics, set appropriate expectations and contingency plans, and build relationships with the people who will receive you on the field. If that sounds like too much, you'll appreciate the benefits of working with a good mission agency.

Before you make plans to work with a ministry you know nothing about, though, do some research. Talk to mission leaders at your church or school. Ask them if they already have partnerships with agencies, missionaries, or ministries that you can serve. They may also have suggestions for locations or types of ministry that fit in with the larger picture of your church or school's global outreach.

Marti Wade has been a mission mobilizer since 1995 and has trained dozens of short-term teams for relationship-based research among the world's least-reached peoples.

This article first appeared in the ShortTermMissions.com Newsletter.

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Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions

By Hannah Nielsen



Want to make sure the short-term mission program you're considering is effective and high quality? [Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission](#) (SOE) was developed by several hundred people in the short-term mission community who saw the need for standards in mission trips. Today, entities show they are committed to excellent, effective short-term mission by adopting the Standards.

The SOE consists of seven standards: God-centeredness, empowering partnerships, mutual design, comprehensive administration, qualified leadership, appropriate training, and thorough follow-up.

1. God-Centeredness

An excellent short-term mission seeks first God's glory and his kingdom, and is expressed through our:

Purpose—Centering on God's glory and his ends throughout our entire short-term mission (STM) process

Lives—Sound biblical doctrine, persistent prayer and godliness in all our thoughts, words, and deeds

Methods—Wise, biblical, and culturally appropriate methods which bear spiritual fruit

2. Empowering Partnerships

An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, on-going relationships between sending and receiving partners, and is expressed by:

- Primary focus on intended receptors
- Plans which benefit all participants
- Mutual trust and accountability

3. Mutual Design

An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific outreach for the benefit of all participants, and is expressed by:

- On-field methods and activities aligned to long-term strategies of the partnership
- Goer-guests' ability to implement their part of the plan
- Host receivers' ability to implement their part of the plan

4. Comprehensive Administration

An excellent short-term mission exhibits integrity through reliable set-up and thorough administration for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Truthfulness in promotion, finances, and reporting results
- Appropriate risk management
- Quality program delivery and support logistics

5. Qualified Leadership

An excellent short-term mission screens, trains and develops capable leadership for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Character—Spiritually mature servant leadership
- Skills—Prepared, competent, organized and accountable leadership
- Values—Empowering and equipping leadership

6. Appropriate Training

An excellent short-term mission prepares and equips all participants for the mutually designed outreach, and is expressed by:

- Biblical, appropriate, and timely training
- On-going training and equipping (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
- Qualified trainers

7. Thorough Follow-up

An excellent short-term mission assures debriefing and appropriate follow-up for all participants, and is expressed by:

- Comprehensive debriefing (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
- On-field reentry preparation
- Post-field follow-up and evaluation

Find trips from organizations that have adopted the SOE by refining your ShortTermMissions.com search results by "affiliation."

Learn more about the [Standards of Excellence](#).

Definitions

Intended Receptors: the people on the field who will receive the Goer-Guests' service or mission activity. Intended receptors can also be aspects of God's creation (animals, natural resources, etc.) and aspects of human creation (civic or corporate structures, oppressive systems, etc.)

Goer-Guests: those who go to the field to serve (i.e., all of the individuals or team members who are being sent, including team leaders)

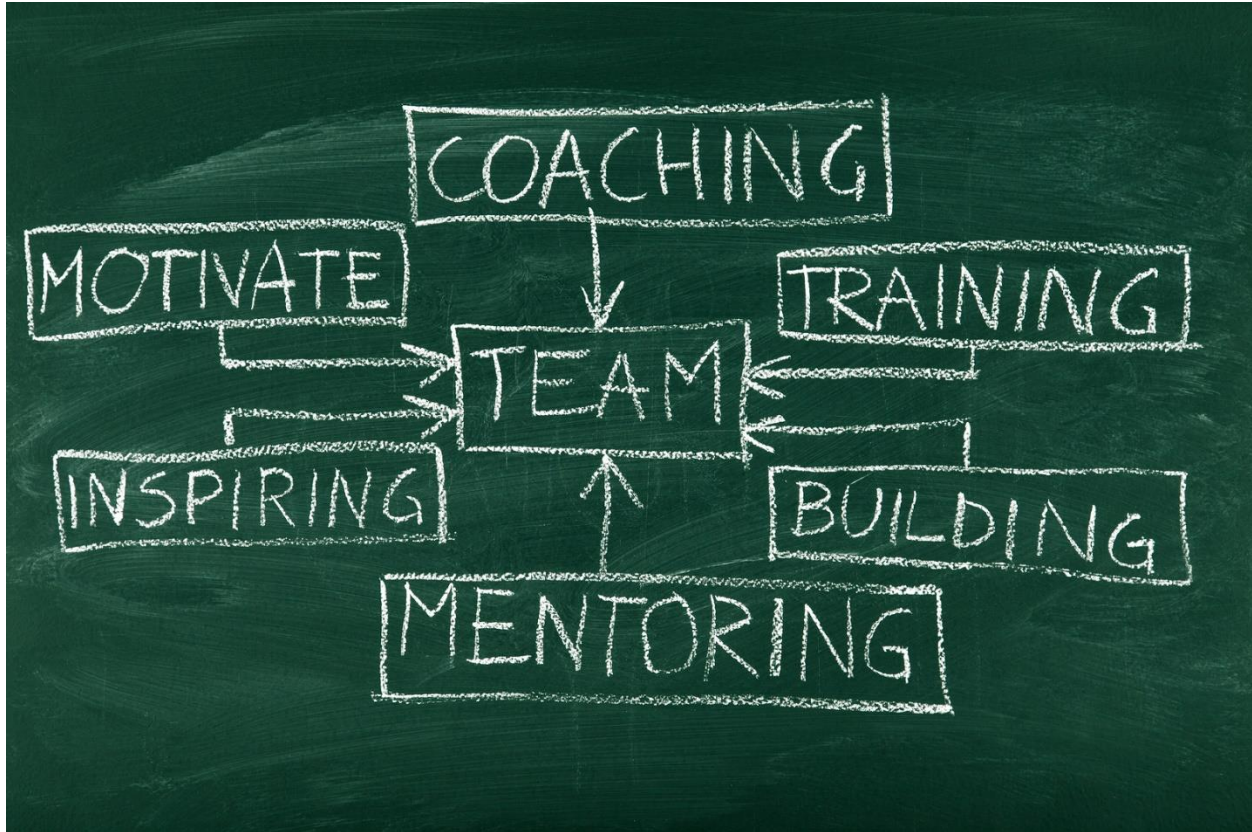
Host Receivers: the on-field persons who receive short-term missionaries (i.e., everyone at the on-field location: full-time missionaries, other expatriates, national pastors and local leaders, local nationals and any local organizations which they represent such as churches, civic organizations, NGOs, etc.)

Adapted with permission from materials provided by [SOE](#). Hannah Nielsen served as Content Editor for Mission Data International.

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Mission Team Training

By ShortTermMissions.com community



Where can I find good resources to use in training a team?

1. Take a good look at what you already have.

Many of the essentials for fielding a well-prepared short-term mission team stay the same over the years. Your list might include timeless topics like servanthood, expectations, teamwork, responding to culture shock, and re-entry – as well as practical matters that may change and vary, such as site briefing, logistics, security, and fundraising.

Look around your church, ministry, or community for others with short-term mission experience who are wise, enthusiastic, and able to teach. Enlist them to help you design and deliver mission team training around these topics. Make your training interactive. Don't give participants more information than they can digest. On the other hand, avoid making things up as you go. Be clear from the start on what the preparation process will entail and how much time it will require of those who participate.

You should also consult with any field partners with whom you are working. Be sure you are on the same page about the team and how they should be equipped. Your field partners may have some great suggestions and helpful tools for training the team.

2. Access materials online.

Delta Ministries offers a free Short-Term Mission Starter Kit with resources for prayer, encouragement, training, follow-up and more. It draws on resources and principles also found in the more extensive curriculum, *The Next Mile*.

Round Trip Missions is a curriculum based on five video sessions designed to help a team prepare for the trip, navigate the challenges of cross-cultural relationships and team dynamics, and return with lasting relationships and personal transformation. It is published by Building Church Leaders, which also offers downloadable articles previously published in *Christianity Today* and related publications and designed to equip mission teams.

3. Purchase books and materials.

STEM International (Short-Term Evangelical Missions) has a well-stocked online bookstore with many resources. Some of the most popular and helpful short-term mission resources include:

- *Short-term Missions Workbook: From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens*, by Tim Dearborn
- *Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures*, by Sarah Lanier
- *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing STM with Cultural Intelligence*, by David Livermore
- *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An International Model for Developing Personal Relationships*, by Lingenfelter and Mayers

See also *Short-Term Mission Resources*, a list from the *Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission*.

For a useful, basic training model that can be used with any team, consider the curriculum available from CultureLink, which also offers seminars to equip trainers in its use.

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Funding Your Mission Trip and Other Ways to Bring Your Friends Along

By Marti Wade



Soon after graduating from college I was on my way to the ends of the earth on an expensive, five-month mission to a remote corner of Asia. This exciting venture went far in launching me into years of fruitful ministry. As I raised support for it, though, a friend inquired how much of my own money I was putting into the trip. Struck by his words, I decided then and there to use whatever I had in my slender means for expenses like immunizations, supplies, my passport application, and airfare to and from the training and debriefing site.

When the whole trip was over, though, I had second thoughts about my noble choice. I was practically broke and behind schedule on finding that post-college job. Should I have raised more support? Or maybe delayed the whole project until I could pay even more of my own way? Which path is more responsible? More trusting in God? More likely to give him glory? As you may suspect, I found no easy or universal answer to these questions.

Earning Versus Asking

On the one hand, earning money through our own labors and giving sacrificially from what we have can demonstrate our sincerity, steward the resources we've been given, and keep us from being unnecessarily dependent on funds which may be given to those who really need them.

Raising support, though, may do more to build our faith, strengthen our bonds with those who give, and offer donors who cannot go a chance to be part of the team and what God will do through it. It may teach us dependence on God as the ultimate provider, confirm our sense that he is leading the mission, and give us valuable practice in confronting the fears and sense of independence that could keep us from pursuing this kind of ministry long-term.

In my case, I found raising support for my trip to Central Asia was extremely valuable in laying the foundation of a support team for long-term ministry. Later, when it came to raising monthly support, I had a mailing list ready to go. More people knew what I was doing and why because I'd already asked them to be part of a mission trip or two.

But giving from my own resources had benefits too. It likewise grew my faith, taught me to live simply, and made me trust God to provide a job on my return. Since I was also giving to support the ministry, I couldn't fall into the trap of thinking some people are goers and others are givers. I, too, was learning the joy of giving sacrificially.

Should You Do Both?

Many short-term mission teams, especially youth groups, develop fundraising strategies that combine asking and earning: participants work hard and are paid for their labors by donations from generous donors whom they serve through product sales, service projects, and more. And some mission team members do what I did, covering some expenses on their own and raising support to meet the rest of the need. Or, as may be the case, raising support and pitching in if all the funds don't come in. Both the earning

and the asking can solidify our commitment to making the most of a mission trip. Each can motivate us to be both frugal and faithful as we go.

What's Biblical?

Raising support and paying your own way are both biblical, and both are reflected in the New Testament, even in the life of the Apostle Paul. In some situations Paul worked with his hands to support his ministry and avoid putting up obstacles to his message. But on other occasions he seems to have laid his tools aside in favor of full-time preaching and teaching, supported by others. He also commended and encouraged giving to support those going out to preach the gospel, as well as generous hospitality in receiving missionaries when they passed through.

Raising Prayer Support

Like any other kind of ministry, mission trips seem to work best when we approach them with a healthy sense of dependence on God and others. We're designed to be part of a body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" (1 Corinthians 12:21). Whether you raise support, pay your own way, or some combination of the two, don't neglect the opportunity to raise prayer support.

Some ministries that send out short-term missionaries challenge or require each person to build a team of prayer supporters who will lift them up regularly before, during, and after the trip. Merely making a broad appeal for prayer is of some value, but consider asking for more specific and concrete involvement. Could you sign up 10-12 partners who commit in writing to pray for you every day? This is a great idea, a blessing both to those who go and those who send.

Check out these articles for more insights on the principles and practices of raising support:

- » [Seven Steps for Raising Support for a Mission Trip](#)
- » [Best Fundraising Ideas for Christian Teens Mission Trips](#)
- » [Mission Trip Support Raising](#)
- » [About the Money](#)
- » [Raising Missionary Support with Global Frontier Missions](#)

Marti Wade has been a mission mobilizer since 1995 and has trained dozens of short-term teams for relationship-based research among the world's least-reached peoples.

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SIX HAZARDOUS PHRASES TO AVOID DURING THE ASK

By Scott Morton on October 31, 2014



In the nervousness of a fundraising appointment, do un-helpful words pop out of your mouth?

At the risk of being legalistic, may I be painfully specific? The guideline: “Be sensitive yet bold in your financial presentation!” sounds great. But what does that mean? Here are six phrases to avoid. Fasten your seatbelt!

2. “Will you give to me?”

“Give to me” is a first cousin of begging. Help donors understand they give to the Kingdom—vertically—not to bail you out horizontally. Ask your friends to support the Kingdom of God—specifically the Kingdom work God has assigned you.

Find your own words, but here is what I typically say: Will you pray about a gift of the Lord’s leading for this work He has called me to? Say \$100-200 per month.....?” Silence.

3. “I know just how you feel!”

No you don’t! How can you know exactly how another person feels—especially in pain or suffering? Keep listening and asking questions.

4. **“Gifts of any amount are welcomed!”**

Of course we welcome any gift after a giving partner has brought his or her decision before the Lord. Instead, ask them to pray about a specific range or amount. If the donor hesitates, you could say, “We have giving partners from \$15 per month to \$10,000 per year. The amount is between you and the Lord. I am honored for this opportunity to tell you about it.”

5. **“That happened to me once. Let me tell you all about it!”**

In schoolyard basketball there are those who “hog the ball”—those who don’t pass to teammates but dribble, dribble, dribble.

Similarly in conversation, some people hog the ball. As soon as they hear something in which they had a similar experience, they grab the conversation and dribble, dribble, dribble. Others can only watch in amazement.

6. **“Uhhh...I don’t know (when asked questions).”**

Anticipate questions donors might ask and know the answers! For example:

- How many staff in your agency?
- How many countries [cities, campuses] are you in?
- What is your budget? Your agency’s budget?
- What makes your ministry unique? Aren’t you doing what the church does anyway?
- What happens if you don’t get your support raised?
- How did your agency begin? What year?
- How many giving partners do you have? Your average gift? Why can’t you mission organizations work more closely together?

7. **“I-uhm sort-of kind-a need to be fully funded...and-ah, I was hoping that-uhm maybe at this point in time that-uhm I could-ah.....”**

Non-words like ‘ah, uhm, sort-of, kind-a, at this point in time’ need to be dropped from your vocabulary. Listen to your pastor this Sunday and count non-words that come from his mouth. Most pastors are disciplined to avoid ‘ah’s and sort-of’s and uhhhms. When non-words are gone, the speaker is taken more seriously.

The Apostle Paul is specific on the importance of words.

“So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be know what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.”

—1 Corinthians 14:9

Let us not merely speak into the air!

Fund Raising Ideas for Short-Term Missions

UNLEASHED Webinar Series – Missions Education and Engagement Team
Christian reformed World Missions

THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TREND*

- 1.6 million American adults do an overseas short-term missions trip a year. If including youth its closer to 4-5 million people/year
- Average trip cost is \$1400 USD
- \$2.25 billion spent /year
- 97% go to places where the Christian church already exists
- 58% of STM'ers go to a Spanish-speaking country
- Bahamas receives 1 STM for every 15 citizens; China receives 1 for every 35,600

(* statistics from David Livermore, Executive Director at the Global Learning Center at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, author of the foundational books "Serving With Eyes Wide Open" and "Cultural Intelligence")

This trend is on the increase – why?

- A desire to become personally involved in the Great Commission
- Moved by compassion and justice, but sometimes the individualism in our own culture trumps urgency or mission vision, i.e., "shopping" for opportunities
- An exceptional missions education experience
- Ease of world travel in accessibility and cost
- Sense of adventure
- Become part of "rites of passage" for youth:
 - A drawing card to bring those on the fringe into community
 - Commonplace for high schools to offer overseas trips -> desire to go with others
 - Can be seen primarily as a discipleship tool rather than serving

FUNDRAISING AS MINISTRY

We seldom view this practice from a spiritual perspective, but rather view it as a necessary but unpleasant activity to support activities or spiritual things.

Fundraising as an invitation:

- To your givers: "we are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given in this work that God has called us." Missions is expanding the Kingdom and so fundraising is a Kingdom cause and not begging.
- To yourself: how do you see your God-given resources? When we ask others to give, we must also take ownership and support it yourselves (whether you have much or little is not as important as making your resources available to God).

Thanking Donors: Don't let the tax receipt be your thank you card! People feel jaded and abandoned when they receive a request, but not (1) a gesture of gratitude; and (2) an update of how God used that gift in ministry.

In prayer we are to put our trust and security in God to supply our needs.

From beginning to end, fund-raising as ministry is grounded in prayer and undertaken in gratitude... Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared."
-- Henri Nouwen

BE AWARE ... FUNDRAISING

Under the Canadian Income Tax Act a charity has a specific definition of what it is and what it does. This is similar (although different) but for the US.

Charity

- Pursues its **own** charitable purposes
- Activities must relate to its overall charitable purposes and objectives
- **May not** send money to a person, or entity over which it does not have **DIRECTION, CONTROL or ACCOUNTABILITY.**

Churches can demonstrate control and accountability when planning a short-term missions trip by:

- Ensure activities fit with your church's purpose and objectives -> *(may need a joint venture agreement or to approve a national worker to carry out work needed)*
- Get documented council approval – *i.e., a minuted motion that includes the program budget*
- Be a part of the planning and arrangements
- Provide appropriate leadership and supervision for the trip
- Receive donations and pay costs through the church *(or when appropriate: mission agency).* Record and document all expenses and transactions to demonstrate control
- Upon return, make a written and verbal report to council

*if in any doubt, consult with your church's treasurer and/or lawyer for clarification

Good to note: implement a "designation policy" that also states if the fundraising goals of the activity or program has not been met or is terminated, that it will be used for another purpose (or returned).

FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES

- Participants should personally contribute from their personal funds
- If main purpose is personal growth (discipleship) then it is recommended to contribute upwards of 90% as the individual is the beneficiary and focus is not on the church's work but to disciple participants, *i.e., Short-Term Missions or "Voluntourism"?*
- For service trips that will benefit others in tangible ways, active fundraising is encouraged
- If participant decide to "tack" on a few days or week to the trip, individual is responsible for all expenses (not eligible for a tax receipt)
- Prayer trips not eligible for tax receipts either by IRS or CRA

PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR TEAMS

Fundraising is also an opportunity for teams to practice working together, a trial run before they encounter the added complexity of cross-cultural stress and travel.

FOOD

❖ **Sports Celebrity Dinner**

❖ **Valentine's Dinner** with music and top-notch menu

- ❖ **Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?** – People sign up for either making a meal, or going out for dinner. Those who make the meal contribute the food needed to serve the guests. The guests are the ones who pay the cash and give a donation at the end of the dinner. Each home has about 6 people for dinner, but no one knows who's coming, or

where you're going, until an hour or so before.

- ❖ **Dessert Multi-Cultural Evening** with special music
- ❖ **Selling Food:** people like to get something for their donation and often contribute more: subs, apple crisps, pies (can be frozen) cheese, spaghetti dinners etc.

EVENTS

- ❖ **Coordinate a Family Fun:** ““glow in the dark” mini putt tournament
- ❖ **Goods & Services Auction** cottage weekend, a day of sailing, a gourmet dinner
- ❖ **Evening of Music:** various singing or instrumental music performance, door collection
- ❖ **Free Car Wash:** in sharing with the team goal, many want to donate

- ❖ **Sell Flowers:** Christmas wreaths, Spring flowers, Easter lilies, Mums
- ❖ **Sell Cookbooks:** International Cuisine cookbooks through World Missions
- ❖ **Design A Latest Craze Moment** Amazing Race (car rally with challenges)
- ❖ Garage sale

IDEAS FOR INDIVIDUALS

- ❖ **Sell handmade cards**
- ❖ **Host a Movie Night at Church:** Rent a new release (with copyright approval) and sell tickets
- ❖ **Ask friends, family and church family:** Break down costs into manageable amounts, i.e., for \$1500, I need 10 people who can contribute \$100 and 10 who can contribute \$50
- ❖ **Walk-a-Thon:** sponsor per lap or given distance or donate a flat amount
- ❖ **Yard Sale:** Ask friends and family members to donate items or join others for a bigger draw
- ❖ **Pet Services (if you are knowledgeable about pet care):** trimming nails, bathing and drying dogs and cats. Purchase the supplies and advertise in your community.
- ❖ **Yard Work:** spring & summer – mow yards, trim and weed; fall – rake leaves; winter – plow/shovel snow

KEEPING COSTS DOWN

- Stay in people’s homes, rather than on a compound or hotel
- Flight with connections (if near the border, take flight from the US)
- Go small: smaller teams = smaller budget = easier interaction; big #'s insulate themselves and overwhelm the community
- What you bring along says a lot – *don’t break the bank in buying a lot of things*
- Seed money through a long term goal/vision – build the experience as part of a long-term goal to avoid “Drive By Missions”
- Join what a community is already doing (*i.e., ‘WITH’ rather than ‘FOR’*)
- Insurance is a must: *its too high a price to go without*, *i.e., Medical, travel and evacuation*

- Keep long-term missionary funding: most STM experiences are facilitated by career staff, and this is a more effective way to sustain ministry. Don’t let personal individualism call the shirks.

GOOD RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

FUNDRAISING Books:

- *How to Produce a Fabulous Fundraising Event: Step By Step Guide* by Bettey Stallings and Donna McMillon
- *“A is for ASK: A Fundraising Guide”* by Betsy Clarke, CFRE
- *“People Raising: Short Term Support Manual”* by Bill Dillon
- *“Friend Raising: Building a Missionary Support Team That Lasts”* by Betty Barnett, YWAM Pub (January 2002)

FUNDRAISING Websites:

www.simple-fundraising-ideas.com

www.missionaryresources.org/resources_fundraising.html
www.urbanministry.org

Webinar Information Sources:

Short Term Missions Workbook Webinar Information Sources:

Short Term Missions Workbook by Tim Dearborne

David Livermore – 2009 COSIM Conference seminar in Grand Rapids, MI

The Spirituality of Fund Raising by Henri Nouwen

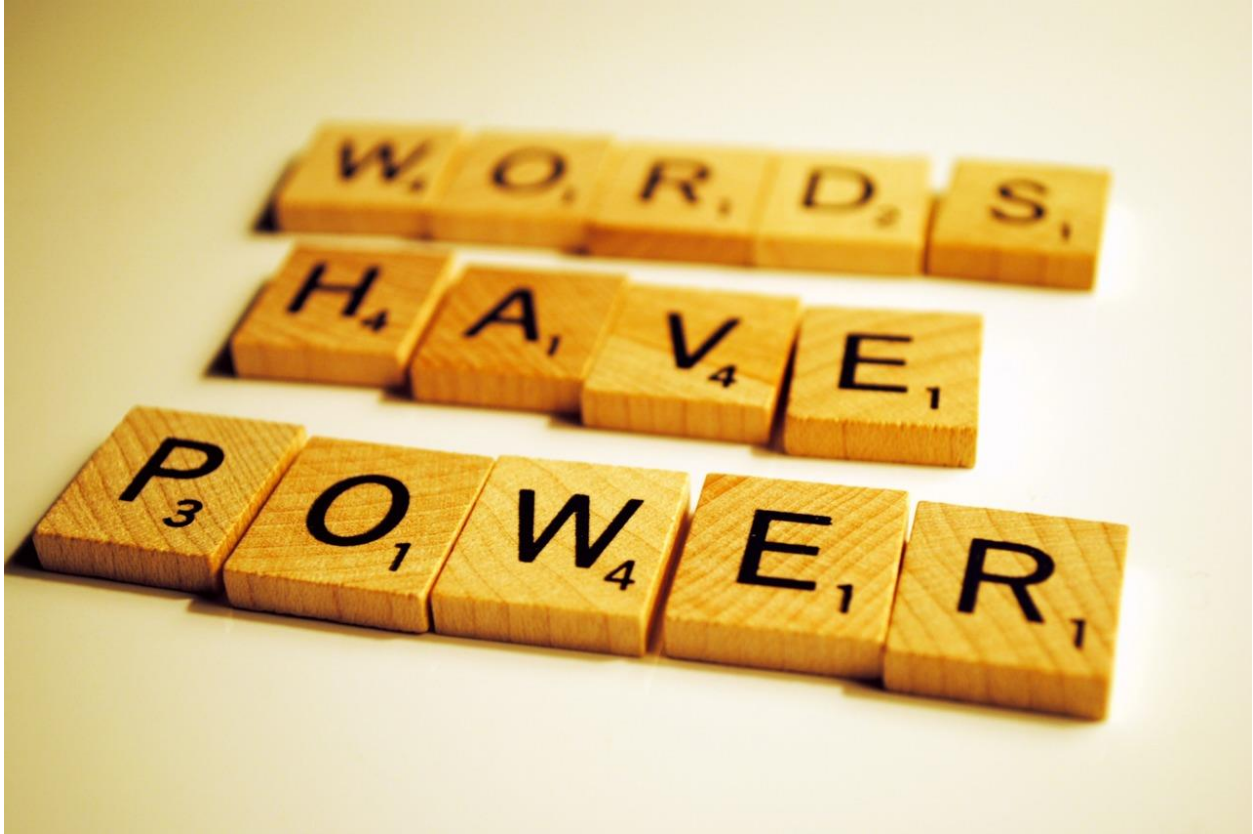
www.cccc.org Canadian Council of Christian Churches

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The missions Education & Engagement Team at Christian Reformed World Missions offers a host of services and resources to help CRC congregations in their calling to fulfill the Great Commission.

Two Hundred Words: Words to Know Before You Go

By David Armstrong



Learning some of the language of your host community will demonstrate that you care about the people you've come to serve. It will also make it easier to find your way around and to understand what's happening. Although you probably don't have time to become fluent, learning 200 everyday words and phrases is an easy and beneficial first step for your adventure in learning as you go overseas.

Following are specific words and phrases to learn. This list focuses on common phrases, adjectives, prepositions, and nouns. Arm yourself with this list and a bilingual dictionary. Try to find someone who speaks the language you are learning and schedule time to sit down with them. Online resources are also available that offer translation and pronunciation help. Have fun!

Phrases

Greetings and Pleasantries

hello

good morning

good afternoon

my name is ...

what is your name?

nice to meet you.

I am from ...

how are you?

I am fine.

good-bye

have a nice day.

what time is it?

Please

thank you

you are welcome.

excuse me

Going to the Store

what is this?	I would like ...	what
what is that?	yes	when
how much does it cost?	no	where
what do you call this?	stop	why
how do you say ...?	who	how

Adjectives**Comparative Adjectives**

slow	black
hot	white
cold	red
fat	green
skinny	blue
hard	yellow
soft	orange
young	purple
old	
Colors	

Nouns

House	chair	bedroom
house	table	dining room
door	bed	living room
floor	blanket	bathroom
window	pillow	
ceiling	light	

Relationships

father	brother	grandson
mother	sister	granddaughter
son	grandfather	
daughter	grandmother	

Medical

doctor	pain
nurse	sick
hospital	

Food

water	bread	coffee
food	meat	tea

vegetables and fruit common
to [the area](#)

People

man	boy	baby
woman	girl	police
youth	child	teacher

Parts of the Body

head	leg	nose
hair	knee	mouth
hand	foot	back
finger	eyes	stomach
arm	ears	

Transportation

car	airplane	visa
truck	train	taxi
bus	ticket	
street	passport	

Other

store	song	paper
school	embassy	pencil
church	tree	pen
pastor	street	scissors
Bible	road	ball
Jesus	help	
God	emergency	

Days and Time

yesterday, today, tomorrow, early, late, hour, day, month, year, in the past, in the future
(Knowing the days of the week and the months of the year can be helpful as well.)

Numbers, Money

Learn to say and recognize the numbers from 1 to 20 (especially 1 to 10). Numbers allow you to count and to handle money. To practice the numbers, look at license plates and try to say them. Learn the names of the money, bills and coins, as well as how many of one bill it takes to equal the next bill.

Prepositions

in, out, under, above, behind, beside

We're avoiding verbs because, although important, verbs are often complicated since they change forms. Learning the basic form of 20 to 30 common verbs is good but harder; consider verbs extra credit. It would also be helpful to learn words associated with what you will be doing, e.g., orphanage, construction, teaching, medical, church, VBS.

For more information on language learning, SIL International's site has a host of language learning links. David Armstrong served as a missionary and short-term mission coordinator at OC International and is Co-founder and Executive Director at Mission Data International. He also serves on the steering committee for Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.

Used with permission http://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/200_words

Secrets to a Life-Changing Short-Term Mission Trip

Have You Prepared Your Heart?

By Marti Wade



So you're getting ready to go on a mission trip. But you find yourself obsessed with staying healthy, packing, fundraising, or that special person on your team – you know, the one you hope might go out with you when the trip is over!

Maybe you are overwhelmed by excitement or anxiety about going somewhere you've never been and doing things you've never done. You imagine how it might all play out; you wonder what it will reveal about the kind of person you really are.

The good news? Such concerns are perfectly natural and normal. The bad news? If they keep your eyes focused on yourself, they can cost you the opportunity a mission trip offers to surrender your concerns to God, hear from Him, and go into the experience prepared to learn, grow, and serve.

Have You Prepared Your Heart?

"God has His reasons for wanting you on this trip, some of which you already know and some you can hardly guess. I have a core conviction that short-term mission trips are life changing for you and for those you go to serve. However, I believe that positive life-change occurs in direct proportion to how prepared you are. No doubt you have a lot to do before you go, but a prepared heart should be the number one priority on your list." – Cindy Judge

Veteran mission trip trainer Cindy Judge wrote the book thousands of short-termers use to get ready for mission trips. It's called *Before You Pack Your Bag, Prepare Your Heart: Short-Term Mission Preparation Guide*. Consider making it part of your preparation to go, or keep it in mind for a friend.

What Do You Expect?

Many find it helpful to articulate their expectations, talk about them with others, and yield them to God. You could start by asking yourself questions like these:

- What are my personal goals for this trip? How do I hope to achieve them?
- What do I expect from my teammates, leaders, and hosts?
- What do I expect to encounter in terms of food, weather, living environment, and culture?
- How do I think I will respond to internal and external conflicts, ambiguity, or weariness?
- How do I expect God will use me, help me grow, or show Himself to me?
- How can I be flexible and adapt if my expectations prove unreasonable or are not met?

Jot down some of your hopes and fears, even if they're small. Think about where they came from. Try to find out if your expectations and concerns are accurate. Take some time to ponder what Jesus teaches us about worries and fears in Luke 12:22-31.

A Heart to Serve

It is said that those who go on mission trips get far more out of them than those they serve. While this is often the case, you can keep a healthy balance by committing in advance to serve others and recognize what God is doing in and through them. Tim Dearborn's Short-Term Missions Workbook recommends embracing these helpful attitudes and practices:

- Walk with humility.
- Remember, God has been at work among these people long before you arrived!
- Live with vulnerability.
- Don't be afraid of weakness – it's normal.
- Practice flexibility.
- Expect the unexpected – you're not in control. (God is!)
- Live as a student.
- Be determined to learn from everyone.
- Work as a servant.
- Be willing to do whatever needs to be done.
- Struggle with this? Meditate on Philippians 2:1-8, where we see God's perspective on superiority and servanthood. Rest on the reassurance offered in Philippians 1:6 and 2:13.

Going Deeper

Mission trips provide a great opportunity for personal growth. To make the most of this opportunity, be intentional about seeking God before, during, and after the trip. Ask him to guide you, shape your attitude, help you interpret what you're seeing, hearing, and feeling, and lock in the lessons you learn.

» Daily devotions on your own or with your group often help. See our FAQ's on Finding Mission Trip Devotions and Mission Team Training.

Marti Wade has been a mission mobilizer since 1995 and has trained dozens of short-term teams for relationship-based research among the world's least-reached peoples.

This article first appeared in the ShortTermMissions.com eNewsletter.

Used with permission <http://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/Secrets>

"HOW DO I FIND A MENTOR TO HELP ME PREPARE FOR MISSIONS?"



"You can get a weekend of coaching through a retreat with The Journey Deepens."

Answer from AskaMissionary.com staff:

"If you sense God is calling you into missions but need help in discerning your direction, a good next step for you could be a retreat with The Journey Deepens."

The Journey Deepens Retreats are intensive weekends designed to not only link participants with missions coaches and agencies, but to provide sound Biblical teaching and guidance in spiritual preparation for missions work.

These retreats are sponsored by Finishers Project and MissionNext and endorsed by In His Image International and the Perspectives Study Program.

"You have more options than you might think."

Answer from PreparingToGo:

Some of the best encouragement, guidance, and preparation you can get for involvement in missions comes in the form of relationships. When it comes to finding someone to talk to, you have more options than you might think. Consider your mission pastor, mission committee members at your church, a campus ministry person at your university, a friend with missions experience or interest, or even your own parents.

The next time a missionary comes through your church or campus, take the initiative to talk to them or invite them over for a meal. Most of the time they are really nice people with all sorts of wisdom and insight. If missionaries don't come through your church all that often, keep your ears open for a missions conference in your area that may be hosted at a different church.

When you find a mentor, here are some things you might want to talk about:

- Tell about yourself (schooling, occupation, gifts/skill, missions experience).
- Tell about what God is doing in your life right now.
- Ask about obstacles (questions, unknowns, fears, finances, parents) you currently have about missions.
- Ask to hear the other person's story.
- How did they get involved in missions?
- What are the challenges they have run into?
- What have they found to be a help in keeping mission vision alive and growing?
- Ask for prayer.

Don't just sit there. Go talk to someone!

Finally... Don't forget missionary biographies. Just because someone is dead doesn't mean they can't still mentor you!

Adapted from Find a Mission Mentor, published on the website PreparingtoGo.

"Mission mentors available from OMF."

Answer from Robert, who has served for thirteen years with [OMF International](#) first in Thailand and then in the USA:

"OMF International, founded by J. Hudson Taylor as the China Inland Mission, has numerous volunteer Mission Mentors around the USA. Contact info@omf.org to find out if there is a Mission Mentor in your area or if you would like to learn more about becoming a Mission Mentor.

"Connect with a mission coach through WorldVenture."

Answer from Audrey, who serves in the U.S. with WorldVenture:

"WorldVenture, an established mission agency, highly values the mentoring process. Before moving anyone into the application process, the potential candidate is connected with a mission coach who helps them discern how best to move forward into missions. Once appointed, various staff members step in to help guide the new appointee as he/she prepares to serve overseas. If interested in connecting with a mission coach, go to the WorldVenture website to introduce yourself.

If your passion is to help encourage others to consider missions, we would enjoy talking with you more about how you might join one of our regional teams as a mission coach. Contact us at serve@worldventure.com

"SEND International provides coaches; you can also find them right around you (or online)."

Answer from Elizabeth, who served SEND International in multiple Asian countries for thirty-seven years: “SEND assigns a coach to every new appointee who is looking to head out in missions service. This coach works with you weekly to pray, listen, guide, and help you through the process of getting there.”

Before a person even gets to the application process, SEND has mobilizers all over the country who meet with people who are interested in missions. They can help answer questions and move you to the next step, either with SEND or with an organization that better suits your gifts and calling.

But you may not be talking with a mission organization yet. Does your church have a mentoring program for those interested in missions? Ask your pastor, but remember that he may not be your best mentor. The best missions mentors are those who have served a long time in missions, not just those in ministry.

Are there retired missionaries in your circle of friends or your church? Look around for a man or woman you admire and with whom you feel you could connect. Then ask them if you can meet with them regularly and learn from them in a mentoring relationship.

Mentoring does not have to be face-to-face. You may have an experienced missionary in your life who would be willing to connect with you regularly on email or Skype or Facetime. You can each brew your OWN cup of coffee and plunge into the conversation.

What is going to work best for you?

Used with Permission: <http://www.askamissionary.com/question/645>

POST-TRIP APPENDICES

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RETURNING HOME

Welcome home!

Now that you are back from your mission trip, you may either be very glad to be back home, or perhaps you are wishing that you could have stayed longer. It is common for people to return from mission trips to have mixed emotions.

The AFTER section of the GOJOURNAL is designed to help you think through and process what God has done IN and THROUGH you during the mission trip. They are meant to help you discern what God is telling you regarding your experience. Every Goer will have different reactions and reflections, even if they went on the same mission trip with others. Now that you are back from your trip, you will need to process and integrate your experiences into your everyday life from this point forward.

The crux of the matter is this: What has God started in your life as a result of the mission trip? Will you let God carry out His plans for your life?

A good Short-Term Mission Trip Program will have a provision for a Post-Field Debriefing and a thorough Follow-through AFTER the trip. Hopefully this is an integral part of the mission trip that you participated in. We encourage you to talk to your Pastor, STM Team Leader or a Coach/Mobilizer from a Missions Organization to guide you through the Post-Field Debriefing process. In this third section of the GOJOURNAL, you will find resources and ideas for debriefing and follow-through.

If you have questions or would like help with debriefing and/or follow-through, please contact your Team Leader, the mission trip's sponsoring organization, or email: GOJOURNAL.HelpDesk@gmail.com

TELLING YOUR STORY

Tips for telling your story.

1. Tell a story around one particular real person you met or one genuine event in which you participated.
 - a. Write out your story word for word beforehand.
 - b. Time your story to be between one and two minutes in length.
 - c. Practice your story, especially your timing.
 - d. Use a good quality photo to go along with the story.
 - i. Simple composition;
 - ii. People-oriented;
 - iii. Good quality;
 - iv. The end of your verbal story should correspond to the focus of your photo.
2. When you are done with your story, stop.
3. Do not continue without the person's invitation.
4. If the listener asks for more, continue with similar short stories, combined with photos.

General guidelines for telling your story to larger groups.

1. Determine your purpose.
 - a. What message do you want to leave in the hearts and minds of your listeners?
 - i. Don't try to preach a Bible message;
 - ii. Don't force a spiritual lesson on your audience, except as you share what God taught you.
 - iii. Allow the audience to feel what you feel and to catch your vision.
 - b. Plan a series of stories which will add up to your intended purpose.
 - c. Be sure your last story leads your audience to your purpose.
2. Determine your time limit.
 - a. Plan your stories to fill but not overflow this time limit.
 - b. practice, practice, practice, practice
3. Power Point
 - a. Use as background to a story rather than as a primary means of making a point.
 - b. Keep it simple and clear; use photos and very few words
 - i. Do not:
 1. point out details within it;
 2. fiddle with it;
 3. apologize for it.
 - c. Dos and don'ts:
 - i. Do use good quality photographs;
 - ii. Do use photos with simple composition and subject;
 - iii. Do use photos which complement your story without further explanation.
 - iv. Do not use text;

4. Other venues for telling your story.
 - a. Church
 - i. Ask the pastor of your church for an opportunity to share with the entire congregation.
 - ii. Use whatever time you have to share your vision.
 - b. Sunday School
 - i. Ask the Sunday School superintendent for an opportunity to share with the entire Sunday school, either as a group(s) or in individual departments or classes.
 - ii. If you have a special relationship with any particular class or teacher, ask directly for an opportunity.
 - c. Don't neglect the younger or older classes
 - i. The younger kids will be the missionaries of tomorrow – if you and others inspire them.
 - ii. The older people are the pray-ers of the church – they can help you more than you will help the church.
5. College or University
 - a. Look for opportunities to share with whatever groups might be at your college or university.
5. Small Groups
 - a. Create or find your own groups

Why are you telling your story over and over again?

1. Many friends participated in those stories from a distance by supporting you with prayer and financial help. They need to hear how God used their participation.
2. Your stories are the account of how God met and used you in special circumstances.
3. Repeating your stories will drive them deeper into your own heart.
4. Others might need to learn from the lessons of your stories.
5. You have a unique opportunity to inspire others to imitate your obedience in serving Christ.

CELEBRATE & REPORT

Re-entry: An End and a Beginning

Re-entry can be seen as an end, but also a beginning:

...an end to a foreign experience...but the beginning of feeling foreign.

...an end to a trip...but the beginning of a journey.

...an end to being/feeling special...but the beginning of being ordinary with a special heart for God and for people.

...an end to being stared at...but the beginning of looking at people and the world through different eyes.

...an end to simple living...but the beginning of living more simply.

...an end to crowded housing...but the beginning of having space for God and people.

...an end to eating foreign food...but the beginning of friendships with foreign people.

With thanks to Lisa Espineli-Chinn, Interaction Inc., Adapted by Don Johnson, SEND International

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Find other returnees with whom you can share and have fellowship. Discuss the needs of the world and pray for them. Learn to think globally.
2. Give yourself time to readjust; be patient with yourself and others.
3. Recognize and accept which transition stage or option you are going through, and remember that "reverse culture shock" or "re-entry stress" is a normal part of the process of returning home.
4. Have a good sense of humour.
5. Let your re-entry work for you; use it as a growing process to continue learning about yourself.
6. Appreciate the opportunity you had to go abroad.
7. Review the most significant changes you have undergone and the implications of those changes.
8. Consciously apply your theology of culture (seeing both patterns of exploitation and idolatry and patterns of loveliness and kindness) to your home culture.
9. Cultivate friendships with people from the region where you visited that are international students or businessmen.
10. Help your friends and church know what questions to ask you. Try to look at your ministry from their context and tie your concerns to their values.
11. Help your church figure out where to use you in an ongoing way. Analyze their ministries/your gifts, and then make a couple of proposals to the church as to how you could serve, integrating what you have learned overseas with the priorities of the church. Don't wait for them to come to you with a proposal.
12. Recognize that your friends and supporters may be under a great stress themselves. Be prepared to counsel, comfort, pray for and bless them, as much as receive their counsel and care.
13. Keep a clear perspective and remember that God is there with you!



Discover Your Part in God's Plan

Tools for the Journey

By John McVay

"Your life only makes sense in the context of God's plan to finish the Great Commission. God has given us the direction we need to make our lives count and leave our mark on eternity. When we find it, we move from merely existing to truly living life on purpose." — Claude Hickman, Live Life on Purpose

You've had a taste of God's global plan. Now what? Here are some practical ways to help you find and take your next steps.

Learn

Take the life-changing college-level course "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" and discover what God is doing around the world and consider your part in his purposes. Perspectives will help you understand God's plan for our world—and for your life:

- Navigate the roadmap of the Bible, and with fresh eyes, view God's overall plan.
- Explore God's ultimate purpose as you travel through history.
- Discover how you can be strategic by participating in God's plan during your journey through life.
- Acquire a practical guide to understanding intriguing cultural dynamics.

Classes are offered in cities across the U.S. and around the world, as well as online. Perspectives has also inspired many similar courses and studies. “Kairos” and “Operation WorldView” are good for churches and groups. On your own or with others, you might want to work through the Claude Hickman's book “*Live Life on Purpose*” or Jeff Lewis's Bible study “*God's Heart for the Nations*”.

Grow

Study the workbook *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing His Will* by Henry Blackaby, a former church planter in Canada who has inspired many worldwide to prayer and spiritual awakening. This workbook is designed to be studied daily for three months. A few years ago God used this book to reprogram my perspective on guidance and I've reviewed this material in detail before each subsequent ministry transition. Blackaby's prayer is for God to teach you how to:

- hear when God is speaking to you
- clearly identify the activity of God in your life
- believe him to be and do everything he promises
- adjust your beliefs, character, and behavior to him and his ways
- see a direction that he is taking in your life and what he wants to do through you
- clearly know what you need to do in response to his activity in your life
- experience God doing through you what only God can do!

As the author says, *"Knowing God does not come through a program, a study, or a method. Knowing God comes through a relationship with a person. This is an intimate love relationship with God. Through this relationship, God reveals himself, his purposes, and his ways; and he invites you to join him where he is already at work."*

For other tools to help you learn and grow, see the resources of www.AskAMissionary.com website.

Do

Don't only serve when you're overseas, but look for ways to serve when you are at home. This will demonstrate your interest to others and help you develop skills you can use wherever you go.

Make the most of any short-term mission trip opportunities, maybe offering yourself as a leader or going for a longer period of time.

Invite others into your journey by sharing your questions and ideas with others in your church and opening yourself up to someone who can mentor you.

Explore www.AskAMissionary.com and www.PreparingToGo.com for more help and encouragement.

John McVay is administrator of In His Image International and coordinator of the Tulsa (Oklahoma) Missions Mobilizers Network. He developed the **Journey Deepens** retreats and the book and website, **Ask a Missionary**.

This and other resources can also be found at www.ShortTermMissions.com.

GOJOURNAL FEEDBACK FORM

GOJOURNAL is continuously being improved to provide a User experience that gets better over time. This is only possible through feedback and comments from you, the User.

If you have used GOJOURNAL, please help us make it even better by providing us with your actual experience, comments, and/or suggestions for improvement.

How would you rate your experience with using GOJOURNAL?

Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Average	Good	Outstanding
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What parts or aspects of GOJOURNAL can still be improved?

What parts of features of GOJOURNAL did you like?

What parts of GOJOURNAL did you not like?

What message would you like to convey to the developers of GOJOURNAL?

Post-Field

Please copy and paste this Feedback Page and email to GOJOURNAL.org@gmail.com