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INTRO

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ON MISSION WITH THE WORLD TO REACH THE
NATIONS
TED VAIL

What an amazing time we get to live in! God has called the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world, and we get to be part of a global missionary force to reach all the nations. One of the exciting things about our world today is to know that every believer across the globe has Acts 1:8 in their bibles just like we do, which gives us the promise of power to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This means that just as we are taking the gospel beyond our borders, other nations are doing the same. The Lord of the Harvest is sending you and other workers to the places where He needs you. This points to the need for a new level of partnership throughout God's global church. What does partnership in the gospel look like? We see it mentioned throughout Scripture. In Philippians 1:5, Paul thanks the church in Philippi for their partnership in the gospel. When I think of partners, I think of equals or peers; all on the same team. God is calling us to be partners with believers from other nations. Not just geopolitical countries, but other people groups as well, and we're all on mission together. Imagine what a great force this is, where not just one nation, but all who are called, work together to reach the whole world. Currently, there are 3.1 Billion people who are unreached; who do not have access to the gospel. This statistic makes us all the more thankful for you and your willingness to go and partner with other nations in God's great mission.

As you're preparing to go on this outreach, imagine that someone from Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe, or the Middle East is preparing for an outreach as well. What might that look like? Perhaps they are going as an immigrant, refugee, international student, or on a short-term team. How do you think they're getting ready, and what are they considering as they prepare to leave? How might that be different from your what you are doing? I want to encourage you to pray for your counterparts and peers in other nations. There is a saying I love, which says God is moving the missions field to becoming the missions force. All the nations want to participate!

I'll leave you with three points to consider. First, when you arrive at your place of destination, there will be people there to receive you. Remember, this is their country, not yours; you are a guest in their culture and as such, demonstrate honour and respect in all that you do, even if you think you know a better way. Second, remain humble, especially if you are going to a reached place where the gospel is present. God is already at work in the place you are going; you get to build on the work He's doing. Finally, radiate the joy of the Lord! True joy is contagious. It will be reflected in your attitude, in the work you're doing, and in the unity your team displays. It's amazing how much the unity of our teams can be a witness and spiritual force to those around us.

Long term career missionaries and local workers are my heroes. You, who are going to help, are my heroes too. Thank you for your courage and compassion to go! You are sacrificing your time, talent, and treasure, and we are grateful. You are not in this alone; God is with you and so are we. God bless you as you go!

PROPER MOTIVES FOR GOING

- To gain valuable ministry experience.
- To expand your understanding of the needs of others.
- To share the love of Jesus.
- To deepen and enrich your spiritual life.
- To see souls saved through faithful witness and prayer.
- To be an answer to the prayers of the people whom you are ministering.
- To be a blessing to the pastors and missionaries.
- To enhance the work of the local church.
- To exhibit the life of Christ as it was exhibited in the Gospels.
- To learn from your brothers and sisters around the world.
- To build lifetime bridges with Christians in other locations.
- To become open to God's leading in your life.

IMPROPER MOTIVES FOR GOING

- Because it is an adventure.
- Because a friend is participating.
- To go sight-seeing.
- Because someone is paying your way.
- To impress others.
- To see what missions are like.

DISCUSS: List and discuss with the team other motivators (good and bad) for going on a missions trip.

JOURNAL: Write out your WHY in regards to this particular missions trip.

READ: Start reading the book of ACTS – the goal is at least 3 chapters a week.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The first objective in going on a mission trip is to partner with our Foursquare missionaries, national leaders and pastors in local churches to assist them in reaching their communities, cities and nation for Jesus. For some teams, this means intense evangelistic proclamation through preaching, dramas and other forms of creative evangelism. For others it means loving and encouraging our brothers and sisters in the faith by spending relational times of fun, fellowship and prayer together. Our goal is not to ride into town as though we have all the answers to their problems, but to go with a heart to serve and learn from those who are hosting us.

The second objective during your trip is for each participant to minister in the power of the Spirit. Many of the people that you will be ministering to are held captive by the chains of sin that grips their lives. Others are living in sickness and are in need of an encounter with the message of hope and healing that is found in Jesus. The people we come into contact with need more than a story, they need to experience the power of God. In Mark 16:15-18 Jesus says:

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Jesus has called each of us to respond to this commission, to step out in faith, and to move in the power of the Spirit. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

The Word teaches us that if we are walking with Jesus and are willing servants, then the Spirit of the Lord is available to us when we “GO” in Jesus’ name.

Take the scripture above - where you read “Me,” insert your name there. Read it several times over and believe it! It’s the ministry of Jesus to and through you that will change the lives of those with whom you come in contact.

Your purpose is to be an answer to the prayers of both the church members and pastors in the churches you will be ministering in. You are not going with your own agenda. You are going to serve and help meet the needs of the Body of Christ in the city or nation that God is sending you to. Your objective is to work alongside the local Christians and assist in bringing light into dark places. You must remember that your primary goal is to be a blessing to all you work with.



FOURSQUARE // A MOVEMENT WITH A MESSAGE JOHN AMSTUTZ

"Around the world with the Foursquare Gospel." With these words Aimee Semple McPherson focused the mission and message of the denomination her ministry spawned. The mission of world evangelization was birthed in the heart of this Canadian woman as a teenager. In 1910 at age 20 she, and her husband Robert Semple, went to China as missionaries. After less than a year of ministry Robert died of malaria and was buried in Hong Kong. Heartbroken, Aimee returned to the U.S., but her vision for world missions remained. God's people must be challenged with a vision for the lost, a vision for reaching those yet unreached. The vision was clear, as was the message, the message that Jesus Christ is the Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer and Soon Coming King. This "Foursquare Gospel" was the good news that must be proclaimed. And it must be preached throughout the world.

Sister McPherson believed the Foursquare Church was to play a part in restoring that which was lost. Because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), the life, vitality, and growth of the first-century church was also available in the twentieth century by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was more than an event. It was an experience, making available the Spirit's power to every believer in every generation. And as such, it releases the power for worldwide witness today as it did in the first century.

In 1920 Aimee Semple McPherson came to Los Angeles to build a centre from which the Foursquare gospel could be spread around the world. On January 1, 1923, Angelus Temple was opened. On the cornerstone was the inscription: "Dedicated unto the cause of inter-denominational and worldwide evangelism." The focus was evangelism, the spirit was interdenominational, and the scope was worldwide.

The same year a training school was also opened, L.I.F.E. Bible College (Lighthouse of International Foursquare Evangelism). By 1925 over 30 churches had been planted, and by 1927 the number had increased to over 100 in 25 states. Three years later there were over 200. Clearly a movement was in the making. A constitutional convention was called in 1927. The name "International Church of the Foursquare Gospel" was chosen and articles of incorporation were drawn up and adopted. That year the first official missionary was sent out. Within two years over 20 missionaries had been sent out serving in 10 countries.

The growth of the Foursquare movement has come in waves. The 1920s, the 1950s, the 1980s were all rapid periods of growth; additionally, the mid-1990s initiated a period of growth and expansion that has continued into the 21st century. Over the past nine decades the Foursquare movement has gone around the world. Today more than 8 million Foursquare believers gather in over 70,000 fellowships in nearly 150 countries. With over 90 percent of these believers and fellowships outside North America, the Foursquare movement has truly become the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Doubling in size every ten years, Foursquare churches are winning more than 6,000 people to Christ and planting over ten new churches every 24 hours.

The Foursquare movement follows a Book of Acts four-stage, full-circle strategy that multiplies disciples, leaders, churches and missionary-sending movements. Preaching the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, discipling believers in the ways of the Lord, and establishing a local church is the first stage. The second stage consists of nurturing and strengthening the local church, and raising up and training leaders. Stage three develops healthy, indigenous, self-sustaining churches that plant churches, expanding into a national movement. In stage four, the national church begins to send out and support missionaries to other cultures and countries, thus initiating another cycle of missions. Such four-stage, full-circle development of a national church is "infinitely reproducible" making possible the continuous spread of the gospel to those who have yet to hear the good news of Christ. This is what God has so signally blessed since the inception of the Foursquare movement. He has blessed the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, the discipling of new believers in the ways of the Lord, the establishing of strong local congregations, the training of servant leaders, the planting of churches, and the sending of missionaries. How has God blessed such efforts? He has confirmed the proclamation of the gospel with signs following and sinners repenting. He has blessed the making of disciples with believers growing and fruit remaining. He has honoured the planting of local congregations with a multiplication of leaders and churches that have blossomed into national church movements that send workers into the harvest field. And why has God blessed such preaching, discipling, planting, training and sending? Because it fulfills His Son's commission to preach the gospel to every creature and make disciples of all nations. Furthermore, it honours and pleases God our Savior, "who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth [that] there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all men" (1 Timothy 2:4-6).

JOURNAL/DISCUSS

What scriptures would best define your reason for believing in Christ and for taking the Gospel to another culture?

Pair up Genesis 12:3 with Revelation 7:9 What do these verses say to you?

Read Romans 10:13-15, Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:16 and Hebrews 10:5-7. What do these scriptures tell you about God's heart for the nations?

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POVERTY: WHAT CAN I DO?

EMILY PLATER

I visited Haiti for the first time two years after the nation had suffered a devastating earthquake which left its already fragile infrastructure devastated. I had heard stories about the overwhelming poverty of Haiti, but I had previously lived and traveled in some of the poorest nations of the world, so I did not expect to be shocked. It turned out, I was unprepared for what I saw there. The poverty in Haiti is extreme; it is extensive, and I couldn't help but feel a sense of hopelessness taking it all in.

On your upcoming trip you might find yourself in a similar situation—shocked by the poverty and the conditions you see people living in and feeling a deep desire to help. The question is, how should we respond? Is it simply a matter of giving more of our resources? As I traveled through the area we were visiting, it appeared to me that there had already been many resources sent from the United States. From earth-moving equipment to used Vacation Bible School T-shirts, the evidence of supplies sent to alleviate Haiti's poverty were everywhere, yet there was no sign of poverty relief. Though there had been many donations, the impact those were having on the crisis of poverty was yet to be seen. I left Haiti haunted by the question, why had such obvious generosity failed to make a difference?

What is poverty? Take a minute and consider how you answer this question. A common answer among upper and middle-class North Americans is that poverty is a lack of resource. This definition asserts that people are poor because there are things that they do not have—money, homes, access to clean water, transportation, etc. Interestingly, the materially poor talk about poverty quite differently. Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert explain, "While poor people mention having a lack of material things, they tend to describe their condition in far more psychological and social terms than our North American audiences. Poor people typically talk in terms of shame, inferiority, powerlessness, depression, social isolation, and voicelessness." We tend to view other cultures through our own culture's lens and some- times neglect to take the time to understand the experience from their perspective. Listening to the voices of the material poor help us to see that poverty is more complex than we might initially realize

Their words and experience point to the relational implications of poverty and invite us to respond not just with the giving of money and things, but also by giving ourselves through the investment of long-term relationships and partnerships. Material things are often needed and helpful, but the reality is that they are unable to address such things as shame, powerlessness, and social isolation.

When faced with such enormous needs, we might be left wondering if our short-term trips make much of a difference at all. I want to encourage you to remember that your trip is one piece of the relationship capital we are investing in long-term partnerships around the globe, and every piece is important. When you reach-out with genuine compassion and make real connections on your short-term trip, you will be able to address the feelings of shame, powerlessness, and social isolation described by Corbett and Fikkert. When you go and model humble submission to local leadership, show honour to the culture by loving its people well, and join God in the work He's already doing there, you help us remain engaged for the long haul. Thank you for responding faithfully to the call to go!

Finally, as you prepare to be on mission remember:

- *The materially poor are made in God's image and have incredible things to teach and offer.*
- *The Bible expresses particular concern for the materially poor; they are especially dear to God's heart.*
- *Material resources are important but not the only thing needed.*

Friendships with the materially poor are a gift that has the power to transform lives.

Jesus himself is our example of the power of relationship. Instead of staying distant or sending resources to help with our human pain and concern, the Scriptures tell us, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood." (John 1:14 MSG). We are invited to follow this example.

PREPARING FOR ANOTHER CULTURE

Whether you are traveling abroad or in your own nation, there are several things you need to consider in order to lessen the amount of culture shock you will experience. While many call it culture shock, it should more properly be called “people shock.”

People are what make up a culture and what you are shocked by is how they live and how differently they do things from the ways you are accustomed. One of the temptations you will immediately face is to compare the new culture with your own, and draw conclusions.

Food is a good example of this. We watch a woman preparing an evening meal for her family consisting of chopped, fried pig liver, rice and compote. Instead of saying to ourselves, “That looks interesting, I wonder what it tastes like?” We all too often compare and say some- thing like: “How gross! These people aren’t civilized. I’ll never eat any of that while I’m here. I wish I were home where I could buy a pizza.”

This process of comparison, criticizing and withdrawal is not totally unexpected, but how you handle it determines whether or not you can meet the challenge of living in another culture. There are a number of things you can do to lessen the effects of culture shock/people shock and ensure that you make the most of your cross-cultural experience.

1. Advanced planning and research. Find out all you can about the people and culture you will be visiting. Learn about the types of things you can expect to encounter (this is the best way to handle these things), and what you may want to investigate further when you get there.
2. Talk to people who have been on a short-term outreach to the same nation, city or people. Ask them about their experience. Was it rewarding? If not, why?

How did they handle the different culture? Listen to their comments and learn from their mistakes. Be aware of the attitudes that helped them to understand different cultures.

3. View people as individuals. There is a great tendency to see people from another culture as a mass of sameness, but they are not. They are all individuals whom God created. They are unique and different. Concentrate on developing a relationship with one or two people while you are on your outreach. Get to know them. Ask them questions about their culture and their life. Be a learner. Don't try to tell them the way things should be done according to your culture. Listen and learn. Such an attitude will build bridges to the culture you are in and ensure you have an enriching and enjoyable outreach.

4. Pray for the country, city and people where you will be ministering. Ask God to give you His heart for the people. Ask Him to help you to be a learner. Make up your mind that you will love the people with God's love and let nothing deter you from that goal. Prayer for people will keep your heart safe. If something offends you, ask God to soften your heart so you can see the situation as He does.

GO WITH OPEN EYES

To see what God is doing on the mission field you must go with "open eyes." You may not always see the significance of things that may be occurring. Talk to missionaries, pastors and believers about what is happening in the nation or city spiritually. Knowing what God is doing in a nation or city will better equip you to pray for missions, missionaries, pastors and local believers.

DISCUSSION & PRAYER:

How can you be praying for the people you will be serving?

Ask the Holy Spirit for insight and knowledge as to how to be praying.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

On most outreaches, teams usually spend some time traveling. With this in mind, it is important that the traveling aspect of each outreach is done in a manner that flows smoothly. Below are some ways we can achieve this goal.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Any emergency situation needs to be reported to your team leader immediately. Do not try to handle emergency situations on your own.

WHAT TO PACK

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANYTHING THAT WOULD TERRIBLY UP-SET YOU IF IT WAS LOST, RUINED OR STOLEN.

Every team member should try to bring a small backpack (as your carry-on). Do not bring a “camping type” backpack. A backpack will allow you to carry important items with you each day (snacks, bottled water, tracts, Bibles, etc).

- ☐ Bible, notebook, and pen
- ☐ Casual dress or skirt outfit (for girls) - this will be main attire in some countries.
- ☐ Swimsuit (GIRLS: only one-piece suits GUYS: swim shorts only)
- ☐ Tennis shoes and sturdy shoes (for extensive walking and hiking)
- ☐ Completely waterproof raincoat and umbrella – depending on season/climate
- ☐ Some article of clothing to keep you warm at night (pack according to country climate)
- ☐ Casual clothing (jeans, pants, sweats, T-shirts, sweaters, and sweatshirts)
- ☐ Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Water bottle or canteen
- ☐ Sleeping bag if needed
- ☐ Towels and washcloth
- ☐ Flashlight and batteries
- ☐ Ministry tools and resources related to what you will be doing

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Kaopectate, Pepto Bismol or Immodium AD (for diarrhea)
- ☐ Malaria pills (if needed for the country you are visiting)
- ☐ Personal medication (i.e. allergy, aspirin)
- ☐ Camera (maybe one appointed camera person)
- ☐ Spending money (refer to team leader on how to do this)
- ☐ Dictionary (language of the country/English) or an app that does this.
- ☐ Instrument (i.e. guitar; harmonica)
- ☐ Work gloves/garden gloves

WHAT NOT TO PACK

IT IS IMPORTANT that you dress modestly to remain culturally sensitive and be a good witness as guests in a foreign country. Wearing inappropriate clothing can be detrimental to ministry on the mission field.

TEAM BAG/MINISTRY

Planning together for ministry ahead of time may require an extra meeting or two. Following is a list of some items that may need to be brought down, depending on what you are doing:

- Craft supplies
- Activity supplies that can't be easily sourced
- Tools
- Special items that the missionary may need or want.
- Special items for the church you are serving.
- Computers/instruments
- Outreach materials
- First Aid Kit

IMPORTANT TEAM POLICIES

On your outreach there will be several policies that we require all team members to follow. It is important for every member to understand that they are part of a team, not an individual participating in a trip. All team members should look out for one another and pay close attention.

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

Your team may be traveling through airports. Teams cannot afford for any person to be unsure or unclear about instructions, so listening to instructions is imperative. International airports are large places filled with thousands of people with hundreds of flights departing and arriving every day. Teams will have to pass through customs, passport control, transfer terminals, and in many cases be taken to planes by buses or trains. At all times everyone on the team should be aware of what carrier you are flying on, the flight number, and where you are flying to. Please be aware of all connecting cities that you will be traveling through. If you get lost in an airport, immediately call your team leader from your cell or courtesy phone. If you can't find this phone, go to any airline or airport personnel and ask them to help you page your team leader. Once you've arrived at your destination, on many occasions during the trip you may be traveling in buses, vans, subways, and cars. Pay close attention to all instructions and remain close to the team at all times.

SAFETY & SECURITY OVERVIEW

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Insurance risk – do you have medical and travel insurance? You will need to purchase this at your own expense for the duration of your trip. If you have private coverage or CC coverage, please check on limitations.
- Technology risk – how much technology are you carrying with you? Using the Internet in other countries may compromise your information. Many places have limited access to WIFI so your family should be informed that you may not be able to have daily contact.
- General safety – what is crime like there – what are the most common types of crime?
- Opposition to the gospel risk – is there persecution where you are going? Of different religions, denominations, etc.?
- Health risk – have you received all of the necessary immunizations? CDC.gov/travel has information on immunizations required for other countries. Do you need medication (ex. Malaria)?
- Citizenship risk – am I aware of how Canadian citizens are perceived? Is there a favourable or unfavourable perception? Each team member should, individually register with the Government of Canada, Registration of Canadians Abroad website (<https://trael.gc.ca/travelling/registration>) prior to leaving on a Missions Trip. This is a free service offered by the government of Canada. In the event that all citizens need to be pulled out for example, they will know you are there.
- Protect our missionaries and national leaders – be cautious and careful how you portray your experience on social media. Always protect and honour those who are there. This means for example, no posts about poverty, crime, poor conditions, etc. What if the nation you're in becomes closed in a year or two? Are you potentially putting at risk anyone's identity? Does your post glorify God? The Internet does not forget – protect the locals at all times. If you "friend" any locals through social media from the field, will they see a godly example to follow in your profile history?

PRACTICAL ADVICE

- Don't treat the field like it's your backyard – being there for a week or two does not make you an expert. A true learner knows that understanding a culture takes years; always be a learner.
- Listen to and obey your hosts. Bring honour to local leaders and trust that they know best about their place, so always ask what is right, safe, and appropriate. If they tell you to do something, do it; you may not always get to ask why.
- Don't take unnecessary risks – listen to the recommendations of locals. Do not go off alone or leave valuables out in the open.
- Don't get too comfortable – we can let our guard down. For example, do not flash items or money – always be aware of what is visible and of your surroundings.
- Try to be aware of how you are perceived – in some places regardless of what you think, you might be perceived as rich, for example. If you own a car, you are in the top 8% of the world. You might not think you're rich, but by comparison to world standards you are, so be aware of cultural perceptions. Other examples of perceptions may include the perception that you are threatening, a target, rich, or flirtatious.
- When packing, consider this: if you can't live without it, don't bring it.
- Develop with your leader a plan for emergencies.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

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Wow, Jill, you've gotten fat, I barely recognized you!" the National Leader said, smiling proudly. Jill, who had been excited to see a leader she'd known and loved from a previous mission trip now shrunk back at the shock of being called "fat." She was visibly hurt by the exchange. What Jill didn't realize, was that in this leader's cultural context, the thicker a woman is, the stronger and more beautiful she is considered to be. His statement was intended to mean something like "Wow, Jill, what an amazing woman you've become!" but it was received instead as a hurtful insult viewed through the lens of Jill's own culture. Developing cultural understanding is key to navigating situations where even the best of intentions can do more harm than good.

We tend to measure ourselves in many different ways - by our looks, smarts, abilities, etc. How can we measure our ability to adapt to other cultures?

Nobody can do this perfectly, and nobody possesses the capacity to see every one of our own blind spots. Being a culturally adaptive person is a constant learning process, which means we will make mistakes at times and have plenty of "learning moments." The best thing we can do is to approach everything with authentic humility, understanding that our way and our culture is simply one of many as part of the tapestry of God's glorious creativity and diversity.

In the learning process, here are a few key tools that will help you and others along the way:

1. Possess a true desire to learn about and from other cultures. This is an important starting point; a desire to both learn and understand is an essential motivation of the heart. God loves "them" just as much as He loves us. Our experience of God's love motivates us toward an appreciation of other cultures, which leads us to seek to understand and be understood so that others can see, hear, and know the love of God coming in and through us.

2. Demonstrate a real honour and respect for other cultures.

Don't be quick to judge or come to conclusions or solutions when visiting an environment that is not your own. If certain genders dress a certain way for example, respect that. If certain guy/ girl interaction is taboo, then show honour by respecting social norms.

Respecting culture = loving people = being like Jesus.

3. Commit to thoroughly educating yourself beforehand on local culture, language, customs, peoples, etc., and be willing to adapt what you've learned to what you personally witness and experience. Go with a teachable spirit.

Hands-on learning always means mistakes will be made along the way. Allow the process to humble you and possibly change the way you see God and the world.

4. Equip yourself with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 ESV

The character of Christ growing in us translates well into every culture. It's not shocking to see that joyful, kind people are usually able to find favour quickly in new contexts. Take note, be filled with the Holy Spirit and His nature, and serve with cultural intelligence.

SERVANT ATTITUDE

Everyone has a different reason for going on a mission trip.

Some like the adventure, some the opportunity to meet new people, others want to see new places. No matter what your reason is, the most important thing to have on your trip is the right attitude, which is the attitude of a SERVANT. A true servant is a person that does whatever is asked, without questioning and without reservation! It is posturing your heart in such a way that it is ready to say “yes,” even before the question is asked.

Vibeke Nøsen was a part of a mission’s training school in South Africa. While she was there, she was asked to serve by cleaning the wounds on the feet of 60 women. Below is an insert from an e-mail I received from her:

“Ok, so that [cleaning wounds] wasn’t really the highlight of the trip, but we sure did some ministry into these people’s lives, and when you’re weak that’s the time when you need God the most...less of me, more of him! Personally, that’s when I had a breakthrough. I even preached in front of about 200 people. South Africa is really cool!” Vibeke said “yes,” and because of her willingness to serve without questioning she touched the lives of many, and God used her in ways she never thought possible. You will be challenged and pushed beyond your comfort zone. You may be asked to do a task that stretch- es you in your abilities and mindset. You may be asked to scrub feet, preach in front of hundreds, or pray in an AIDS clinic. Will you be able to answer “yes”?

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. (Philippians 2:6-7)

Do you know someone who is a great example of a servant? What traits do you see in them that you would like to emulate?

How can you best serve the people you will be visiting?

How can you best serve your other team members?

Pray and ask God to give you a servant heart. Ask Him to prepare and equip you for every challenge and ministry opportunity ahead. Thank the Lord for the person in question #1, and ask the Lord to develop those same traits in you. Purpose in your heart to be the best servant to your team leaders and team members.



SPIRIT EMPOWERED MINISTRY JERRY STOTT

After serving now for more than 16 years on both short-term and long-term missions, I have learned that staying filled up in the Holy Spirit is always the key to every successful ministry opportunity. Julie and I had the privilege of living in the great city of Jakarta, Indonesia for over three years. During those years we had the incredible joy of serving our Gereja Pantekosta di Indonesia Foursquare churches, that numbered over 18,000 at that time and have continued to increase daily, to this day. I absolutely loved those years as I love beyond measure my Indonesian brothers and sisters. Their heart and passion to preach the gospel has been a constant source of inspiration to me. My Indonesian friends so love the Lord that it seems they are having services of one kind or another almost every day of the week. With our great relationship and mutual love for one another it seemed I had the opportunity to minister together with them somewhere on an almost daily basis. One month I actually ministered the delivery of around fifty 60 to 90 minute messages. Well, after that kind of schedule, I remember coming away feeling like I was a "preaching machine" that is just turned on and off to blast out another message. It is still so vivid in my memory. One particular overcast afternoon, I was back home in our apartment in the Jakarta CBD. We lived up on the 33rd floor overlooking all the beautiful sky rise buildings of the city.

For some reason I was feeling really, really down, although everything in the natural was going great as far as the ministry. Maybe it was just because Julie was away ministering, and I had been giving so much of myself, that it caused a wave of depression to come over me. I cried out, "Lord, is this it? Where is the touch of your Spirit? I see you touching those I speak to and pray for, but I feel absolutely empty."

Immediately I heard the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit tell me: "It is because you haven't spent time with me." I had to acknowledge that this was the absolute, sober truth. It seemed my busyness doing the work of God was giving me the excuse to avoid my personal relationship with Him. With that wake-up call I immediately went to my knees and then to a time of worship and praying in the Spirit. With that intensity it seemed that 15 minutes had hardly passed and I was instantly filled with new joy, peace, and boldness to continue on in the work of the ministry.

Staying full takes some effort on our part. We often need to push through the physical weariness and emotional drain brought on by the spiritual battle around us. The spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer, fasting, worship, faithfulness, and fellowship renew and strengthen our spiritual beings. Paul encourages us to "walk in the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

In the Bible, the Word and the Spirit of God are often alluded to by references to water. For instance, Paul tells us that we are "sanctified and washed by the water of the Word." In John chapter 7, Jesus speaks of believing in Him, drinking the water He gives, and having "rivers of living water flow from our innermost being." John goes on to interpret the statement, "But this He spoke of the Spirit."

The Word and the Spirit go together in the miraculous realm. Simply think back to the story of creation. The Spirit brooded over the waters and the spoken Word created everything. So we find that the "water" He fills us with is the Word and the Holy Spirit. I like that! The fact that He fills us to the brim - to the point where if there was any more it would overflow - is significant. I think that's how we need to be when it comes to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives. I've noticed that the people who are filled with the Word, and are filled constantly to the point of overflowing with the Holy Spirit, are the same kind of people that seem to have a lot more breakthroughs on the field.

The principle to remember is that staying in the Word of God and maintaining a spiritual life will keep us from reverting to religious words and activities. This will provide an atmosphere that is conducive for God to open up opportunities for the lost to receive Christ and to work miracles in and through our lives. Remember that it is always the power given to us by the Holy Spirit. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6

Before Jesus sent out His followers, He wanted them to be empowered with His Spirit before they could go forward to do the work. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8

The word for power here is the Greek word dunamis. It is the word from which we get dynamite -- an explosive, forceful power. It is a small thing that causes great destruction. By staying full of the Spirit and praying in the Spirit you will see great results on any missions trip you experience.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

As you read the Book of Acts, what do you see happening through the lives of these “Spirit Empowered” believers?

We have the same opportunity to be ignited and filled with the Holy Spirit. If you have experienced this, please share below, your experience. If not, why not pray now for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Write your prayer/thoughts below if that is what you did.

What do you see in the following scripture as your next steps in order to see the power of God more evident in your life?

Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Acts 4:29-35

Holy Spirit Gifts to the Church. These are your 'tool belt' gifts. Every Christian has access to these gifts. Read 1 Cor. 12:9-10 These are tools you and your team will need, especially on the Missions Field. List the gifts below. If you have any testimony of how you have used these gifts, make a short note of your experience and share with the team if there is opportunity.

DIFFICULTIES AND ADJUSTMENTS

Whenever you experience new situations, circumstances and environments, there will be various adjustments that you will need to make. You will face new events, occurrences and difficult situations. Prepare your mind and heart to deal with these situations so that you can be more effective for the kingdom of God. Below is a list of thoughts and ideas that will make your cross-cultural experience a powerful time in your life.

- Expect the unexpected.
- Remember, schedules will probably change.
- Opportunities may be different than what you expected. Do not be disappointed. Know that God's will is being done.
- Whenever you travel, especially abroad, you will not have the conveniences that you find at home. Be prepared to handle this.
- Everything will not be a glorious and wonderful situation. Do not go with unreal expectations.
- Be on guard against grumbling, complaining, criticizing, and self-pity. The enemy will use these to destroy team unity as well as you.
- Give thanks in every situation.
- Begin treatment of dysentery immediately.
- Do not drink the tap water. Your leader will do their best to always have bottled water available.
- Eat only food recommended or prepared by your hosts or leaders.
- Eat sensibly to stay healthy.
- Get proper rest each evening.
- Inform your leader immediately if you are feeling sick.
- Have comfortable walking shoes.
- Bring clothes that are comfortable and easy to wash. Practicality over fashion.
- Bring vitamins and take them daily. Also, perhaps Vit C for boosting the immune system.
- Pack an emergency kit that contains toilet paper, Band-aids, suntan lotion, chap-stick, flashlight and mosquito repellent.



AVOID HINDERING THE LORD

JERRY STOTT

As a host family to short-term mission's visitors, there are two people in particular my wife and I distinctly remember. One was a brother, the other a sister. On these two different occasions, my wife and I wanted to host and lodge them as a way of thanking them for coming to our country to minister, as well as minimize their travel costs; we know that missionary funds are often limited! The two experiences were drastically different—in fact, diametrically opposed—one as refreshing and edifying. The other, frustrating and disappointing.

Rose (not her real name) had been invited to preach and minister to a group of women from various local churches experiencing true hunger for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It was one of those seasons in the life of the church when God visited mightily those who were seeking Him earnestly. We were so excited! This sister was coming to us with good recommendations from fellow pastors who gave her high praises for her spiritual sensitivity and anointing. When we brought her home, my wife and I tried our best to make her feel as comfortable as possible.

However, from the time she entered our home we sensed that hosting her was not going to be easy. As we offered her some local beverage, the first thing she told us was that she didn't like it, and as we ushered her into her room, we could see the displeasure on her face. Perhaps it was too small or lacked the conveniences of a hotel room. Since lunch time was nearing, we invited her to the table. My wife had prepared a delicious local dish to introduce her to the kind of food she'd be having during the rest of her stay in country. We were caught totally off-guard when after giving the meal a few tiny bites, she pushed the food aside and indicated that she simply didn't like it! In fact, she asked us to take her to a nearby fast-food restaurant so she could have a burger. We did and later found out from the ladies in charge of the event that Rose visited several of these restaurants during the duration of her visit, much to the chagrin of the church cooks!

At the time I wondered how much Rose's attitude impacted the flow of the Holy Spirit and her ministry efficacy among the sisters. To my surprise, the Lord did move in a mighty way and many were blessed. Having said that, I do remember that the enthusiasm for this type of event began to decline and not much time later, events like it were no longer held. We can't of course hold Rose responsible for that, but we couldn't help but wonder if there was a connection.

The other experience we had was with James (not his real name). He came to our local church to do some conferences and ministry. In contrast to Rose, as soon as he came through the door of our home, he made us feel like part of his family! Not only would he eat every- thing my wife served him but always had a compliment for her about her delicious food. He asked her for the recipes and told us he'd try to convince his wife back home to try them. He said his room (the same room Rose had) was excellent, and every night upon returning from the local church event, he spent time chatting with us and our small children. We invited him to help himself to whatever he found in the kitchen in the mornings, and he did. In fact, he woke up early and pre- pared coffee for both of us, always expressing how much he liked our local brand of coffee. He even took a couple of bags home with him.

His ministry time at the church was great and much anointed. To be honest, I can't really remember what he spoke about. What I do remember, as well as my wife and many other brothers and sisters who met him at the time, was his simplicity and humility. We all felt as though Jesus Himself had come to visit us.

There didn't appear to be a major difference between Rose and James' ministry skills, but what was remarkably different was their attitude in engaging a different culture. I believe it's possible that attitude may have hindered ministry in the first case and powered-up ministry in the second. A good attitude can be a little key that unlocks big doors in ministry. Jesus considered this when he sent out His disciples to minister:

And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. (Luke 10:7-8, NKJV)

Jesus told the disciples to receive whatever their hosts offered. Being a respectful guest and receiving what's offered helps to open doors for communities to hear and receive the gospel.

It's possible we may have real problems with certain foods. How could we address these concerns with hosts in a different culture, so as not to offend or appear ungrateful?

What are you prepared to endure while living in another culture? How will you lay down your own expectations and attitudes about how things should be verses how it actually is?

DISCUSSION: The enemy loves to sow the seed of offence. What can we do to avoid watering that seed and prevent it from taking root?

TELL YOUR STORY

Everyone has a story. Your personal life story is often the most effective tool in reaching others for Christ. Your story will need to be brief and will need to include the following:

Before – a short sketch of what your life was like before you met Christ and made him your Saviour.

How – Specifically how you took the step of becoming a Christian.

After – A description of the changes in your life.

Include a scripture (if the country you are in will allow this)

Always avoid using religious words, phrases and jargon as best you can.

Instead of the word 'Believe' you can say 'Invited Christ into my life'. Instead of 'sin' you can say 'disobedience, turned my back on God'. Instead of 'saved' you can say 'I started a personal relationship with God'.

Your story should be no more than 5 minutes long. (as often you will need a translator and you must always keep this in mind).

Generalize – avoid using specific church names or denominations. Avoid using dates.

Make a rough draft of your story here and share it with your leader to get feedback as to any adjustments you can make. Be prepared during your trip to have your testimony handy at all times.

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PRAYING FOR YOUR TRIP

TEAM - HEALTH - PROVISION - SAFETY - PEOPLE - CITY - NATION - LEADERSHIP are some examples. The Holy Spirit can and will prompt you specifically if you take the time to listen and ask for His direction.

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DAILY JOURNAL

SCRIPTURE • THOUGHTS • MEMORIES

DAY 1

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 2

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Luke 10:2

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 3

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 4

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 5

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

"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

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 6

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.

Jeremiah 15:16

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 7

Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.
Romans 12:10

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.
Philippians 2:14-15

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

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Things I want to remember...

[illegible]

DAY 8

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

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Things I want to remember...

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DAY 9

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7-8

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

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Things I want to remember...

[illegible]

DAY 10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Romans 1:16

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 11

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:27-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 12

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:15-16

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

DAY 13

"He must become greater; I must become less."

Hebrews 13:15-16

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

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Things I want to remember...

[illegible]

DAY 14

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...

Philippians 2:3

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

My observations...

I heard God when...

My words to God...

Things I want to remember...

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TERM MISSION

7// RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF LONG TERM
MISSIONS



NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME KRISTOPHER DAHIR

Keep in mind, everyone may not be as excited about your trip as you are. People may want to hear about your time away, but try to share your stories with them in small pieces. It's easy to feel discouraged after returning home because it can seem that people are un-interested in the life-changing things you have experienced. Share some stories about your trip, then give them an opportunity to share with you about their last couple of weeks as well. They have had a life too while you were away.

When I returned from my first short-term mission's trip to Costa Rica, I think the best way for me to describe what I did when I got home is to use a metaphor we all understand. I "threw up" on the people I love with my words! When I had the opportunity to see people, it didn't matter if they were or were not interested in hearing about my time away. They got every detail, and many of my patient friends had to hear my stories more than once. After a few weeks, I noticed people starting to avoid me. Please, share about the great things Jesus has done... just take it slowly, and remember, that the experiences you had were yours. They don't mean the same thing nor hold the same value for others.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and hear, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. John 1:1-4

When you share about your trip, make sure you share about how great the Lord is, not how great you are! It's easy in the excitement of our return to come home and toot our own horn. It's much better to simply glorify God in what He has done. Let others see the changes in your life, and if they want to compliment you on the changes they see, they will.

The very first mission's trip I went on was for the wrong reasons. My motivation wasn't to serve the Lord, it was to show off and demonstrate to everyone what a great youth leader I was. I also wanted to be the first person from my youth group to go overseas. Oh my! What a fool I was to think everyone would be in awe of the new leadership mantle I had proudly claimed. I was shocked to find out that they did not see that at all. Instead they saw a prideful young man that needed to be humbled and who still had some growing up to do.

"Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.'" John 8:54

Watch your attitude. After returning home, we can wrongly assume that because of our experiences, we are now more knowledgeable than the other leaders around us. Friend, your mission's trip did not make you suddenly all-knowing and solely filled with the power of God. Your demonstrated humility and submission to those in authority over you will be a testimony of how God is continuing to grow you spiritually. You may come home and see your church with different eyes and suddenly see "problems" that need fixing. Be careful of the temptation to come home with your newfound knowledge, thinking you have all the answers. Remain in submission to your pastor, earn his/her trust, and then help make the changes that are needed – under their guidance!

Many people who return from mission's trips complain to me saying, "My church doesn't work like this. They do nothing for Jesus like what we have done." There is a thing that I call "American Christianity." The complaint is correct that many people and churches do not serve the Lord like we do while on mission trips. The work that takes place on mission's trips moves at a much faster pace because time is so limited. Though we are busy in Western culture, many people are running their own lives and fitting Jesus in when/if it's convenient. On mission trips we are running after Jesus and fitting life in. Instead of getting upset at the people around you at home, show them a different example. Show them what living for Jesus can look like.

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm— neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 3:14-22

Prayer! Remember on the mission field how you prayed for any problem that arose? When the bus broke – you prayed! When you lost the make-up bag – you prayed! When someone was sick – you prayed! When someone was hurt or needed a touch from Jesus – you prayed! Keep that same mentality even after you return home. We need to be people of prayer. And because in many ways we are less “needy” here, it’s that much easier to push God to the fringes of our lives. This is a calling to pray more, not less.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Get filled up. Did you notice that while on the mission field it was easy to have time for the Lord? It was easy to feel a longing for time with Him. Every day as you poured out your life for the sake of the gospel, it was vital to get filled up again and again by the Spirit. But after coming home, that longing sometimes seems to slip away. I would venture to say that the reason it slips so easily is that you are not pouring out your life to the degree you were on your mission’s trip. Keep the circle of life going! Jesus fills you up as you pour your life out in service to others.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Let this serve as a reminder to all of us to look for ways we can serve the world around us right where we are. We can obey the command to make disciples in whatever place He has us. As we do this, keep these things in mind:

1. Plan to be uncomfortable. Just as you faced new challenges on your mission's trip, being on mission anywhere has its challenges.
2. Slow down and be. Do not make serving Jesus just an event, but a daily lifestyle.
3. We do not only love the people who are grateful - it will be easy to give up on those who seem ungrateful, but remember we serve to honour the Lord, not for a group of people or a person to thank us.

It might seem natural to believe that the next "big" experience in your faith will only take place on the next mission's trip you partake in. This would be a grave mistake and will only bring discouragement to your life and confusion to those who are honoured to be in your life.

What is next?

Simply another day of hearing from the Lord and doing what He would ask (Colossians 3:23).



SHORT TERM MISSIONS AS PART OF LONG TERM MISSION

ZACH BALON

At the very heart of missions is the gospel going to every nation, city, town, and village throughout the world. The Word has been spreading for 2000 years, and yet there are still places who have never heard the name of Jesus. God the Father is passionate about seeing the entire globe covered with the knowledge of His glory. We can picture God the Father as a master strategist, sending His people to all nations in a myriad of creative ways. As people willing to go, we will be more effective if we have a good understanding of the relationship and distinction between long-term and short-term worker roles.

Looking at the example of the pilgrims who left Europe 400 years ago to start a new life in America, we see that there had to be a group of people willing to go first. As they settled in, they had to learn about the land, understand how to communicate with people unlike them, and be true pioneers. For the pilgrims to initially survive and establish themselves it was essential that help came regularly from European ships. They needed tools, animals, food, clothing, and many other items. They went on to build homes, churches, and new cities. Those who brought supplies did not do the building; their main role was to simply support those who were living long-term in the new land.

This can be likened to those who go on short-term trips. Their primary goal is to support the ongoing works that have already been established by long-term workers in partnership with the locals in that area or region. Short-term workers are indeed vital in that they bring encouragement to long-termers who are breaking new ground in a foreign place. They bring prayers, much missed food, other supplies from home, and relational and financial support. Many long-term workers struggle with loneliness, and even the opportunity to speak in English and enjoy the company of Americans from a short-term team can bring needed refreshment and healing to the soul.

It is crucial for the short-termer to understand that it is the work of God through the ministries of long-term workers and locals that will have the greatest impact over time. These workers know the culture, language, and have a broader understanding of what it will take to be fruitful in their country of service.

Short-term teams are to come underneath the spiritual authority of the worker who has already been sent thereby the Lord. When a short-term team "goes rogue," they can cause great damage to the ongoing work. Those who come from nations where independence is prized above all else can fail to see the need to be dependent on those who have been serving long term. Imagine if a young man had come on a European supply ship to visit the Pilgrims in Jamestown and tried to plant bananas in Virginia soil without consulting them. The Pilgrims could have told him that bananas don't grow in that kind of soil, but by acting independently, this man would have wasted time, money, and resources.

Short-term teams will miss out on fruitful ministry if they neglect to seek and depend on the experience and knowledge of those whom God has already sent to the places they are visiting. If both long-term and short-term workers understand the nature of their roles and walk in them accordingly, God's master plan for the nations will be accomplished with greater efficiency and effectiveness. May God bless all who are called to join in the work.



RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF LONG TERM MISSIONS

JUAN VALLEJO

I will never forget the day when my professor approached me and said that I should consider going on a short-term mission's trip before finishing my studies at Life Pacific College. A few years earlier I had been privileged to be a part of a weekend mission's outreach to Tijuana, Mexico. That trip impacted me in a very positive way towards fulfilling God's call on my life, so the thought of doing another trip was quite appealing to me. However, the trips being offered that summer involved a time commitment of two to three weeks, not just a weekend, and the destinations were much farther than I had ever experienced, not just across the border. Also, the amount of money I would need to raise to join one of those teams was much greater than before. As I evaluated the possibility of going along with the requirements involved in doing so, I kept hearing my professor's voice in my head who had encouraged me to go on a mission's trip before graduating. Was this God's will? Was God using my professor to communicate what I should do?

Fast forward. I am now lying on the floor trying to sleep in the jungles of Bolivia, after having traveled for hours in the back of a stake bed truck with our team to get to our destination. The truck dropped us off in the middle of the Ebiato jungle and would return a week or so later to pick us up. We had spent the first full day getting to know the indigenous people there; what a contrast to my first mission's experience in Tijuana! With bats flying overhead and the sudden realization that I could not call 911 in case of an emergency, God was impressing upon my heart that I was going to serve Him in missions. He used the circumstances of that trip to show me what He wanted to do in and through my life.

At the airport getting ready to board the plane home, I was reflecting on all I had seen and experienced in the weeks we had spent traveling throughout Bolivia. One of the highlights from the trip was when we were given the opportunity to preach the gospel message to a group of people we had found near the Amazonian Mamore River. They had never heard the gospel before, and we watched a miracle unfold as they all accepted Jesus as their Lord.

As we were boarding the plane, the leader of our group turned to me and said, "Who knows, maybe one day you will return to this city to plant the first Foursquare church in Santa Cruz." I couldn't help but wonder if the Lord was speaking prophetically through this leader about an assignment He had for me in the future.

Not long after I was married, I attended our fall Pastor's conference in the beautiful city of Palms Springs, CA. Unbeknownst to me, the Foursquare Missions International director was also at this conference. During one of the worship sessions, on October 8, 1991 to be exact, I heard this phrase in my head, "You will serve me on the mission field." I knew this was a call to long term missions, but was it for me? Before I could pass it off as a personal desire, our Supervisor interrupted the worship service to announce that he sensed the Lord was calling some of us there to long term missions, and he encouraged us to respond to the Lord's call. Worship continued. When the service ended, I approached the mission's director with my wife and told him what I felt the Lord was impressing on my heart during the service. He directed us to contact the FMI office and begin the application process. Was this our call to long term missions? I believe it was, and we said yes.

One of the most important aspects of long-term missionary service is making sure you have heard the call of God. He is the One who sends, therefore we must know how to listen and discern God's voice. Time after time, what has helped us to endure all the hardships as well as enjoy all the blessings of serving Him in the countries where we have been sent as a missionary family, was that we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord had called us to serve Him in those places. He is a great Father and an excellent communicator. Invest your time and energy in learning to hear and discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. The Lord uses many means to get His message to us. May we have ears to hear and the courage to obey.





THANK YOU

FOR BEING USED BY GOD IN HIS MISSION TO REACH ALL NATIONS WITH THE GOSPEL.

IF GOD IS CALLING YOU TO GO ON THE MISSION FIELD LONG TERM, CFM CAN HELP TRAIN AND CONNECT YOU TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND PLACE.

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