

Let's Go!

**A team member's guide to a
successful short-term
mission trip.**

*And how will anyone go and tell them without being
sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful
are the feet of messengers who bring good news! -
Romans 10:15 (NLT)*



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Welcome letter from the President of GO InterNational

Dear Team Member,

Congratulations and welcome! You are about to embark on an adventure that may change your life forever. That is a pretty big statement, but I have seen it happen many times before. We are thrilled you have signed on for a mission trip experience with GO InterNational. We are praying, planning and preparing to make this a trip that will have spiritual impact on not only the people you minister to, but in your life as well.

We have been taking mission trips for almost 50 years and are ready to take care of every detail so that you are able to focus on enjoying the people and ministries you will encounter. I can't promise that everything will go perfectly smooth, but I can promise if we all remain flexible and keep an attitude of prayerful obedience, God will see us through!

We have compiled this detailed workbook to be a resource for your mission experience. We don't expect you to sit down and read this book over night. We have tried to gather a variety of information that will aid you in your trip.

Here is how we've organized this book: Start with the table of contents. Familiarize yourself with the sections. The beginning sections will be helpful to you as you are raising money to fund your trip. Next sections will help you pack and prepare in the weeks before your departure. The remaining sections will be handy during your trip and after you return.

Our office staff and team leaders will be communicating with you and referencing this resource from time to time. As you receive letters or emails from the GO InterNational office, please take time to read the portions of this book that apply to your next steps in the journey.

Thank you again for joining us for this trip. God bless you as you prepare. It is our prayer that this trip will impact your life and give you a glimpse of how God is moving across the earth! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call!

May God bless you all along this journey!

Ron Houp
President & CEO

About GO InterNational

Mission, Vision, and Values

The **mission** of GO InterNational is to help mobilize followers of Jesus Christ to develop and pursue their passion for fulfilling the Great Commission.

The **vision** of GO International is to see devoted, faithful followers of Jesus Christ sharing God's love through serving their neighbors and the nations and leading others to Christ until the gospel is preached in all the world.

Who are we? We are an evangelical, donor-supported, Christian mission ministry that seeks to fulfill the Great Commission, (Matthew 28: 16-20), by partnering interested believers with meaningful opportunities to GO and serve those in spiritual and physical need around the world.

What do we do? We plan and lead short-term mission trips, and facilitate associated ministries, that demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by addressing the spiritual and educational needs of the underprivileged and underserved around the world. We do our ministry in partnership with indigenous leaders established in many countries around the world.

Why we do what we do? We do what we do in faithful obedience to the command of Jesus Christ to share the Gospel with all people. We believe that the best way to obey His command is to GO and meet people at their point of need, wherever they are - across the street or around the world.

***"Our God is a Missionary God."
- John Stott***

A Brief History of GO InterNational

GO InterNational was founded by Rev. Maurice Stevens and his wife, Beverly, as Missionary World Service and Evangelism (MWS&E) in 1968. Maurice had served as a United Methodist pastor and evangelist for a number of years. After a mission trip to Haiti in 1968 he felt a strong burden to “get people out of the pews and into the fields.” Those who had accompanied him on early trips to Haiti, Colombia, and Africa formed Maurice’s initial board of directors. As an evangelist, Maurice recruited and led mission teams to more than seventeen countries in the eighteen years he served as President. Maurice also led mission conferences and revival meetings across the United States for more than 20 years.

Following Maurice’s untimely death in 1986, Rev. Larry Cochran was elected President and served for 21 years. In August of 1994 MWS&E officially changed its name to GO InterNational. Under Larry Cochran’s leadership, GO InterNational forged partnerships with indigenous leaders in Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. While short-term mission teams remained a key focus of the ministry, GO also began to assist in the training of indigenous leaders, began ministering to children in crisis, and created economic development projects as part of a more holistic ministry.

In September 2006, Rev. Bert Jones was elected as the third President following the resignation of Larry Cochran. Bert has expanded the ministries of GO InterNational through the development of new partnerships and ministries, additional staff, internship programs, and the expansion of leadership training and International Holiness conferences.

Most recently, in December 2014, Ron Houpp was elected as the current President following Bert Jones’ acceptance of a full-time senior pastoral role at Woodburn Missionary Church in Indiana. GO InterNational remains focused on evangelism, short-term mission teams, and partnership with indigenous leaders and helping people who have a passion to fulfill the Great Commission. GO is working in more than a dozen countries through a variety of ministries that range from feeding children in extreme poverty, to digging wells, to planting churches in regions where there are none. Our core desire remains to make Christ known to the nations.

Before You GO

Overview of the Trip Process

What you can expect from GO is that we will do our very best to handle all your administration needs for this trip with excellence. We have a very detailed trip launch process in place that allows us to know how and when details of the trip need to be executed. Below are the highlights of your trip process.

1. You will apply online through our website, which uses a program called Managed Missions. This program will allow you to be placed on your team roster, facilitate ease of communication with the team leader, and check your financial balances.
2. After you apply, you will receive an email welcoming you to the team. You will also receive a copy of the Team Member book in the mail. The Team Leader will be in touch regarding any team meetings or pre-trip orientation.
3. You will begin to prepare for the trip using your pre-trip devotions.
4. One month out from departure you will receive our "Team Member Kit" which includes the following:
 - a. Note from your team leader
 - b. Flight itinerary
 - c. Team leader prayer card
 - d. Country information
 - e. Team T-shirt
 - f. Luggage tags

**The note from your Team Leader will contain any last minute instructions for day of travel and any further information about your trip.

5. You will fly with your team to your trip destination. Upon arrival will be orientation and any on-the-field preparations.
6. Upon returning home, you will take the Next Steps in debriefing and applying what God has done in your life using your post-trip devotions.

Team Member Expectations

Intercede

To be in prayer for the other team members, team leader, partners, and ministry time.

Invest

Invest by sharing your plans for this trip with others as you are support raising and building a team of people to be praying for you during this time. Share the ministry of GO InterNational with your friends, family, and local churches.

Invite

Invite others to be a part of your journey. Invite them to track with you and to be a part early on by giving and/or praying for your time. Once you are back, invite them to GO!

Be Punctual

All forms and information requested by GO should be submitted in a timely manner.

Be Responsible

We ask that you be responsible by making payments on time and completing your tasks in a timely manner.

Follow The Leader

It is important to follow the instructions of the team leader. You may not like or understand everything that your leader has to do on the trip, but it will either be for the best of the team or to better the witness there in that culture. The team leader is responsible for your safety as well as what is best for the whole team.

Things may not always work out the way that you want them to or even the way that they are planned. Flexibility is essential on this team.

When in doubt – ask your Team Leader!

Keep the team leader informed at all times of any special needs or important information regarding the trip.

The team leader has the right to add a rule or change a rule at any time.

It is the responsibility of the team leader to orchestrate all activities and events on the trip. The team leader's job is to stay ahead of the game plan so that when we get to tomorrow, everything is worked out. That means that there will be times when the team leader may have to go off-site and purchase items or prepare for certain up-coming events. They are not escaping work; they are merely performing their responsibility.

Should any type of crisis or emergency occur while on the field, you must follow all team leader instructions. This is for your sake as well as for your team members and our national partners. If the team leader requests that team members refrain from contacting home via phone, internet or social media, you must comply. It will be important that accurate, consistent information be given. Our team leader will be the one to make those communications. He/she will be sure you have opportunity to contact your family as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so given the situation.

Mission Team Values

- 1. Theologically Evangelical**
 - a. Our teams are Biblically based.
 - b. Our teams are Evangelistic in Nature.
 - c. Our teams are guided by the Holy Spirit.

- 2. Missiologically Sound**
 - a. It is our goal that our team leaders and mission teams are well prepared to do ministry in another context and culture in a way that is effective, correct, and Christ honoring.
 - b. It is our goal to be current on best practices in missions and evangelism.

- 3. Spiritually Challenging**
 - a. We want our teams to minister and be ministered to during the trip.
 - b. Through devotions, quiet time, discipleship, and preaching—we desire our team members to develop a deeper relationship with Christ because of the trip experience.

- 4. Financially Efficient**
 - a. Desire to be good value but not necessarily the cheapest.
 - b. We don't want to sacrifice quality or effectiveness for value.
 - c. Desire to be good stewards of the people and resources that are entrusted to our care during the mission experience.
 - d. It is our goal that our team members finish the trip believing that the trip was worth every penny.

- 5. Logistically and Administratively EXCELLENT**
 - a. We believe that excellence honors God and attracts people.
 - b. We want to offer God, our partners, and the people who travel with GO the best possible experience.

6. Culturally Sensitive

- a. Good cultural orientation is essential for the proper formation of a great mission team.
- b. We desire to equip our teams to be culturally appropriate in each context where we go to serve.
- c. We intend NOT to offend the people where we are going to minister.

7. Prayerfully Prepared

- a. We believe that prayer is the best preparation for a good team experience.
- b. We believe that the amount of prayer that goes into a trip BEFORE the team leaves and the amount of prayer that takes place DURING the trip can make all the difference in the overall team experience.

8. Personally Engaging and Corporately Effective

- a. A great team is made up of a mix of great people who work together as a great team.
- b. We want to balance making sure that individual team members find fulfillment on a team while not compromising the effectiveness of the group.

9. Intentionally Holistic

- a. While our teams may have a specific focus, it is our goal that our team members get a broad and stretching experience.
- b. Ministering to the Body, Mind, and Spirit.

10. Distinctively Different in Leadership

- a. We believe that everything rises or falls on leadership.
- b. We believe that a well trained, effective, and prepared leader can make all the difference between a good trip and a great trip.

At the end of your team experience, you will be asked to take a survey to help us measure how we are doing with our team values. Please take a moment to respond to this survey when your team leader gives it to you. Your feedback is valuable in helping us maintain high standards of excellence on our mission trips.

Mission Team Policies

1. The deposit for your trip is NON refundable.
2. No smoking, drinking, drugs, accessing pornography in any form or profane language allowed on GO InterNational teams.
3. There will be NO coed rooming on GO InterNational teams except for married couples.
4. All team members agree to conduct themselves in accordance with GO InterNational's Statement on Gender, Marriage and Sexuality.
5. All team members are required to have Insurance for the duration of team travel. This cost is built into the team budget. Individuals traveling with GO without a team are required to abide by this same policy. This insurance is in addition to a team member's personal health insurance coverage.
4. If you commit to go on a trip but then are unable to fulfill your obligation, those funds will be held for 12 months from the 1st receipt. If in that time you are not able to sign up for a mission trip then those funds will be reallocated to the World Missions fund.
5. If GO InterNational has purchased a ticket for you and you cancel for any reason, you are still responsible for paying for the airline ticket. The ticket is in your name and the airlines allow you up to one year to book another flight.
6. In accordance with IRS guidelines for tax-deductible donations, *contributions are solicited with the understanding that GO InterNational has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.*
7. Funds raised in excess of the individual needs for a participant will be used for the full team's ministry. Excess funds raised are non-refundable and do not carry over to another trip if the team member completes the trip.

Travel Arrangements

It is our policy that every team member travels with the group, and we make both the domestic and international travel arrangements for you. We have a close partnership with a supporting travel agency that assists us with complicated international travel arrangements. They also help us book group discounts where possible so we need to book as a group. Unless you receive specific permission from us, do NOT book your own flights.

Tickets cannot be purchased without your complete application on our Managed Missions online application. Please be sure to put in your **full name as it appears on your passport** where asked. Please review your information in Managed Missions now to be sure you have entered your passport number and date of birth correctly and that **you provide us with a copy of the picture page of your passport**. Your ticket must match your passport and we need this information to be able to be sure we book your ticket correctly.

If you have a specific need to deviate from group travel arrangements, please let us know as early in the process as possible. We are willing to work with you to allow you to use frequent flyer miles or other discounts, but we need to know about this as soon as possible before your trip. We often purchase tickets two to three months ahead of the trip. The team leader, our international partner and the Director of Team Ministries must approve any deviations.

We must have funds in hand at the time we purchase your tickets. You can track your account status through the Managed Missions website.

You will most often meet your team at the gateway city before leaving the US together. That way, we enter through immigration and customs as one group. Many of these airports are not good places to wander around alone, and you certainly don't want to leave the airport by yourself. Your safety and security are important to us which is why we manage the travel arrangements as we do.

Trip costs

Trip costs are divided into 3 main categories.

Registration fee

This \$150 fee must be submitted with your application. It is nonrefundable but applies toward your project fee so it is not an additional cost.

Project fee

This includes your individual costs within the destination country like room and board, transportation, interpreter costs, entry and exit taxes, trip insurance, and more. It also includes your share of the project costs like construction materials, Bibles, medications, eyeglasses depending on the nature of the project. We also cover any costs our partner might have for hosting the team so we aren't a burden on them. This also includes some of our administrative costs though we don't actually recover all of our costs for these trips and raise outside funds to try to keep costs down for our team members.

You may wonder why project fees vary from trip to trip. That is because each trip is different. The length of trip, the nature of in-country transportation needed such as in-country flights and the fact that costs vary from country-to-country all impact the differences in project costs.

We make every effort to keep these costs down while not putting the team at risk from dangerous living conditions or not providing sufficient supplies to enable meaningful ministry.

Airline fees

This includes both your domestic and international airfare from your home to the main airport in the destination country. Once we book your fee, your total trip cost will be adjusted accordingly in your Managed Missions account. Once purchased, your ticket is non-refundable. If you don't go on your trip, you will have one year to apply the value of the ticket to another flight, minus change fees.

All fees are due two weeks before your trip.

Fundraising Suggestions

Suggestions for writing a fundraising letter for a mission trip:

- I. Salutation (Dear _____,)
- II. First paragraph:
 - A. Greeting.
 - B. Announce dates, place of mission trip, and organization you are working with.
- III. Second paragraph:
 - A. Share a personal testimony of what God has been doing in your life to lead you to this decision, possibly a verse of Scripture that has meant a lot in your life.
 - B. Share what your ministry will be while on the mission trip.
- IV. Third paragraph:
 - A. Recruit prayer support for your preparation, funds, team, and mission opportunity.
- V. Fourth paragraph:
 - A. Share the cost of the trip and the deadlines to meet the payments.
 - B. Ask them to pray about making a love gift toward your trip.
 - C. Share how they can give and where they should send their money if the Lord would so lead them (include that all gifts are tax deductible and the statement of IRS guidelines that we must follow).
- VI. Fifth paragraph:
 - A. Closing information
 - B. Let them know you look forward to sharing with them in the future about how God provided and include highlights of the trip.

Sample Appeal Letter

Customize the letter by inserting the details of your trip.

Dear _____,

I am excited to share with you an opportunity that has been made available to me. I have been invited to participate with a mission team that will be traveling to Juarez Mexico July 5-15 for a short-term mission trip to work with teens and children. In addition, we will be traveling about 8-9 hours into the Tarahumara Indian region where we will be ministering to the tribes in the various villages. The group will be working on vacation Bible school programs, one on one ministry to the Tarahumara people, as well as needed work related projects. I am truly excited about the door Christ has opened in my life and the opportunity to share with these people.

I am asking you to be a part of this mission experience by praying for me daily. Pray that God will use our team for His Glory, that we can be a blessing to the people that we go to serve, and that God will stretch us in our faith. In addition, if you would pray for my finances for this trip, I would be so grateful. I have been challenged to raise \$1500.00 to cover all of the expenses of the mission trip, airfare, and ministry while in Mexico.

If you would like to support me on this trip, you can do so by sending a tax-deductible donation to GO InterNational. (P.O. Box 123 Wilmore, KY 40390) *Please make the check payable to GO InterNational and put my name in the memo.* Donations can be mailed using the enclosed envelope and need to be received no later than June 20, 2004. In accordance with IRS guidelines for tax-deductible donations, *contributions are solicited with the understanding that GO InterNational has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.*

During the trip, I plan to keep a journal to detail exactly what is going on and to be able to share with you afterwards what your prayers and support have done. Thank you so much for your prayers and for taking the time to read about my upcoming mission trip. I look forward to sharing with you the details from this experience.

Sincerely,
Your Name

Tips For a Better Response from Your Letter:

1. Keep your appeal to **one page**, if possible. It is ok to go to two pages if the material is good enough and has enough white space and margins.
2. Make sure the letter is as **personal** as possible by sharing specific details about yourself as well as your planned trip.
3. Be sure to include the dates of your trip and the deadline for when your **money is due**.
4. Use underlining and/or **bold** to **highlight key points**.
5. To make your letter more attractive, use graphics or pictures, such as a map of the country. Also, use high quality paper if possible.
6. **Hand address** all the envelopes that you send out and include a return envelope with the GO InterNational address on it.
7. Hand-sign your signature on each letter using a different color pen.
8. Put a PS at the bottom of the letter and **write a personal note** to the recipient of the letter. Studies show this is the most read portion of the letter.
9. Make sure to **proofread** your letter and have someone else proofread it before sending it out!
10. Send out a request to **everyone**. Don't try to figure out who will give and who will not. Besides, you really need their prayers even if they cannot give financially.

Additional Suggestions for Fundraising:

1. Send your appeal out by email as well as through the Post Office. In the email, include a link to your direct profile page on Managed Missions.
2. Send out an appeal through Facebook; perhaps start a fan page for your trip.
3. Send a second follow up letter about 3 weeks after your first appeal to give people an update on how your funds are coming in.
4. Make as many personal contacts as possible. Talk personally or on the phone to your family members, Pastor, Sunday school teacher, Youth Pastor, friends, etc. Let them know what you are doing and how they can personally get involved.

FAQ's

The answers to the following questions can have a major impact on your up-coming mission experience. **Please take the time to carefully read** the following information:

1. What will our accommodations be during the mission trip?

Our team will typically be lodged in a ministry center or at a local hotel. Our host will provide our meals and transportation to and from our daily scheduled activities. Generally, a pillow and blanket is provided, but you may want to bring along your own pillowcase or pillow.

2. Can you drink the water?

Typically, it is NOT safe to drink tap water in most locations, though there are a few exceptions. Your team leader will make it very clear to you on the trip when it is safe to drink the water and when it is not. We will make sure that there is plenty of bottled water provided during your mission trip. It is important for you to bring a plastic water bottle for you to fill up and use each day.

3. What kind of ministry will our team be doing?

Every team is different. Your team leader will provide specific information about the ministry your team will be doing. Examples of GO team ministries include:

- Basic construction projects such as painting, room organization, and cleaning projects.
- Vacation Bible School and children's ministry projects.
- Various outreach projects in the community, such as conducting or participating in an assembly in a public school.
- Medical and dental care

4. How can I best prepare for our ministry time?

- Prayer is one of the most effective ways to prepare for this trip. We encourage you to recruit a prayer team for your trip.
- Take some time to study and learn as much as you can about the culture where we are going. The Internet is a great resource.
- Prepare yourself to work and serve.
- Write out your testimony so that you are prepared to share it when you have the opportunity to witness while on this trip. Pull together a few passages of Scripture that have had an impact in your life that might be a blessing to the people you are serving.
- There will be opportunity to give a 10-15 minute devotional with the team. If you are willing, let the team leader know.

5. What kind of travel documentation will I need for my mission trip?

You will need a current passport. If you already have a passport, check the expiration date. It cannot not expire for at least six months **after the** date you return to the US from this mission trip.

If you do not have a passport, **apply for it IMMEDIATELY**. We recommend that you pay extra for a rush order if you have less than 2 months before departure.

It is important for you to carry your passport with you at ALL TIMES on the mission trip. In addition to your passport you will need to keep travel documents that you fill out on the plane and are stamped as you go through customs. DO NOT LOSE THESE DOCUMENTS!

6. What kind of shots or medication will I need for this trip?

It is not our policy to make medical recommendations in regard to team travel. We do, however, strongly suggest that you consult with your local doctor or the college student health center and let them know where you are going and ask for their medical opinion.

You should ask them about:

- a. Any inoculations necessary for the trip
- b. Any special prescriptions that would be helpful
- c. Any anti-diarrhea prescriptions
- d. Any specific questions about health conditions that you may have.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta is another excellent source for information about health risks for every country in the world. You may access this information through your own doctor, a public health clinic, or via the Internet at **www.cdc.gov**.

You know yourself and your health better than anybody. Be careful to take care of yourself. When it's time to rest—rest. Eat well, drink lots of liquids and try to sleep well.

7. How much luggage am I allowed to take with me on this trip?

When you travel internationally, you are usually allowed one checked piece of luggage and one carry-on. Your checked piece **must not exceed 50 pounds**. Airline luggage policies are constantly changing. In the event that your itinerary includes a baggage fee, you will be responsible for that fee.

If your trip includes a domestic flight in the country where you will minister, **check with your team leader, those flights may have different weight limits for your luggage.**

We recommend that you weigh your suitcase before you travel, if you cannot weigh your suitcase, we recommend you carry a small duffle bag in your suitcase in case your suitcase weight is over the limit. It is easier to pull out some clothes and place them in another bag than it is to pay the penalties for overweight baggage. Team members are responsible to weigh their bags before travel. We recommend that you keep a change of clothes and a few travel supplies and snacks in your carry-on in case your luggage is lost in route.

8. Are there any regulations that I need to be aware of on this trip?

Yes. As short-term missionaries to another country, it is essential for us to take extra precautions regarding our witness. We do not want anything to hinder the advancement of the Gospel in the region where we are going. Therefore, the following will not be permitted on the duration of this team.

NO PROFANITY-Language should be courteous and uplifting
NO SMOKING-Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited
NO ALCOHOL-Drinking any form of alcohol is prohibited
NO DRUGS-Use of illegal drugs will be reported
NO PORNOGRAPHY – Viewing pornography or accessing
pornographic websites is prohibited

9. Are there any guidelines or standards for clothing on this trip?

YES. Our standard of dress is based on sensitivity to the culture where we will be ministering. Our goal is to avoid anything that might offend. The following guidelines have been developed through our years of mission experience and some direct input from our national partners. Please review the clothing guidelines, and if you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call for clarification.

Clothing Guidelines:

NO t-shirts advertising beer, cigarettes, drugs, or flags
NO military or camouflage clothing
NO tight fitting clothes
NO halter tops, tank tops, clothes with bare midriff
NO blouses with low cut necklines
NO excessive jewelry (remember, you are in a poor country and your jewelry will make you stand out—which also may cause safety concerns.)
NO short shorts, and in some places shorts will not be appropriate at all. Your team leader will notify when shorts are appropriate.

10. Will there be an opportunity to wash clothes?

There is a possibility but don't plan on it. Clothing laundered in a foreign country does not always come back in

the same condition. Therefore, if you desire to wash clothing you should plan to hand wash your own clothes. For this you'll need to bring your own laundry detergent and clothes hanger.

11. Church Services

In most cases, people will dress rather casually for church. Our team will do likewise. In any case, shirts should have collars. Women may wear a dress, skirt and top, or dress slacks and top. A jacket and tie is not necessary for men unless they are preaching. We encourage you to look your best for Sunday services. Generally this is when people pull out their best in other cultures.

12. How much spending money will I need for this trip?

The amount of spending money you take is entirely up to you and your judgment. All of your meals, lodging, and basic ministry expenses will be covered each day through the money you paid in advance to GO InterNational. You will only need additional spending money for:

1. Food during travel day to your destination and for your return home from the mission field.
2. Snacks or drinks outside of the 3 meals a day on the field.
3. Souvenirs for you to take back home with you. We will attempt to take you to the market one day on our trip. You will be permitted \$400 duty-free purchases when you re-enter the U.S.
4. Offerings that you want to give in the local church where we will be ministering.
5. Miscellaneous expenses such as laundry, etc.

Important Tips on Travel and Money:

- Do not bring old, worn out, or marked dollars because they will often not exchange them.
- Do not bring too many large bills, such as \$100 bills, because it is sometimes difficult to get change for them.
- Do not keep all of your money in one spot or in one pocket. Hide your money in a couple of different places.
- Do not take all of your credit cards with you.

- Do not keep money in a place where it can be easily stolen.
- Do not pull out all of your money when you go to purchase something. Don't flash your cash.

13. How do we exchange money when we reach our destination?

Your team leader will either give you an opportunity to stop and exchange money or will collect the money and exchange it for you. Try not to exchange more than you have to. You will likely lose money when you try to convert it back. There is usually a place to convert money when you arrive at the airport. Our host will help us find a place where we can get the best exchange rate.

14. Will we be able to make phone calls or send e-mails?

Your Team Leader will attempt to find Internet service for you while you are on the trip. If Internet is available, it is often unreliable. In most cases, phone calls are expensive, so consider setting up an international plan with your cell phone provider or use a service like Skype.

The team leader will make every effort to contact the GO InterNational office once you arrive at your destination to give them an up-date on the team. Feel free to have anyone call the GO InterNational office at anytime during our normal business hours with any questions or up-dates regarding the team. The office number is 859.858.3171.

We do not recommend that you set up certain times to call or communicate with your family on this trip. Communication may not be available and that can cause your loved ones to worry.

15. Do you have any tips for taking pictures on a mission trip?

A few suggestions that will help you record your experiences:

- Be sensitive to avoid offending anyone while taking pictures.
- It is good to ASK BEFORE snapping the picture.

- Get close enough to recognize people in your pictures.
- Look for shots that will have nationals and your team members together.
- Don't forget your charger.
- Don't take pictures of military operations.
- **IF IN DOUBT, ASK YOUR TEAM LEADER.**

16. Does GO provide travel insurance for this team?

Yes. For your benefit, we provide a basic accident and health policy for travelers. This policy covers you from the time you leave the United States until you return to the United States.

17. What do I need to know about working in a different culture?

Much could be said and written about the culture you will be part of for a few days. The best approach is to be a student, and remember when it comes to culture; most things are neither right nor wrong, just different.

In the country where you are going, things may not be done in the way you are used to. We are not here to educate the nationals and show them a better way. We are here to serve them, and in the process serve God.

If this is your first short-term mission trip out of the United States, you may experience a brief period of culture shock. Don't be alarmed. It's normal. Be patient. Remember when you enter another culture, they are not weird, you are! They do not talk funny, you do! Always be kind and respectful.

People can also read body language and facial expressions very easily. Be careful about making comparisons and criticisms. They take what we say and how we act very personally. Always be grateful and be gracious. If you take food or drink offered, plan to eat or drink it, otherwise politely refuse the food or drink.

Always greet the people with a smile and be friendly. Don't cut your cultural experience short by refusing to try something just

because it is different. Expand your worldview by experiencing the culture to the fullest.

18. What does it mean when GO InterNational talks about short-term mission through long-term partnerships?

At the beginning of the 19th century, 90% of all Christians lived in the West and North (i.e., North America and Western Europe). At the beginning of the 20th century, 75% of all Christians live in the East and South (Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia). If we are going to reach our world for Christ in the 21st century, then the Christians from the West must work together (i.e., partner) with the Christians of the non-Western world. Each has something valuable to contribute to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

GO InterNational is one of those organizations which seeks to connect the resources (expertise, wealth, personnel) of the West with the specific ministry needs of ministries in the non-West (Latin America, Asia, Africa) such that those ministries become more effective in their outreach.

At the same time, the enthusiasm and deep commitment of these Christians in the Developing World infuse life into our churches in the U.S. This is "partnership." While our teams may be on site only for a short time, our relationship with these ministries is long-term.

19. What does it mean to be part of a "mission team"?

Here are some guidelines:

- We are a family, and that will require some "give and take" in our relationships with each other.
- We are a team. We will do things as a team and not as individuals.
- We are guests. That will require that we act like guests when with our hosts, according to their understanding of a host/guest relationship.
- We are ambassadors...for Christ and for our country.

20. What are some Next Step goals for people who go on a short-term mission experience?

It is our hope that as a result of this trip that you will want to:

- Start making plans to go again on another trip.
- Tell others about your mission experience.
- Pray for the country and people that you ministered to.
- Consider giving financially to support GO InterNational.
- Invite one of our staff members to speak at your church.
- Stay in touch with the people you met on the trip.
- Send thank you notes and up-dates to the people who helped you go on the mission field.
- Tell others about the specific people you met and how they impacted you.



Packing Like a Pro

1. Make a list, and check it twice.
 - a. Keep a packing list if you travel frequently.
 - b. Update it after each trip to keep it current.
2. Talk to people who have traveled before on mission trips to find out what they took that was helpful for their trip.
3. Check the weather forecast in the area that you will be traveling so that you can pack appropriately.
4. Find out what the airline regulations are for the trip you are going on.
 - a. Limit yourself to one bag and one carry-on.
 - b. Maintain luggage weight limits of under 50 lbs. If you have a flight within the country you are travelling to, , that flight may have lower limits –**check with your team leader.**
5. Take luggage that you don't mind damaging, such as old duffle bags.
6. Keep all your valuables on your person at ALL TIMES.
7. Always pack two days worth of clothes in your carry-on in case your luggage is lost or delayed.
8. Make sure you mark your bags with your name and address and some type of distinctive identification such as tape or ribbon.
9. If you are on medication, take more than what you think you will need. Carry all medication in your carry-on in case your checked luggage is lost.

10. Don't pack anything that you would feel bad if it were lost, stolen, or damaged.
11. Take items that you can leave with people at the end of your trip.
12. Don't pack too much.
13. Take laundry soap and rope or a hanger to do laundry on the trip.
14. Coordinate with other team members so that you can share on the trip instead of taking duplicate items.
15. Buy a bottle of water in the airport, after security, before you leave the United States to use for brushing your teeth the first night you are on your mission site.
16. Pack a few high protein snacks for the trip and store in zip lock bags.
17. Plan how you will transport home souvenirs that you purchase on the trip, such as using a foldable duffel bag.
18. Take durable shoes that will handle water and rain. Shoes worn on the work site will probably get ruined. Break new shoes in before the trip, especially new work boots. Blisters are not a pleasant experience, and they don't make for the best of moods.

***"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."
-Amy Carmichael***

Sample Packing List

- Your Bible
- Notebook and Pen
- This Team Member Book
- Airline Itinerary
- Passport – consider a passport holder that will allow you to keep it safely on your person
- Place a high quality copy of the picture page from your passport somewhere in your luggage separate from your passport
- Spending money for trip (remember smaller increments)
 - NO Large bills
 - Preferably NEW bills – not marked or torn
- Chargers (for cell phone, camera, etc.)
- Camera
- Sun Glasses
- Flashlight (with NEW batteries)
- Ear Plugs (for light sleepers)
- Alarm Clock
- Personal Supplies/Toiletries
- Anti-bacterial Wipes
- 2 Rolls of Toilet Paper
- Personal Medications
- Anti-diarrheal Medicine
- Anti-biotic such as “CIPRO” (see your doctor)
- Dress Clothes
- Work Clothes
- Casual Clothes
- Casual Shoes
- Work Shoes
- Work Gloves
- Small Packet of Laundry Soap
- Bathing Suit (modest)
- Flip-flops
- Garbage Bags
- Snacks
- Back Pack
- Plastic Reusable Water Bottle.
- Small Calculator for Converting Currency
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Bug Repellant
- Towel/Washcloth
- Sheets/Blanket
- Pillow Case
- 2 Hangers (to hang wash cloth and towel)

**This is a general list, some items may not apply and others might be needed. Check with your team leader if you have any questions.

HOW TO STAY HEALTHY ON YOUR MISSION TRIP

It is not GO InterNational's practice to give medical advice to team members. It is our policy to recommend that people consult with their local doctor about medicine or shots that may be necessary when traveling internationally. Here are just a few suggestions when it comes to your health on this trip:

1. You know yourself and your health better than anybody. Be careful to take care of yourself. When it's time to rest—rest. Eat well, drink lots of liquids and try to go to bed and get a good nights sleep.
2. If you are on medications of some type, be sure to check with your doctor prior to going on the trip to see if your dosage should be changed due to weather conditions, travel schedules, etc. Also be sure that you take enough of a supply for the entire trip.
3. If you are on a great deal of medications, it may be helpful to have your doctor write you a note verifying your medical needs. Keep that with you in with your documents. Do not offer the information unless you are asked specifically for that information.

Overseas travel involves circumstances and risks, which can impact your health. Medical advice specific to your condition can only be given by your doctor. Please consider a pre-travel consultation with your physician at least 6 weeks before your trip. This is especially important if you have any pre-existing medical conditions which may be affected by your travel or if you will need pre-trip immunizations so that you can get these in time for them to be effective.

Immunizations

Exact recommendations depend on the destination country and can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel.

Common immunizations to consider:

Routine immunizations. You should have a tetanus booster within the last ten years and should be up to date on polio, MMR and other routine vaccinations.

Hepatitis A. One dose should be given a month or more before travel. If you have a booster in 6 months, the protection

becomes life-long.

Hepatitis B. This series should be completed for all medical personnel and others who may be exposed to blood or body fluids. It is recommended for anyone who travels to an endemic area for Hepatitis B, which is most of the third world.

Typhoid. This vaccine should be considered for all who will travel to endemic areas, which is most of the developing world.

Yellow Fever. This vaccine is required for entry into certain countries and recommended for travel to any endemic area. This vaccine must be obtained from an authorized Yellow Fever Vaccination Clinic and documented on a WHO Yellow Card for entry into counties where the vaccine is required. To find a Yellow Fever Vaccination Center near you, go to www.cdc.gov/travel.

Other immunizations. Other immunizations may be required in certain destinations or circumstances. Obtain information from the CDC website and discuss them with your doctor.

Food and Water-borne Illness

Of those who travel overseas for a two-week trip, 20% to 60% of travelers will have an episode of traveler's diarrhea. Sometimes this is mild, sometimes severe. You should only drink bottled water unless it is from a known source. Tap water, as well as ice should be avoided. Boiling water is the safest way to kill organisms that cause traveler's diarrhea. Iodine tablets can also be used. Most available filters may not filter all organisms that can cause illness. Avoid food from street vendors, as well as undercooked meat, fresh vegetables, salads, and fruit that you don't peel yourself. A good rule to remember is boil it, peel it, cook it, or forget it. If you do become sick, taking Imodium and starting antibiotic treatment (Cipro) at the first sign of illness can shorten the duration of illness. Do not take Imodium if you have severe pain, high fever, or bloody diarrhea. Ask your doctor to give you a prescription of antibiotic to take with you in case you get sick on your trip. Drink plenty of fluids to make up for losses from diarrhea and vomiting.

Malaria

Some mission trips involve travel to areas where malaria is a risk. Please see the CDC website listed above to get information specific to the country where you will travel. Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, which come out from dusk to dawn. Avoid exposure by limiting outdoor activities from dawn to dusk.

When outside in the evening hours wear long pants and long sleeved shirts. Use insect repellent with DEET (30% is sufficient). Depending on the accommodations, mosquito nets may be recommended for sleeping. It is also important to take preventive medication for malaria before, during, and after the trip. You will need to get a prescription for malaria medicine from your doctor. Duration and dosing depends on the specific medicine prescribed. The CDC website is a good source of information. None of these measures is 100% effective, so if you become ill with a fever during or after your trip, seek medical care immediately and be sure to let those caring for you know about your travel. Also let them know they should strongly consider malaria as a possible cause of your illness. Early treatment is crucial if you do get malaria.

Sun Exposure

Be sure to bring sunscreen with at least SPF 15. Avoid exposure by wearing hats and long sleeves. Use sunscreen on exposed skin. Mission trips are often in locations where the sun is hotter than at home and sunburn is a big risk that can ruin your trip.

Chronic Illness and Medications

Be sure to discuss your trip with your doctor in advance. Only your doctor will know your medical condition and the risks associated with travel in your circumstance. He or she may need to give you advice about medicine dosing or changes. Be sure to take double the supply of your prescription medicine needed for the length of your trip. Your medicine may be hard to find in another country in case of unforeseen travel delays. Carry it with you in your carry-on luggage so you have it if your checked luggage is lost.

Personal Medical Kit

You should take a small first aid kit with you. Also consider a small supply of over the counter medicines you may need such as a pain reliever, Imodium, and an antihistamine, antacid, and cold/cough meds. Ask your doctor for a prescription antibiotic (like Cipro) in case you get sick during your trip.



Mission Trip Reminders!

(for right before you leave)

1. Review this book.
2. Make sure you are checking your emails for any last minute information.
3. Double check what you are taking with the packing list in the manual.
4. Google "travel tips" for the country where we are going. You may pick up some important ideas for traveling.
5. Don't take anything on this trip that you would be devastated over if it were lost or stolen.
6. Go online and double check your flight schedule and make sure that there are not any last minute changes.
7. Don't forget to use the GO Luggage tags that we sent you in the mail. They help us identify GO bags as they are coming off the baggage belt.
8. **Do NOT leave your bags unattended** as you travel. Also, **be your brother's keeper** throughout the trip.
9. Stay focused on the #1 RULE in Mission team travel-- **BE FLEXIBLE.**
10. Expect the unexpected along the way.
11. When you check in at the airport—make sure that you check your bag to your **FINAL DESTINATION.**
12. When you check in at the airport, you will be given a "baggage claim ticket." **DO NOT** throw that away. After you pick up your luggage, you may need to show your claim ticket to one of the agents at the airport who will match your ticket to the luggage you are taking out of the airport.
13. You will need to have a black or blue ballpoint pen with you to fill out the customs and immigration forms.
14. When you are filling out your custom forms—**You are ALWAYS a tourist** or traveling on pleasure; you are not a missionary. When you are returning to the US—it is ok to tell the agents that you were doing missionary work.
15. Make sure you **keep any custom forms that they don't take from you.** You may need them for re-entry.
16. Packing tips
 - a. Have a little zipper folder to keep your passport, tickets, itinerary, address of where we are staying and your baggage claim.

- b. Weigh your bag. There are fees that apply if it is overweight.
 - c. Pack LIGHT. You are responsible for carrying your own luggage.
 - d. Wear a shirt or jacket that has pockets in it. It is helpful for keeping tickets and passports while loading on the plane.
 - e. **Pack a change of clothes in your carry on.** Be prepared to survive a few days with what is in your carry on in case your luggage is lost.
 - f. Pack a few snacks in your carry on.
 - g. Keep any meds with you on your carry on. We recommend that you keep meds in the original bottles.
 - h. **Make sure you keep your passport, your flight schedule (with the flight number of the plane that you arrive on), a pen (black or blue ballpoint), and the address of the ministry we are working with on your person or in your carry on.**
17. Flight information
 - a. Double check with your team leader about your meeting time and departure time and location for heading to the airport.
 - b. Need to be at the airport **2-3 hours BEFORE FLIGHT.**
 18. At the airport, continue to check the flight schedule boards in the airport because flights and gates often change.
 19. IF DELAYED, CALL your team leader. Make sure that you keep their cell phone with you or call the GO office. They will know how to get a hold of your team leader.
 20. Check out **TSA website** (311) www.tsa.gov for travel tips.
 21. We recommend that you pick up a bottle of water BEFORE you get on the plane out of the USA.
 22. Extra money you may need on this trip: money for meals on the way to the field, money for meals on the way home, and money for souvenirs or extras. All of your meals, lodging, transportation, ministry, and taxes are covered in the trip price.
 23. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY—Tell your family to call GO InterNational (859-858-3171) during office hours 9-5 (M-F).
 24. We are not sure the level of communication that we will have on the field. Even if we do have access to the Internet, we discourage you from using it much because it can be a distraction from what God may be trying to do in

your life through this trip. Set the expectation with your family that you will not be in contact much.

25. It is very important to recruit a **PRAYER TEAM for our trip.**
26. Check the **10-day weather forecast** of where we are going.
27. If you feel compelled to give toward a need you see on this trip—we encourage you to give it through your team leader. They will give your gift to our indigenous partner and they can distribute it to those who need it most. It will create much less conflict that way.

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives...and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."
-Nate Saint

Preparation: Spiritual

The Power of Prayer

How to Pray for Your Mission Trip

Prayer is key to preparing for your mission trip for several reasons. First of all, we are serving the Lord. Although you may be doing many practical things such as construction, teaching, or providing medical care on your trip, a mission trip is still an essentially spiritual activity. If we wish to bear spiritual fruit, we must be spiritually prepared.

Secondly, when we go on a mission trip, Satan is not pleased. Many times as I've prepared for a mission trip, things begin to happen in my life. Illness strikes my family or me. Things come up at work. Things break down around the house. It becomes apparent that the enemy wants to distract us and take our eyes off our mission or convince us that maybe agreeing to this trip wasn't such a good idea. Prayer brings to bear the power of the Almighty God in our life. We need His help and protection as we prepare to serve Him.

Finally, we will be stretched beyond our comfort zone during our trip. We will need grace and power from the Holy Spirit to adapt to the challenges that will face us. We will need His strength when we are weary from the travel and the work that is before us. We will need His wisdom as we seek to minister effectively in a different culture. We will need spiritual discernment as we confront situations in a culture different from our own. We will need grace to bear with our teammates and protect the unity of our team. None of these will come to us without our attention to prayer.

Keys to Praying Effectively

1. Pray regularly. There is no set formula, but ideally this is daily.
2. Pray fervently. Prayer must be more than saying a quick "God bless our mission trip." Allow time for God to speak to you.

3. Consider fasting. Again, there is no formula. You might skip a meal to pray especially for your trip, or you may fast for a day. Some teams have designated a special fast day in which they all fast and pray a certain day or time.
4. Pray as a team. If your team is all from the same area, you may gather together to pray for your team. If your team is from different places, you may designate a specific day or time to pray for the trip.

What to Pray For

1. Thank the Lord for your own salvation and the things that led to it.
2. Ask God to fill you with his power for your mission.
3. Pray for a servant attitude that is willing to do whatever is needed for the good of the team and the mission, even at the cost of personal desire or comfort.
4. Pray that God will open the eyes of your heart to what he wants you to see and learn from your experience.
5. Pray for the people that you will be serving, that God will prepare their hearts to receive His blessing through the team.
6. Pray for the local Christians you will be serving with, that God will strengthen them and help them in their preparations for the mission. Pray that they will be encouraged and strengthened for future ministry through this experience. Pray that His church will grow.
7. Pray for your fellow team members. Pray that they would be protected, strengthened, and prepared for service.
8. Pray for health, safety and protection for the team.
9. Pray that all of the logistics, travel, immigration, and customs would go smoothly.
10. Pray for unity for the team. Pray that those you interact with will know that you are Christians by your love for one another.
11. Pray for the nation you are visiting. Pray that the churches would be strengthened, that the gospel will go out, and that God would be glorified in that nation.
12. Pray for the government officials that you will interact with, that they would be blessed by our presence in their community and country, and that they would grant favor to us and the local church and local believers.

Resources For Prayer

1. Learn about the Go InterNational partner you will be working with on the GO InterNational website.
2. Operation World is a book that gives information for prayer for every country in the world. There is also a website at www.operationworld.org.

Recruit a Prayer Team

In addition to praying yourself, it is important that you recruit others to pray for you and your team. One of the more difficult mission teams GO has been a part of was a trip to the Andes Mountains in Bolivia several years ago. It was a physically challenging trip due to the climate and elevation. The team faced some serious spiritual challenges while they were there. Yet, the trip was one of the most blessed trips the Team Members had been a part of. What made the difference? They all agreed that it was prayer.

Many team members had recruited prayer partners for the trip. In particular, one church had set up a 24-hour prayer team of church members for the team. Every hour of the day during the trip, at least one person from that church was praying. The team truly felt the power of God in response to their prayers. You may not have a 24-hour prayer vigil, but it is important to have people praying. I challenge each team member to recruit a team of at least ten people who will commit to praying daily for the team during, and even before, the trip. These may be people from your family, small group, Sunday school class, church, or other friends. Provide your prayer team with a list of things to pray for specifically.

Prepare a schedule of what the team will be doing each day. Share with them the list above. Give them a list of the other team members so that they can pray for them by name. Be sure to thank your prayer team when you return and give them a report of all the Lord did as a result of their prayers so that you all can praise and thank the Lord.

Tips for Sharing Your Testimony

Many times a personal testimony can be more powerful than a great sermon. On your mission trip, your team leader will probably ask each day for team members to volunteer to give a brief testimony (3 to 10 minutes). These are suggestions on preparing and sharing your story through your testimony:

I. What is a testimony?

A. A testimony is just the story of how God has worked in your life. You aren't trying to convince anyone of anything. You are just telling your story of how you became a Christian.

B. One type of testimony is a story of a special time in which you knew God was at work in your life, such as answering a prayer or helping you through a problem.

C. Another type of testimony is the story of how you came to faith in Christ.

II. Where will I give my testimony?

A. A church service, an event such as the showing of The Jesus Film, a Vacation Bible School, or a crowd waiting at a medical outreach.

B. Sometimes the opportunity may come when you are talking one on one with a national, maybe even at the hotel or on the airplane.

C. Whatever the setting, it will help you to be more relaxed if you think through your testimony ahead of time. Practice sharing it with a fellow team member. Then practice it with someone in your family or neighborhood. Then you will be ready when the opportunity arises on the trip, as well as for opportunities at home before and after the trip.

III. How do I prepare a testimony?

- A. Take the time to pray about what part of your story God would have you specifically share.
- B. Share what life was like before you came to Christ.
- C. Then share how you came to the place of following Christ.
 - 1. What events led to this decision.
 - 2. What steps did you take in coming to Christ.
- D. Conclude with how your life is different—and better—now.

IV. What are some tips for writing the testimony?

- A. Don't get bogged down in too much detail as you write it out.
 - 1. Focus on what Christ has done in your life
 - 2. What He is currently doing
 - 3. Leave your listeners with encouragement and hope about what Christ can do in their lives.
- B. Include Scripture.
- C. Pray over it and ask God to use it for His glory, not yours.
- D. Proofread and edit and then ask someone else to read it.

V. What are some tips for presenting the testimony?

- A. Even though it is your own story, get comfortable with it. The more you practice presenting it, the less nervous you will be about giving your testimony before others.
- B. Practice by sharing your testimony with a friend
Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15)

VI. What are tips for presenting in a cross-cultural setting?

A. Stick to the allotted time. Think ahead about how you will share if you are given 3 minutes, 5 minutes, or 10 minutes.

B. When speaking through a translator, speak a complete phrase or sentence; then pause to allow for translation. Speak loudly, clearly and in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.

C. When using illustrations, keep them simple and about family or things you may have in common with the culture you are visiting. Avoid American slang, politics, or talking about your possessions or money. Try to avoid Christian jargon like justification, sanctification, saved by the blood, etc.

D. Keep the focus on God and what He has done in your life.

E. Memorize your testimony so you can deliver it naturally with confidence.

F. Smile! Be enthusiastic!

***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
- Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)***

The Plan of Salvation

The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Good works cannot save you.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Trust Jesus Christ today! Here's what you must do to receive eternal life:

1. Admit you are a sinner.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:10).

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

Jesus said, "I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners. Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Savior.

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

What to pray:

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Savior.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, as a Christian you should:

1. Read your Bible every day to get to know Christ better.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalms 119:105)

2. Talk to God in prayer every day.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22)

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6)

3. Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:19)

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16)

4. Tell others about Christ.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

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Pre-Trip Devotions
Please complete these prior to your mission trip.

Day 1: The Story of His Glory

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the lord, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

What is God's purpose on earth?

"God's ultimate purpose is nothing less than culminating history with a global extravaganza of Christ's glory. At the last, he will be more fully recognized and fully hated by his enemies than ever before. But at the same time he will be more passionately followed and obeyed than ever before. In every race and place, from every language, and lineage, in every circle and setting of humanity, Christ will be honored, feared, loved and worshipped. This grand crescendo of Christ's glory will have two aspects. First, he will have great renown throughout humankind. His commission will be fulfilled, and his name will be famous in all of creation. Second, Christ will be loved and followed by the dedicated obedient worshippers of his kingdom, gathered from every nation. two things – his namesake and his kingdom – constitute the glory of Christ."
Steve Hawthorne

As we prepare for this mission trip our first prayer as Jesus taught his disciples is that God's name be "hallowed". Our primary focus on this mission trip is seeking to glorify God in all that we do and say. How can we glorify God on our team? First we can do so through praise and worship. (Psalm 96, Psalm 105:2,3) Secondly we can glorify God together by declaring his great works. (Psalm 96:3) We can share our testimony how God has changed us and given us new life in Christ. We can share the great acts of God through history. Thirdly, we can glorify God by dedicating everything we do for his honor and glory. The Apostle Paul stated, "whether therefore I eat or drink, I do it all for his glory." And finally we glorify God by going in obedience to his commands and doing that which pleases him. (Col 3:17)
The catechism teaches us that our ultimate goal is "to glorify God and enjoy him forever." God gives us joy in following and serving the living God. Jesus stated in John 17:4,5 "I have

glorified you on earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world.” Why did Jesus come to earth? It was to glorify the father and he did so by offering his life for the redemption of mankind. It was the cross that Jesus glorified the Father.

As followers we are called to “lay down our lives for the brethren”. As we go to honor the Father may we commit ourselves to one task, to bring honor and glory to our king.

For reflection

1. Do I love the Father for his gifts or for the glory he has demonstrated in his Son?

2. How can my prayer life reflect my desire to glorify his name? Am I pursuing my happiness or his glory?

Rev. Larry Cochran, Past President, Director for Latin America

Day 2: Walking Like Jesus

Read 1 John 2:3-6, 1 John 4: 13-21

We all remember Peter’s interaction with Jesus when Jesus asked him, “Peter do you love me? Peter do you love me? Peter do you really love me? Then feed my sheep.” We also recall Jesus’s remarks in John 15 when he said “Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down his life for his friends.” And who can forget the reminder in 1 Corinthians 13 that the greatest spiritual gift of all is simply love? There are more commandments in the Bible about loving God’s people than about anything else. In 1 John 2:3-6, we see that we are made complete in Christ when we truly love. Love is the great hope of the world. Love can right wrongs. Love can break down barriers. Love can bridge cultural divides. Love can overcome language barriers. Love can lead souls to Christ. As you continue to prepare for your journey, I want to challenge you above all to simply love. Love God’s people, no matter who *they* are or who *you* are.

1 John 2:6 says: “Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. ” How did Jesus walk? Where did Jesus walk? Who

did Jesus walk with? Those are all questions that crossed my mind as I read that scripture. The reality is that Jesus walked with His people. His disciples, sure they were there, but he walked with sinners and saints alike. He walked with people... real people. More often than not we find Jesus walking with the poor. We find Jesus walking with those in need of healing. We find Jesus walking with those who needed a Savior. So, as your journey begins, I want to challenge you as this scripture challenges us all, that if we are living in Him we must walk as He did. We must walk with the poor. We must walk with those in great need. And we must walk with those who need a Savior.

When you walk as Jesus did, you will find yourself feeding His sheep. When you walk like Jesus did you will find yourself wanting to lay down your life for your friends. And whether you realize it or not, when you walk as Jesus did, you will find that the greatest spiritual gift of all, love, will conquer and provide for all of the needs that you yourself think you do not have the resources to. And then a change will happen among the people you are walking with. Those walls, obstacles, and barriers will be overcome, and the people that you are walking among will truly find a Savior, because in walking like Jesus did, you will be leading them to Him.

For reflection:

1. What keeps you from walking as Jesus did?
2. How can you walk as Jesus did among your fellow team members? Among those you are going to serve? Among those you live and work with every day?

Larry Montgomery, Director of Team Ministries

Day 3: Serve the Lord with.....

"So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the

gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:14-15

When it comes to serving, we have two choices. We not only have to choose “whom” we will serve, but we also have to choose “how” we will serve. Both Jonah and Isaiah served the Lord, but “how” they served was radically different. Jonah served wrongfully while Isaiah served willingly.

You have likely already made the decision about “whom” you will serve or you probably wouldn’t be giving up so much to GO and serve. You have made a choice to follow the Lord in obedience to the Great Commission and are going to serve Him on this upcoming trip.

The question I have for you as you prepare is “How will you serve Him on this trip?” “What attitude will you take with you as you go and serve?”

The Bible gives us some specific instructions on “how” we should serve the Lord. Let me share these with you as you prepare to GO. Take a moment and reflect on each of these and look up each Scripture reference.

1. We are to serve the Lord without distraction. (I Cor. 7:35 NKJV)
2. We are to serve the Lord with gladness & enthusiasm. (Psalm 100:2 NKJV & Romans 12:11 NLT)
3. We are to serve the Lord with fear. (Psalm 2:11 NKJV)
4. We are to serve the Lord with all our heart. (I Sam. 12:20, Deut 10:12 & Joshua 24:14 NLT)
5. We are to serve the Lord with great humility. (Acts 20:19 NIV)

We are not only given these instructions on how we should serve, but we are also given a great example from Jesus Christ that we can model as we go and serve. Meditate on these words from Philippians 2:5-10 (NLT) *“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.*

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form,⁸ He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

For reflection:

1. How can you be sure you are serving the Lord and not yourself on this mission trip?
2. How can you follow Christ's example of humility?

Rev. Bert Jones, Past President, Team Leader

Day 4: Prayer From the Ends of the Earth

Read Psalm 61

The first mission trip my wife and I took was to Russia. We went to Murmansk which is north of the Arctic Circle. As we arrived, the local pastor, Pastor Vasily, greeted us with these words, "Welcome to the end of the earth!" For a boy who grew up in a small town in southern Ohio on his first mission trip, Murmansk really did seem like the end of the earth. That trip made the scripture in Acts 1:8 come alive in our life: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Wherever you go on your mission trip may seem like the end of the earth to you. And wherever you go, chances are you will face some adversity. There may be travel interruptions. Your ministry project may not go as planned. There may be resistance from the local people. You may have conflict with a team member. You may get sick. This Psalm reminds us that even when we are at the end of the earth the Lord is there, ready to help us when our heart grows faint.

What a reminder for us of the importance of prayer on our mission. We have an enemy who does not want our mission to succeed. He will use all kinds of tactics against us, but one of his most effective is discouragement. When our heart grows faint, we need to remember that our Lord is our rock, our refuge, our strong tower against the enemy. (Psalm 61:2-3)

Although we will have a physical project like a construction project or a medical camp, missions is ultimately about spiritual transformation. That's what our enemy wants to prevent and will fight so hard against. Remember that spiritual progress calls for spiritual methods. We need to seek the Lord. Andrew Murray says, "Let us realize that the only solution to our problems is the supernatural, almighty intervention of the Lord Himself."

God is always there to hear our prayers whenever we call out to him. However, it becomes much easier to trust him when we are in distress if prayer is the pattern of our life in the daily routine. Verse 8 says "I will ever sing praises to your name as I perform my vows day after day." As you go about your daily routine before the trip and on the field, make prayer part of all you do. Then you will be able to call to him in those situations that cause your heart to faint.

For reflection:

1. How will you incorporate prayer into your preparation for your trip?
2. Remember a time that the Lord answered your prayer when you felt discouraged. How does that give you confidence to trust Him in prayer when you feel discouraged again?

Larry Frick, Director of Medical Missions

Day 5: Hearing God

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

It's clear, that we were created to have a personal relationship with God. From the beginning of creation, God created man (Adam), set him up in a beautiful Garden (Paradise), gave him responsibilities and privileges, and wanted to have an intimate, personal relationship with him through conversation.

Later in time, we learn about Abraham. God called him and spoke to him, and gave him specific instructions on what he needed to do to get to the promised land.

Then came Moses. "Take thy sandals off your feet, for the ground that you step on is holy" and Moses could hear His voice as clear as water.

There are many passages in Scripture where we read about God being very vocal and personal with specific persons in the Bible, and we sometimes ask ourselves, Does God speak to us still? How can we know if he is listening? How do we know if he still speaks to us? Maybe we can go as far as believing he speaks through his written word, but can he speak to me personally?

Let's review what the Bible tells us about this issue. From the very first pages of Scripture, "God speaks." He says, "Let there be light" and light comes into existence. He chooses prophets to communicate his messages to His people through the ages, and leads them in His ways, and to warn them of harm if they do not follow His instructions.

He also sends His Son, Jesus, (The Living Word) to live among us, and "listen to what He has to say" in order to receive salvation.

So how can we experience a personal relationship with our Savior, and have a personal conversation with Him?

Please consider the following:

Step One: we need to realize that He still speaks. That we believe in a living and vocal God.

Step Two: always have a high expectation on what the Lord will answer when we pray unto Him.

Step Three: Faith opens our ears: "Believe" He is alive! He is real! He will speak to you in many ways. We need to believe that He speaks, and that he is speaking to you always. He wants to have a personal relationship with you, and relationships are based on communication. The more we practice conversation with God, the more we

will experience intimacy and personal communication with Him. We will hear from Him more clearly.

Finally, remember that we were made to have a personal relationship with Him. Believe and listen. Let God surprise you; He always will.

For reflection:

1. Take time now and in the days before your trip to listen for God's voice.
2. How can you listen for God on your trip?

Jorge Ramirez, GO InterNational partner, Mexico

Day 6: The Harvest is Ripe

Read Matthew 9:35-38

You might ask the question, Why this passage? After all I've committed myself to being a harvester. Well it's really because of what verses 35 -36 say. We hear verse 37 quite often and it's a good reminder of the complexity of the work we are called too; after all you have committed to being a harvester. And yet our commitment can, if not careful, become a source of pride for us because we are in fact part of the few that choose to serve in such a hard way. The danger of pride is that it will hinder your ability to serve. But if you remember verses 35-36 you'll quickly be reminded and sobered of the reason you have chosen to do this work.

Jesus and the disciples had traveled to many places teaching, preaching, and healing. You too will travel and spend many hours with children (and adults) teaching and preaching the Word, listening too and praying for various situations and ailments, and yes you might even be part of healings! You too will look out at the crowds and realize that many are in seemingly helpless situations. Many of the people you meet will be facing trials of all kinds. Many of the kids and families you meet are wandering around like sheep without a shepherd. It's easy to become hardened and frustrated because to be

honest, some of these situations are tough to swallow. I'm sure that Jesus felt many of the same emotions you might feel when he looked at the crowds and saw the seemingly hopelessness some of them faced.

But what did He do? Well, we're not really told what emotions He showed or what specific actions He took. That is with the exception of this; *He showed compassion...and prayed* before doing anything else. Showing compassion doesn't mean fixing everything, but it does mean offering guidance, praying, offering a shoulder to lean on, being there even if we don't feel like it, and many other things you will be taking part in. So whether you plan to take part in construction, medical clinics, Bible School, or leadership training; commit yourself to sincere prayer about not necessarily adding laborers but that we as laborers would gain compassion. Pray that the Holy Spirit would fill your team with the words, actions, thoughts, and prayers that will point the sheep toward the True Shepherd. Then pray that the Holy Spirit would invade the homes, schools, and activities of each person that you encounter. You may be going as a harvester, but there are already harvesters there and you minister together. Pray the Lord would send His Holy Spirit to unite you in the work and the harvest would be a bumper crop.

For reflection:

1. How can you maintain compassion for the people you are going to serve?
2. What does it mean that you are an answer to Jesus' prayer for workers for the harvest?

T. J. Burdine, Team Leader

Day 7: Your Testimony

"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

Mark 5:19

Read Mark 5:1-20

Where did Jesus go to find his first missionary, and who did He use? Interestingly, Jesus went to the cemetery and found a lunatic! When it comes to personal evangelism, God does not necessarily look for seminary graduates or the most intelligent people to be His witnesses. He chooses each one of us to simply tell others "what great things the Lord has done for you."

A witness shares what they experience. A few people have been called to be an evangelist but all Christians are called to be a witness. When you experience Christ, and you come to know Him you desire to make Him well known. You want others to experience His love and forgiveness. Acts 4:33 reminds us of the nature of being a witness: "And with great power the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus..." They were simply sharing what they had experienced. It is the same for you and me.

Overcoming our fear of others is often the major obstacle to witnessing. We might fear what others will think or the fear of being rejected. But it is not our responsibility to change people. Our call is to love people, and love motivates us to share Christ. The Apostle Paul stated, "The love of Christ constrains me." Love overcomes our fears!

Paul also stated, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16

As you prepare to go on a team with GO InterNational let me offer some practical tips in preparing to share your testimony:

1. Share a scripture with your own personal testimony. Sharing God's Word with what has happened to you gives strength to your testimony.
2. Be brief and balanced. Don't share ten minutes about your life before Christ and only a minute of what He has done. Focus more on what He is doing in your life now.
3. Write out your testimony, doing so gives you more confidence when you share.

4. Pray for God to use you. If He can use a healed lunatic He can use you!

Our desire for all of our team members is to have the opportunity to share your testimony in a cross cultural setting. You will be greatly blessed as you do so.

For reflection:

Spend time today writing out your testimony.

Larry Cochran, Past President, Director of Latin America

Day 8: GOing as a Learner

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Proverbs 18:13

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20.

Read Acts 15:1-35

One of the most challenging aspects of going on a mission trip is adjusting to a different culture. It can be frustrating to not know the "rules" for how things are supposed to work. Your sense of accomplishment may be challenged in a culture where relationships take priority over getting the job done. You may feel disrespected when the nationals put the event ahead of starting and finishing on time. If you don't recognize these feelings and deal with their cause, it can lead to confusion, and frustration. This can cause you to become critical and withdraw from the culture and people you are trying to serve.

Fortunately God's word gives us some good advice on how to deal with this. The first is to *realize that most differences are not matters of right vs. wrong*. They are just different. In Acts 15: 1-35 we see the biblical model for how to deal with such difference. As Gentiles began to come into the church, the

leaders had to deal with the fact that they were coming from a different cultural background from the Jewish Christians. Their response is our model. They acknowledge that most differences were cultural and not worth destroying the fellowship over. There are issues of right and wrong and we should never compromise Biblical integrity over those, but most differences between cultures don't rise to that level. They are just differences.

Adopting an attitude of a learner is the second most important thing you can do to help you adapt in a new culture. Before trying to decide if something that is different is a matter of right and wrong and before criticizing the way things are done in another culture, take time to learn. Being quick to listen in this case means we try to learn about the culture, not try to change it to become like ours. This is especially important on a short-term trip. You are going to learn, not to change things. Especially as Americans we can easily project an attitude of superiority that is more ugly American than it is Christ-like. You will just be getting a taste of the culture. So embrace being a learner. Ask questions, seek to understand, try new things and be open to what your hosts and the Spirit are teaching you. Don't be quick to speak and criticize the way things are done. There is usually a good reason for the way things are done, and you may not have time in a week or two to gain the understanding of the culture to see it. Just try to learn what you can and trust the Spirit to lead you as you go.

For reflection:

1. How can I develop the attitude of a learner as I prepare for my trip?
2. How can I develop an attitude of flexibility in confronting cultural differences on my mission trip?

Larry Frick, Director of Medical Missions

Day 9: Preparing for Difficulties

Read James 1:2-4 and Psalm 91

Settling back in my seat, I prepared for the return flight home. I closed my eyes to reflect on the last eleven days in Peru and made a quick assessment of the trip. It was a hectic schedule as we jumped back and forth seven times between towns and major cities. We encountered numerous delays in travel with hours of waiting, dangerous mountain roads, sparse accommodations, and dealt with sick team members more than once. In the middle of recounting the difficulties my mind focused on the thirty-second encounter that made my 'suffering' worth it all. In a small mountain village God revealed Himself in a divine moment that continues to shape my faith.

A.T. Pierson, author of over fifty books, said it well; "Disappointments are God's appointments." Our human tendency toward difficulties is to recoil, and retreat. A more biblical response says that we should, "consider it all joy . . . when you encounter various trials" (James 1:2). In the heat of the moment, when plans fail and obstacles crop up, finding "joy" may be difficult. But if we prepare our minds and hearts before the storm, we will be better able to take our stand and see "God's appointments."

We begin by preparing our minds. Peter said to "gird your minds for action" (1 Peter 1:13). We should expect difficulties. Godly people faced difficulty. Paul gives a great summary of his difficulties in 2 Corinthians 11: 23-28.

Remember that difficulties build character (Romans 5:3), are temporary (1 Peter 1:6), show genuine faith (1 Peter 1:7), reveal God's power to rescue (1 Peter 2:9), and make us partners with Christ (1 Peter 4:13).

We also need to prepare our hearts. My life verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, starts, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Psalm 91 gives several things that we need to trust with "all our heart."

We are to trust:

- **God's Power and Providence** - which is His rule and control over all things. He is the "Most High" and the "All-mighty" (vs. 1).
- **God's Promises.** I count fifteen promises in this psalm alone.

- **God's Protection.** He is a "shelter", a "refuge", a "deliverer", a "shield and bulwark" and a "dwelling place."
- **God's Presence.** He will answer us when we call and be with us in trouble (vs. 15).
- And, **God's Purpose** to bring honor, long life, and salvation (vs. 16).

We should not be shocked, feel betrayed, or question God's faithfulness when we encounter problems. In this fallen world, stuff happens. And if we trust God, it happens for a spiritual purpose. Yes, "disappointments are God's appointments" when we prepare our minds and hearts to make His name great among all the Nations.

In that mountain village In Peru, there were over 450 people, who had traveled for miles/days to see the doctors. A drenching down pour began. As I ran up the hill to buy supplies, I stopped and turned around expecting the people to scatter. The people didn't move. God flooded my heart with an unworldly compassion, a feeling like I had never experienced. God revealed to me that this is the compassion that He has every day for the world. Without being exhausted, drenched, and feeling overwhelmed, standing on that mountain, I would never have been given God's glimpse through His eyes. It changed me.

For reflection:

1. How has God revealed Himself in your past difficulties or disappointments? Or, when did you perhaps miss His revelation?
2. What areas do you need to trust God with all your heart?

Bob Willis, Board of Directors

Day 10: Going as a Servant

Read John 13:5, 12-15

God has “chosen you” for this mission team and trip. You may have thought you decided to go for your own particular reasons, but God has chosen you for this team. What an amazing realization!

God is at work in your life in a special way. A normal person would have no interest in sacrificing several days of vacation time, being responsible to pay for a trip that you work on, into a country that is impoverished while living in very meager conditions. Be aware that the Spirit of God has drawn you and caused you to be interested in this trip and you will never be the same.

During your preparation for this trip and the days of your service God will be building a special bond in your heart for the team members that you will serve with. It is a work of the Holy Spirit, like a seamstress putting together the pieces of a quilt that become a great masterpiece. We can accomplish far more, repeat, far more, together, than we can individually. Commit yourself to being the most attentive, eager, humble and spiritually hungry servant on this team.

There is a spiritual covering that comes as you serve under the ministry of GO InterNational. I challenge you to submit to this authority. Treat your team leader as you would your pastor at your local church. If they ask you to do something that you may not understand or you feel is possibly a waste of time, remember, everything is done for a reason. Commit not to grumble, gripe, complain or become a burden to the team and the team leader. Your team leader has been on numerous trips and the instruction that they give you is for your own safety, protection and respect for the culture, pastor, church and community you will be serving in.

When delays come, along with changes of plans and unanticipated events, stop for a moment and look around to see what God is doing. Pray continually that God will give you eyes to see and ears to hear and recognize his work around you. Remember God is not on your calendar or your time clock and he’s more concerned about one’s soul coming to him than the team being on time.

For reflection: Pray this prayer.

I am an earthen vessel and I am here in a servant's role. I will serve in humility and gratitude for the opportunity to be here and will remember that the Holy Spirit calls for my love, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control in all things. I will lift other members of the team, missionaries, and leaders in prayer and ask for our Lord to strengthen them and reveal himself to them in new and wondrous ways. I will not overstate or overemphasize my role during these days by word or deed. In all things I will accept and be obedient to the authority and discipline under which I serve. I will give God the glory for anything and everything that occurs on this trip. I am only a servant but God can use me more powerfully in this role than in any other that I might choose. I am a member of this team and all during this time, I shall pray, not I, but Christ!

Ed Berry, Pastor, Henry Christian Church

Day 11: All Parts of One Body

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

As you prepare for your trip, consider that one of the most important things that will determine the success of your trip is the unity of your team. A unified team is more fun and more enriching for all of the members. A unified team is also a great testimony to the nationals we work with and minister to. You may not speak the language where you are going, but people are always watching you. When they see a team loving each other and working well together, it is a great demonstration for them of the power of Christ in our lives.

This passage gives us some direction to help us become a unified team. The first is to remember that each team member brings different skills, gifts and personality to the team, but each member is just as important as the other. A great example of this was the team working together in the pharmacy on a recent trip to Honduras. We had a nurse who knew the medicines well and had a heart for loving the people who came through but was feeling a bit overwhelmed with how to manage all of the patients and medications. We had a retired

school principal who was a whiz at organization. Together, they were able to come up with a system that used each of their gifts to compliment each other and lovingly and safely serve the people we saw.

We also see in this passage that we need to honor each other, especially if their gifts are different from ours. Someone who's gifting may seem insignificant to us or himself may actually end up being the most important person on the team in a certain situation. As we honor each other for the God-given gifts they bring to our team we build unity that honors God.

For reflection:

1. What gifts do I bring to the team that God can use for his glory?
2. How can I honor each person on our team, especially those who have different gifts than I have?

Larry Frick, Director of Medical Missions

Day 12: Get in the Back Seat

Read Luke 14:7-11

Have you ever noticed how we all long to be in the front seat, to be in the best seat of the house? It is just our nature to desire to be in control, but Jesus invites us to humble ourselves, to be the last of all and servants of all.

Hertz had a jingle several years ago that said, "**Let Hertz put you in the driver's seat today.**" When we read the Gospel of Luke, I see that Jesus had something to say about the best seat.

We feel important by being in the best seat in the house. When we attend a ball game, we desire courtside or 50-yard seats. But Jesus had more in mind than seating arrangements.

It is difficult to not be in control. If God is your co-pilot, change seats, hop in the back, and follow the Lord. I

remember the first time I was confronted with this when I was 9 years old and en route to a funeral with my mom and grandfather. I pleaded with my mother to let me ride in the front seat, but the last words she ever spoke to me were to **“stay in the back seat.”** Life changed dramatically that day. My mother and grandfather were killed as we spun out of control on a bridge on Highway 82—my life was spared because I was in the back seat. I have often thought back to that brief conversation with my mother and the impact it had on my life. Since that day, I have heard the Lord speak to me many times, “Remain in the back seat, Keith. It’s where you belong.”

The back seat position is one of dependence. When I allow Jesus to be in the front seat of my life, He is first, and I learn to put to death the flesh, surrendering to His heart. It is a daily battle to stay submitted as a Christ-follower. Today let’s put Jesus in the driver’s seat of our lives and yield to his leadership. He can be trusted and will take us where we need to go.

For reflection:

1. What keeps me from relinquishing control of my life to God?
2. When have I been aware of my dependence on God?

Keith Waldrop, Board of Directors

Day 13: It’s Not About You

“And he died for all that those who live should no longer live unto themselves but for him who died for them and rose again.”
2 Cor. 5:15

Call it the exchanged life. As Christians we have been transformed by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8) and our new life in Christ leads us to a new dimension of knowing and serving God. With Christ in our hearts “old things are passed away and all things have become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17) Where we were led by selfish impulses before we met Christ, now in Christ we find a new joy and love for God and others. As Jesus reminds us “if

you lose your life you will find it, but if you try to save your life you will lose it.”

Scripture reminds us that effective Christian service is discovering the focus of our lives is shifted from living for self and committing your life in service to God and to the world. Paul records his experience of the exchanged life in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified in Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” It really is not about me but about Christ living out his life in me and through me.

As we prepare to move to the mission field where God is leading us let’s remind ourselves that God will do his work through us. Our job is not to be self-conscious but to be Christ conscious. He wants our availability more than our ability. As we pray together as a team and go to serve others, let’s keep our focus on him throughout our trip. Our mission is to lift up the name of Jesus in all that we do. It is not about us, it is about him.

The apostle Paul reminds also in Philippians 2:3,4: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also in the interests of others.” This is the attitude Christ came to earth on his unique missionary voyage. His focus as he states in John 5:19 is not about him, “I only do what I see the father doing.” We too desire to do what we see Jesus doing, our focus is upon him and his purposes here on earth.

As you prepare for your missionary trip take inventory of your life. Does the life I am now living demonstrate a surrendered heart, a crucified heart – a heart that desires only to do the father’s will? We will find much more success on the mission field if we come together as a team seeking to serve others and looking out for their interests rather than our own. We all have room to grow in this area and it will be important to lay down our own interests and seek to serve together in unity. It is not about me, it is all about him.

For reflection:

1. Am I living in my strength or is Christ living through me?
2. What can I do to prepare my heart for service to others?

Larry Cochran, Past President and Director for Latin America

Day 14: I Can Do Anything with God

*"I can do anything with God"
Philippians 4:13*

Several years ago, an up-beat Christian song was released by *Planetshakers* entitled "Nothing is Impossible." In the lyrics, you will find these words:

Through You, I can do anything,
I can do all things,
'Cause it's You that gives me strength,
Nothing is Impossible

Those words ring true every time I think about a mission trip. I have had the wonderful opportunity to experience several mission trips in Latin America and South America, and each one has its own unique experience. I find it most important to enter into each day of your trip *expecting* God to show up in a new and mighty way. Just as one would expect a doctor to be prepared before he goes into surgery, or a lawyer to be prepared before he steps foot in the courtroom, so also should you be prepared, in prayer and meditation, that our Heavenly Father would show you His direction, favor and go before, paving the way for the ministry you have to share. Expect a miracle, expect unimaginable blessings, expect God to reveal himself in a new encounter during your trip. As Martha said to Jesus in John 11:22 after her brother, Lazarus, had been dead for four (4) days, "But I know *even now* God will give you whatever you ask." (NIV) She was coming with an expectant heart, believing that Jesus could bring her brother back to life. Likewise, we should come prepared to each trip, expecting and believing that God will show up in an awesome way. On mission trips with GO, I have seen people healed, had incredible opportunities by God opening doors we could have

never opened alone, and witnessed the most unlikely people come to know and accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Nothing is impossible with God.

Now, our ultimate mission, as stated in the words of Larry Cochran "... is to make Jesus look good." Re-read that last quote and truly think about it. In everything we do, whether at home or on a mission field, work or play, if we can keep these words at the forefront of our minds, what a difference you can make. This includes having a servant heart, being "flexible as fluid" when the itinerary changes, and willing to show God's love to everyone (even at the airport security line).

As you prepare for your trip, be in prayer that the Lord will fill you with a positive attitude to step outside your comfort zone, be willing to share, in words or in song, of how God has changed your life for the better. Just as God believed in Gideon, that he was a mighty warrior though still a coward, I believe in you and that God can shape and forever change your life so that you can become everything He created you to be. Be prepared and open for an Ephesians 3:20 blessing as "God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!" (MSG)

For reflection:

1. Have you ever *expected* God to show up at church, an event, revival, mission trip?
2. How can you take your life experience, share it with others and "make Jesus look good?"

Andy Tucker, Team Leader

Preparation: Culture

Cultural Orientation

Culture is the sum total of knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviors shared and transmitted by members of a particular group/society. Another simple definition is an integrated system of values, beliefs and learned behavior that is shared and transmitted.

Cross-cultural simply means that we leave the behaviors and attitudes that are familiar to us and go into a culture with new behaviors and attitudes that are unfamiliar. (clothing, music, food, customs etc.)

- #1 Rule in missions BE FLEXIBLE
- #2 Rule in missions BE PATIENT
- #3 Rule in missions BE READY (prepared & on time)
- #4 Rule in missions BE WILLING (to do ANYTHING)

-- LEARN TO EXPECT the UNEXPECTED. BE FLEXIBLE!

-- Never leave your personal valuables unattended during this trip. (Even on the bus or at the ministry site.)

-- Most things in other cultures are not right or wrong, just different.

-- When we go to another culture, we are the strange ones. We are the ones with the unusual perspectives, the funny accents and the weird clothing. It is important to remember that we are guests in another person's world. We must respect these other people by not criticizing or laughing at them.

--Watch your language. Remember that when you are in a foreign, non-English speaking country, people around you may understand much of what you are saying. If you say critical things in English to a team member and the national hears you, it can destroy your witness.

--In most countries water is a precious commodity. Please be conservative in the use of water on this trip, especially when

taking showers.

-- When you are served a meal in a home, please eat all that is given to you. The food you receive has been prepared with great sacrifice and love and you may offend your host if you reject the food. If you are eating out, or at a guesthouse, you do not have to eat everything that is prepared for you at meals. However, if you know that you will not like something do not put this food on your plate. If you are not sure, just take a little bit to see if you like it or not.

-- Always greet people with a smile and if you have learned a few phrases of their language, use them.

--There are certain places and with certain people where picture taking is not appropriate. Please be sensitive and take the time to ask if it is OK to take a photo.

-- You will encounter many situations to which you are not accustomed. Always think of the people to whom you are going to minister. Don't complain about conditions, food, travel and so on. Smile and be cheerful and loving, regardless of the circumstances.

--There may be rules and standards on this trip that you do not agree with or understand in the moment--but GO is striving to be culturally sensitive and not undermine our witness for God in the culture. In some cases, an explanation for the word "NO" will not be given until a later time.

--There will be occasions where you may be asked to pray aloud. If you do not feel comfortable with this, just let the Team Leader know. You will not be called upon if you don't feel comfortable.

Cross-Cultural Insights

By Bryan Williams

Our Ministry Philosophy

In this section, we will give you a brief introduction to the team ministry philosophy of Go InterNational. Our hope is that you will be able to see the big picture of who we are as an organization and understand the purpose of the ministry in which your team will be involved. The impact of your ministry will be much larger than you could imagine.

Depending on where you go in the world, there are various types of projects with which your team may be involved. You might be involved in medical projects; you might hold a Vacation Bible School as one of your projects. Your team may do construction, church planting, or evangelism...you may even be involved in all of these things. Our commitment is that you will be involved in a strategic ministry project. However, we want you to know that the primary focus of GO InterNational is building the kingdom of God through building people. The tasks and the ministry projects we do are important, but people and relationships are of primary importance because people are eternal.

The importance of relationship was driven home to me on one of my GO InterNational team experiences while I was still in college. Our team traveled to Mexico over Christmas break to do evangelism and church planting. However, right after we landed in Juarez, a snowstorm hit dropping three inches of snow - a big event for Juarez. The snow effectively ground the city to a halt as well as everything we were supposed to do. So we spent the first few days studying the Bible, praying and trying to discern what we should do since the snow had changed the plans. Once the snow melted, we were able to dive into a few ministry projects and we were all glad with what God had provided. However, at the end of the trip, I was a little worried and wondered, "What happened here? I had a great time, but has our team really been able to make any type of impact for the Kingdom?" Due to the slower pace, we had gotten to know the Mexican brothers and sisters that we were working with pretty well. I enjoyed that immensely, but I kept

wondering if that was enough.

During our debriefing, GO's ministry partner, Jorge, helped me put everything in perspective. He shared his observations of many of the short-term teams that came to Mexico. He said, "Teams come from many organizations to Mexico. Most teams come and focus on their ministry projects. Then when they leave, they rejoice that they have completed their project, saying, 'Look at all we've been able to do for God's glory.' They have done wonderful things. However, there is one problem with their project focus. The Mexican brothers and sisters in the churches they helped ask themselves, 'Well, what about us? You've come. You've invested. You've done these things, but you've never gotten to know us. You haven't invested in us. You haven't built us up. We haven't been able to invest in you.' That's why relationships with members of short-term mission teams are so important to those of us who host teams." Mutuality. This is what we want you to be a part of - mutual investment. You will be able to invest in the national brothers and sisters you will minister alongside and they will be able to invest in you. Mutual investment is our philosophy of ministry, and building relationships is your most important ministry. This booklet is designed to help you accomplish this most important goal by giving you the skills you need to build relationships across cultures.

Understanding Cultural Differences

In this section, we discuss culture and how different cultures see the same event differently. If you understand these differences, you will not be taken aback when you experience differences in culture as you build relationships with your hosts.

Let's start with a definition of culture. Culture is like a set of lenses or glasses through which we view the world. Culture gives our world meaning; it helps us understand and makes sense of the world around us. In many ways, our culture is like a set of glasses that we wear without being aware that we even have them on. Why is this? Because we acquire our cultural lenses as we grow up. We learn our culture from our parents, from our teachers at school, and from simply living in the place where we live. We learn our culture by osmosis; we

simply live in it.

While you are living in and learning your culture, your new friends from the country where you will serve have been living in and learning their own culture. Practically, this means that you have one set of lenses for viewing the world and your new friend has another. You can imagine this as if you had a set of blue lenses which gives everything a blue hue and your friend has a set of green ones. You will see the same event, but with different shades of meaning.

Let me illustrate what I'm talking about. When we lived in East Asia, we lived in a large city. This meant I had to take our dog for walks. While I was out walking the dog, strangers would always come up and greet me. As soon as the initial pleasantries were finished, inevitably, my new friend would say, "Your dog is so beautiful. How much did you pay for him? I bet he's really expensive. Wait, you're American, aren't you? You probably have a lot of money. What's your salary? Do you make a lot more than people do here in China?" I want to pause right here. As an American, the first few times I experienced this scenario, I was very shocked. Why would somebody I don't know come up and ask me about how much my dog cost? Why would he ask me about my salary? I don't know this person. What's going on? Why are they doing this? How rude! My initial reaction to these encounters was framed by the previous questions. The thing is, I'm looking at that situation through a set of my American cultural lenses, seeing the scene through a blue tint. As an American, a stranger who asks these kinds of personal questions is being very rude according to the rules of courtesy in our culture.

Now, let me switch to the East Asian green lenses. An East Asian sees a foreigner and desires to be a good host so they choose to introduce themselves and to greet me. They pay very high compliments to me as a foreigner by saying that one, my dog is beautiful, and two, that he is expensive. This 'personal' question is actually a way of paying a high compliment to someone. It is a way of being interested in them. If I were to ever give them an approximate cost of my dog, they would take the compliment a step further. If the price seemed good, they would say, "Oh, yeah, you got a great deal!" as a way of

complimenting my price negotiation skills. If the price seemed high, my Asian friends would often say, "You paid too much for that. You should've gone to the other pet store." They were trying to be helpful and wanting to make sure I wasn't taken advantage of in the future. They were trying to be great hosts.

As an East Asian, through East Asian cultural lenses, it makes complete sense that you would compliment a foreigner in this way. As an American, it seems to make no sense at all. Now, we want you to understand that every person has a culture. You have one culture and the people that you are going to be serving alongside have one culture. Each culture sees the world through different lenses. The same event will happen, but you and your new friend may understand it in two different ways.

In order for you to be able to serve effectively on your team, you must understand the culture of the place that you're going to minister and you must understand your own culture. You must begin to understand how your cultural lenses shape the way you see the world and understand what is happening around you. Understanding cultural differences will keep you from making wrong assumptions about why things are happening the way they are. We want to equip you to respond well to cultural differences so that you are able to build solid friendships with your new friends who come from a different culture.

In a future section we will talk about culture shock. However, this is the crux of culture shock. What is happening around you is different than what you have come to expect in your culture. So things seem weird and even wrong. You will experience culture shock...the question is, how will you respond?

Openness and Humility

You will find that crossing cultures requires openness and humility if you are to build relationships and minister effectively. That's what we want to talk about in this next section.

You are about to embark on a great adventure. You are about to embark on something that will change your life. You are

going to be able to step in and see the world through different eyes. At first that may make you very, very uncomfortable. In fact, the first time you experience cultural differences it will be common for you to have this deep, angry reaction in your gut (not in your mind, not in your heart), and deep within you will have a sense of fear and discomfort. You will feel the disorientation, but you do not know what is going on inside of you or why you feel it. This feeling of disorientation is a normal reaction. This feeling of being disoriented is culture shock.

The crucial question becomes, how will you respond when you experience culture shock? People see the world in different ways. Take greetings as an example. Depending on where you are in the world, the way you will be greeted when you enter into a church building will be different. In some parts of the world, you will enter a church and immediately be greeted in a very simple way, perhaps with a handshake or a nod. Other times, the appropriate greeting will be a huge bear hug, or for women it will be a kiss on either cheek. Immediately, some people will be very uncomfortable by how the greeting compares with similar greetings in their home culture. As you go to take your seat, you may notice the men sitting on one side of the church and the women on the other. Some people will feel very taken aback by the seating arrangements but not totally understand why. Others will have a hard time knowing if they should divide the team along gender lines to sit or should keep the team together. They will feel really disoriented.

In order to be able to step into these types of situations effectively, we must be open and willing to learn. We always need to be asking questions as we observe and experience new things. In the case of greetings, you will want to ask the following questions: What's being communicated by this greeting? What are they wanting to say? What are they offering me when they greet me in this way? You will also need to be humble. You will need to admit that these greetings are really different. Often the first reaction will be to compare it with your culture and be tempted to say, "That's not right!" As Christians, the temptation is to view these differences and jump to the conclusion that the new way is not Biblical, while our way is. This comparison, and even judgment, is a normal response when experiencing something new.

However, when encountering the new, we need to pause, take a step back, and think humbly. We have to ask ourselves, "What's being communicated? How do I understand what is happening here?" We need to be willing to ask questions. We need to be willing to be flexible. We need to be willing to suspend judgment until we have been able to learn and discern what is really happening. We must recognize how our cultural lenses impact our understanding.

Most differences that you're going to encounter on your trip won't fall into the category of morally right and wrong. Almost none of them will. But they will make you really uncomfortable from time to time. The skill we must all develop when crossing cultures is that of seeing the world in a 'both/and' way instead of an 'either/or' way. The temptation we face is to see cultures through an 'either/or' lens - either my way is right or their way is right...and since ours is familiar, ours is right and theirs is wrong. This type of thinking can actually impede what God wants to do in us. We need to develop a 'both/and' way of looking at things - the ways are different, but they are both ok. This mindset opens our eyes to see the world, and God's work in the world, from a new perspective. Again, most differences you observe will not be a choice between what is morally right or wrong. They are just different ways of viewing the world.

Now, let me give you a tip. I have a friend who, while leading teams, would always have people wear rubber bands on their wrists as a tangible reminder of two things. First, we need to be flexible. The schedule is not going to work out, the accommodations will not be exactly right, and the food is going to be different. You must be willing to bend and flex, because God is going to put you in situations where you need to be stretched. He's going to do things in you during this trip by stretching you, by stepping you out of what's normal and comfortable, and by causing you to have to rely on Him. And so, when my friend Steve would lead teams, it was a reminder. Be flexible. Let God stretch you. Step out of what's normal and comfortable. Be willing to serve in new ways.

Second, the rubber band on the wrist also served as a reminder for the other people on the team. If someone on the team was

unwilling to be flexible, one of their teammates would reach over and gently snap the rubber band on that person's wrist. Pop. A little snap as a reminder. This little act of love gives a little jar and is a polite way to say, "In this situation, you are really inflexible. You are not being open or humble. You are closing yourself off and missing what God wants to show you."

We want to help you develop openness and humility so that you allow God to stretch you, to move you, to take you into new areas of trusting Him, to take you beyond what you can imagine. God uses cultural differences to do this very thing.

God will teach you deep lessons about who He is by allowing you to see how people in other cultures see and experience Him. The worship experiences will be different than what you are used to, but God will use the differences to speak to you. One of the GO staff members experienced this type of stretching during his first mission team. The worship experience in that part of South America was so different that he didn't know what to do the first time he experienced it. We were going to church every night so he could not avoid the differences. But these differences made him really uncomfortable, and he was tempted just to withdraw and be done. But he didn't do that. He asked questions. He asked people on the team to pray for him. He moved through differences by letting God stretch him, and God met him in a powerful way. His life was changed.

I am where I am today because of a trip I took with Go InterNational when I was in high school. Larry Cochran encouraged me to go with him to Brazil. I'd never been on a trip and thought it would be a great experience. When we arrived in Brazil, the worship services were really different than what I was used to. I remember one worship service in particular. The worship music had been so rich and God's presence so real. As Larry made his way to the platform to preach, a palpable sense of God's presence suddenly descended in the sanctuary. The Brazilian people, who were so humble, flooded the altar and began to pray and cry out to God for their city and for those who didn't yet know him. Larry didn't preach. Our whole team just stood back in awe, watching what God was doing around us. And I remember thinking in

that moment, "God, you actually speak Portuguese." Now, it sounds like a stupid thing for somebody to say, but that was a big revelation for me. I knew this truth in my heart now, not just in my head. My vision of God expanded greatly that night. I also began to realize something else. I remember thinking, "God, these people have an experience of You that I don't yet have, and I want that. I want to know You like they do." This experience in Brazil has been foundational in my life and one of the experiences that God constantly leads me back to.

God has much to teach us as we humble ourselves to see Him and the world through the eyes of our friends. We have much to receive from them as well as much to teach. In order to see all God wants us to see, we must listen to and learn from our new friends. There will be differences. We will experience culture shock. When we experience the discomfort of culture shock, we can either respond positively with openness and humility, allowing our relationships to deepen, or we will respond with anger by withdrawing from our new friends because of the differences. These choices will break the relationships we have been building and close us off to what God is saying to us. Our goal is to help you do the former, to respond with openness and humility, and ultimately to serve effectively during your team experience.

Evaluating Cultures

At this point, we want to give you tools for understanding and evaluating culture-both your culture and the culture of the country where you will travel. Cultures can actually be evaluated along a continuum or sliding scale. We can take two opposing values and place them on either end of a sliding scale and then plot where a particular culture's values fall on that scale. We can see to what degree one value or the other affects a culture. This is a simple way to compare and contrast cultures and to identify points where culture shock is likely to occur. If the host culture tends toward one end of the scale and my culture tends toward the other side of the scale, then I can reasonably expect to encounter culture shock in that area.

No culture is going to be fully oriented toward Value 1, and no

culture is going to be oriented toward the opposing side, Value 2. Somewhere along this continuum you will be able to plot a culture.

The continuum looks like this:

Value 1 _____ Value 2

Here is a specific example. Time.

Time _____ Event

Time orientation can be used as a window into a culture. Do time and punctuality play a large role in a culture? Do people's lives revolve around a specific time or are they more oriented toward general periods of the day? What is the time after which it is considered rude when a person is late for a meeting? The answer to the first two questions will tell you if you are in a time-oriented culture or not. The answer to the third question will tell you how far on the time-oriented side of the scale you would plot a culture. The shorter the time before it is considered rude, the farther to the time side you would evaluate the culture in question.

As Americans, we tend to be very time-focused and time-oriented (we will discuss this more in a future session). Now, time orientation is not the defining characteristic of American culture, but it is an important factor in evaluating how Americans view the world. We use time as a way to organize our lives and prioritize events. Punctuality is a general expectation for a polite American. One can generally say, "Americans are time oriented."

At this point, we need to mention that individuals within a culture may act differently than the culture as a whole. Even though American culture is time-oriented, there are Americans among us who are not time-oriented and who prioritize their actions and events in other ways. They may be habitually late for meetings or may not plan their schedule as far ahead as most Americans do. Think about yourself. Are you as time oriented as the overall culture? Therefore as we plot culture, we have to think about three different things: myself, my

culture, and the host culture.

Now, why is this important? Culture shock happens when we experience differences. We expect things to be like what we're used to. Even though we know in our head that things will be different in the host culture, in our feelings and experience, we expect to go to a different country and have things work the same. We expect others to behave the same way we do. Anthropologists call it ethnocentricity. It's simply part of being human. When we arrive in another country and for the first time feel these differences, we're shocked, and we don't know what to do. The way we've understood the world up to that point is completely different than what we experience now. The feelings of embarrassment, frustration, anger, or fear flow out of the fact that we have to relearn how to see the world. If you know these differences are coming, you can understand what is happening when you feel them. You can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to look beyond your shock and step into another's way of viewing the world. The step beyond yourself is key to building friendships across cultural differences.

We're introducing this method to you to help you as you build friendships. By using this simple method, you can begin to understand yourself, your culture, and the culture that you're traveling to. This will help you understand your new friend better and help you understand what to do when differences arise. By having this frame of reference, you have a way of understanding cultural differences and preparing yourself for the feelings of disorientation that you will have. So when these feelings of shock arise, you can think back and say, "OK, what just happened? Why am I feeling shocked? I've made some kind of an observation that I am not yet fully aware of that is affecting the way I feel right now."

And then you have a choice as to how you can respond. You can respond with openness and humility and let God use this disorientation as a way to teach and grow you. Or you can respond with fear, frustration and anger, which has negative consequences for you and for the relationship you are building with your new friend. When you respond negatively, you will often lash out and then withdraw. Responding negatively will hurt your friend, whether they show it outwardly or not.

Responding negatively through withdrawal will also cut you off from what God wants to do in your life.

We will all feel culture shock, whether this is your first trip or your twentieth. It's part of being human. The crucial question we must continually ask is, "How will I respond?" because your response will help or hurt the relationships you are building.

Time and Event Cultures

Now we're going to discuss the differences between a time culture and an event culture and give you opportunity to evaluate culture along this continuum.

Let's begin with this scenario: you are on your way out the door to a meeting and friends stop by. What do you do? Do you stay and visit with your friends so that you are late to the meeting or do you warmly acknowledge your friends and tell them, "I'm really sorry. I would really love to chat, but I have to go to a meeting. When would be a good time for me to call you or stop by?"

If you're late to a meeting you're probably more of an event-oriented person or you live in a more event-oriented culture. If you tell the person "I have a meeting that starts in fifteen minutes, I would love to talk; but I just really don't have time right now. When is a good time to call or visit you?", you belong to a more time-oriented culture or have a more time-oriented outlook.

Now, let me give you a couple examples. When we worked with international students, we would have students over for dinner quite often. We would always invite students from multiple countries - Korea, China, India, and the Middle East - and we would eat all together. We learned very quickly that if there were any East Asians invited, everything needed to be ready five to ten minutes before dinner was scheduled to start because East Asian students would come early. If dinner started at 7:30, they would arrive at our house at 7:20, nervously waiting outside, unsure of whether they should come in or not. Now our Indian friends were totally different. If

dinner started at 7:30, we never expected them until 8:15 at the earliest. We just always saved food for them, knowing that they would show up 45 minutes late. This had nothing to do with their relationship with us; they were some of our best friends. This had everything to do with culture. They were not time-oriented; they were event-oriented. They would be part of the event. Indian culture works from a different time orientation.

As Americans, we tend to be time-oriented. So if we understand our time orientation on the continuum or sliding scale, we would mark American culture closer to time because that tends to be more of a governing factor for us. If a meeting's going to start on time at 2:00, we're going to start at 2:00. In fact, we expect people to be at the meeting location at 1:58, seated, so that the meeting is ready to start at 2:00. This tends to be the way we work as a culture.

American culture would be plotted like this:

Time _____ X _____ Event

Now, I want to share a great example of an event-oriented culture, and one that will have particular relevance for your team. When my wife and I lived in South America, every week during the service one of the church leaders would stand up and say, "Our church services start at 7:30. We start them at 7:30, we need you to be here at 7:30." However, no one was ever there at 7:30, and services never started at 7:30. The pastor was never there at 7:30. Normally, this is what would happen: 7:30 would come and go, and no one would be at church. About 7:45, the worship team would show up and the music would start. When the music started, everyone understood that as an announcement to the entire community that church is going to start. And everybody would come trickling in. Worship services would start somewhere around 8:00 with everybody there, really ready to begin. Now what we have in that is an example of an event culture. (And it took us a few times of showing up at 7:30 to a locked church to really observe and understand what was happening.)

On our scale, the church in South America would be plotted

toward the event-oriented side of the continuum. This culture was a moderate event-oriented culture. It started about 45 minutes late. A high event-oriented culture can start events 3-4 hours later than the stated time.

Time_____X_____Event

Many of the places that you will go in the world will be more event-oriented. The event will start when the most important people are there, and the most important thing is not the time when it starts, but the event - being part of the event. Time is not the governing factor for the event. There is another criteria. In fact, what good would it be to start the event without the most important people there?

So, let me clue you in on something. For many Americans, experiencing life in an event-oriented way will be a struggle. If a ride says that you're going to be picked up at 2:00, don't expect it to be 2:00. Just understand you are probably dealing with an event culture and you need to show some grace. And you need to understand that at 2:00 or 2:05, if the ride isn't there, there will be this gnawing in your stomach. You will likely have questions about the trustworthiness of your national contact rolling in your mind. Simply stop and realize you are experiencing a cultural difference, and that's why you feel this way. Just understand what is happening, show grace, and respond positively.

When leading a team, I will ask the team members to take their watch off and stick it in their pocket for the whole trip. I ask them not to pay attention to time and to try out what it would be like to be part of an event-oriented culture. As a team leader, I have a watch. I will keep everybody on time, but this gives the team members a chance to experience event orientation and to see the world through different eyes.

Look at the continuum below. The basic cultural orientation for Central and South America has been plotted for you. Now it's your chance to evaluate cultures. Take a minute and make two marks: one for you and one for American culture.

Central/South America

Time_____X_____ Event

Task and Relationship Cultures

In this section, we will discuss the difference between task-focused cultures and relationship-focused cultures. Task cultures are cultures that value getting things done. They want to achieve projects, they want to knock stuff off their to-do list. The tasks are important.

Relationship cultures are cultures that value the relationships that are made along the way. They will get things done, but more important for them is building friendship and trust along the way. Neither one is right or wrong. They are just two different ways of looking at the world.

This is the task - relationship continuum:

Task_____ Relationship

Here is an example. On a GO team I led in Venezuela, our task for the week was putting the roof on a church building. The team hoped to be able to put the entire roof on the building by the end of the week. When we arrived, the materials were there and everyone was antsy to get started. The first day on the job, everybody ate breakfast quickly and hurried to the roof. We were up on the roof and it was hot. We had been working for maybe an hour when our Venezuelan hosts came out with hot coffee and snacks to call a break. Everyone climbed down off the roof of the church, and we stood around and talked. Five minutes became 10; 10 became 20; 20 became 40; 45 minutes later, we got back to work.

We worked for another two hours and then there was another break. And then there was lunch. And then there was rest. And then in the afternoon, there was another break again. The first day, people handled it really well. By day three, a lot of the Americans had this question in their mind, "Are we going to get the task done?"

Now, the team members were task-oriented people. Our

Venezuelan hosts were relationship-focused. They wanted to get to know the team members. They wanted to be able to minister to us. They wanted to be able to serve us. The team members had come from so far away to love them and serve them by trying to put a roof on their church that they wanted to reciprocate. They wanted to get the task done, but the task was secondary to the relationship. They really wanted to build relationships with and serve the team members who had come.

This is how the task vs. relationship dynamic plays out. I bet this dynamic will play out in a similar way on your trip. As Americans, we tend to be task-oriented people. We like getting things done. And we will want to evaluate our trip based on how much we have gotten done. Most of the rest of the world tends to value the relationships that are built along the way.

Look at the continuum below. The basic cultural orientation for Central and South America has been plotted for you. Take a moment to plot yourself and American culture.

Central/South America

Task_____X_____ Relationship

Now, as you look at what you have just plotted, notice the differences and the potential for culture shock.

Direct and Indirect Cultures

This section will discuss the difference between direct cultures and indirect cultures. Direct cultures are cultures that value frank, direct communication. You just tell the truth. You say what you mean, and you mean what you say. Indirect cultures are cultures that place a very high value on relationships. And because of their value on relationships, they do not want to say 'no' directly because it might shame you; it might break the relationship. Indirect cultures will find ways to say 'no' without explicitly telling you 'no.' They're going to communicate the information in ways that aren't necessarily straight and to the point. They will use the context or their body language to send you the signal that they are telling you no. Let me give you a couple of examples. We worked with international

students before we moved to China and often hosted people for dinner at our house. We would invite 30 students to our house saying, "Come on over. Let's talk. You can practice your English. We'll play games and have fun." If we asked 30 students, 30 students would say yes. Fifteen would come. And at first, we were confused, "Why don't they just tell the truth? What's going on here?" It took us a little bit to understand what was happening. Because they valued us as people and our relationship with them, they didn't really want to tell us, "No, we're not going to come," because they were afraid we would not invite them again in the future. They did not want to damage our relationship. So the students would verbally tell us 'yes,' but they would give us clues that were obvious to them that they were actually saying 'no.' This is how indirect cultures work. But since we were from a direct culture, we were not picking up on the clues they were giving us to say they probably wouldn't show up that night.

In Peru, people often tell a story to communicate. If there was something they wanted me to learn, they would not directly tell me, "This is what I want you to know..." They would tell a story and expect me to understand. If they wanted me to know that missionaries must be open and humble, they would tell a seemingly random story about a missionary who was neither open nor humble and all the problems this person caused. At first I would think, "Why are they telling me this story? It doesn't make sense." Later I realized they wanted me to do the opposite of what this person did. And it caused me to reflect, "Is there something I am doing that is making them think I am neither open nor humble? Is there something I need to learn here?"

This is the way direct and indirect cultures communicate. You can see how this would create culture shock. People from direct cultures will look at people from indirect cultures and think, "Why don't they just tell the truth?" And people from indirect cultures look at direct people from direct cultures and think, "Why are they so dense? Don't they understand what I'm trying to tell them through this story?"

Look at the continuum below. The basic cultural orientation for

Central and South America has been plotted for you. Take a minute and plot on the continuum where you fall, where American culture falls, and where you think the host culture falls. Do you see potential for misunderstanding?

Central/South America

Direct_____X_____Indirect

If you have questions about whether the culture you're going to may be more of a direct culture or an indirect culture, feel free to contact your team leader. You can also consult the recommended reading list in this book.

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." — Jim Elliot

***"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."
- John Keith Falconer***

While You're There

Travel and Safety Tips

- Keep a black or blue pen with you as you travel to use filling out documents. You are NOT allowed to use other colored pens or pencils.
- Keep the local address of our National partner WITH YOU on the plane. You will need it as you are filling out documents to go through customs.
- Take nothing on a mission trip that is of priceless value to you. It is best to take items that you would consider giving away or not feel bad about if they were lost or stolen.
- Do not take expensive jewelry or wear an excessive amount of jewelry on your trip.
- Always keep close tabs on your passport throughout the trip. If possible, we will collect passports once in country and place them in a safe. This helps avoid theft and complications. Keep a copy of your passport in a safe place away from your original.
- Never wander off from the group by yourself. Travel in small groups and only after you have communicated with your team leader
- The money that you take with you should be in small denominations. When you go shopping or when you go to purchase something all your money should not be in one spot. Only pull out small amounts of cash at one time and Don't Flash Your Money!
- In many areas, septic systems are not designed to handle toilet paper. If there is a waste receptacle next to the toilet, this is generally a clue that toilet paper is to be thrown away, not flushed.
- Remember whatever you buy- you are responsible to bring home.
- Keep all food items and liquid containers in Zip Lock Bags.
- Plan to keep a journal on the trip. Not only to make note of activities on the trip, but also for what the Lord teaches you.

Tips for Trainers for those teaching in conferences or preaching

The following are some suggestions to make your presentations more successful when working through a translator.

1. Never assume a level of understanding as you prepare for your seminar. Less than one percent of the world's pastors have any formal theological training and most people have little education. The focus of GO InterNational is to invest as much of our time and resources as possible in training the untrained. For many of these pastors, even the basics are very new. There are also some who have more than a basic knowledge, but would be very interested in being challenged from your perspective and hearing how you treat certain subjects.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your topic selection as well as your preparation.
3. When you have an opportunity to speak, a session will generally be 40 minutes to an hour. Remember that includes your content being translated. If you get a chance to preach a sermon in a church, you should plan on about the same.
4. In many of the countries where we will be traveling, "experience" is a greater value than "education." The pastors have very limited exposure to in depth teaching. It is essential to give substance in your outlines.
5. Jesus is a very common name in Latin America; therefore, always refer to the Son of God in your presentations as "Jesus Christ."
6. Remember that you will be speaking through an interpreter. Don't forget to think and speak and stop after SHORT PHRASES, otherwise it will be too difficult for your interpreter to keep up with you. On the other hand, try not to break in mid thought.

7. Even though you are working through a translator, it is still important for you to use a microphone during your presentation if one is available. It is important for them to hear your voice and tone as well as the words that are being interpreted. If your voice is heard, it helps hold their attention. If there is only one microphone, let your translator use it.
8. Always stand a little behind your translator so that they can hear you clearly. If you get in front of them, it is difficult for them to hear you and consequently more difficult to translate.
9. We suggest that you get with your interpreter before your seminar to let them know what text you will be using and give them a general direction of your talk. It is also helpful for you to ask them if any key words or concepts that you are using throughout your talk translate well in that culture. The more you get to know your translator, the better your experience will be.
10. Find out from your translator what they are comfortable with in terms of speed and length of sentences. The more you work with your translator you will discover how fast you will be able to communicate.
11. It is advisable to meet with your translator after your first few sessions to see if they have any suggestions on how you can improve the communication process. Check to see if there are any adjustments that can be made to improve the impact of the session. Ask them for some honest feedback and advice.
12. Don't let your interpreter throw you. Occasionally you will say something that either they didn't understand or doesn't translate well. Just take a moment and explain it to your interpreter or choose another word or expression and then move ahead. It may seem awkward for a moment, but it is not.

13. If you can provide us with a short bio so that we can present you to the Pastors before you speak that first time—it will be very helpful.
14. When it is your turn to speak, give a greeting AND THEN GET STARTED. It is common for speakers to spend so much time in the greeting stage that they don't get to the content of their session.
15. The best illustrations are Biblical illustrations. The pastors attending the conference can relate well to the Bible. They often have difficulty identifying with our American illustrations and experiences. Personal illustrations from your own life can be very appropriate and powerful.
16. When selecting your topics for presentation, stick to the main tenants of the faith. Avoid controversial subjects that promote conflict. (I Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9)
17. In your planning, it is better to spread out your content into two or three sessions than to try to cram too much into one session.
18. Avoid the use of colloquialisms and other expressions that would not translate well in other cultures (example: "it's a no brainer"). If you happen to use one, you will know it by the look on your translator's face. When one slips, just use another word or phrase and MOVE ON.
19. Avoid the use of alliteration and acrostics in your outlines. They do not translate the same. You don't have to be as creative in your point making when speaking in another culture. Just present the point and back it up.
20. Avoid the use of references to how great your country is. Avoid the use of political statements in your presentations.
21. Don't use a lot of references to large or mega churches in the U.S.A. They have no point of reference to understand those types of illustrations.

22. Be careful in using a lot of statistics – they don't always translate.
23. It is a good practice anytime you are sharing a verse of scripture or longer passage to ask someone in the audience to stand and read the passage out loud. There is no point reading it in English and then having someone read it again in another language. Just ask for a volunteer to look it up and read it. It is a real highlight for these pastors to stand and read the Word of God.
24. Keep your outlines very simple and practical. It is our goal after a GO InterNational pastors' conference that the pastors who attend not only feel encouraged and equipped but will go home with some very practical material that they can in turn pass along and use with the people in their congregation.
25. Point out your points. If you have seven points in your outline, make sure that you say #1, #2, etc., as you go through your presentation. (Repeat your points.)
26. If you are preparing a written outline (which would need to be translated in advance and run off), it is good to use a fill-in-the-blank format. It keeps them engaged throughout your presentation. Handouts are helpful.
27. Visuals can be vital to your presentation. They can improve the impact of understanding.
28. Keep TIME in mind as you prepare your seminars. If you have a 30 minute message, it will be double that when you take the time to translate it. Make sure that you have plenty of information to fill up your time but be flexible enough to adapt the talk so that the conference can stay on schedule.
29. While time and the schedule are very important, remember to remain flexible—things will probably not go as planned.

30. Remember when you get to the “application” portion of your presentation to make the application to their culture—not yours.
31. Pastors around the world love to ask questions. It will be helpful to them if you leave a little bit of time at the end of your presentation to ask for questions or clarification about your presentation.
32. Yes, they love to ask questions which can be loaded. Keep your answers to the Word of God. Avoid giving your personal opinion. If at all possible, try to find out cultural norms before you answer the questions.
33. You will more than likely be participating in this conference with other trainers who have extended experience in cross-cultural communication. Study their methods and pick up additional tips from watching them work in action.
34. Keep the energy level and enthusiasm level high throughout your presentation. Your passion will pour over through your interpreter and into the pastors. Keep your presentation moving.
35. Relax and enjoy yourself. Have some fun with your seminar. The use of appropriate humor is acceptable. If making fun of something—make fun of yourself.
36. As you study the ministry of the Apostle Paul, he traveled from place to place “strengthening and encouraging the disciples.” That is one of our goals for the conference you will be participating in. Take time in your presentation to pray for these pastors and encourage them in the struggles that they face daily.
37. One of the greatest gifts that we can give these pastors is good Biblical content, so let’s take some extra time to make sure that it is the best gift that we can offer.
38. Don’t forget to totally depend on and trust the Holy Spirit in this process. Seek His guidance as you study and prepare

and then speak under His power and influence as you make your presentation.

39. Don't be afraid to challenge these pastors to a deeper spiritual experience and to call them to commitment. Feel free to close your presentation however you feel led, but it is appropriate to give an invitation or have a time of ministry after your presentation.
40. When I'm speaking at a church or conference in another country, I generally preach and then turn it over to the local pastor in charge to let them carry out the invitation to completion. It seems to work more smoothly when the altar time is in their mother tongue and not being translated.
41. Meal times—make a purpose to be with the people at the conference—not just with your own people. If you connect with people in private—you have a greater opportunity to connect with people from the pulpit.
42. Story telling works in all cultures. Read the reactions of the people that you are speaking to. Advance or adjust based on what you are seeing.

Please be prepared to preach or change directions on short notice. We have found that it is best to be prepared for all types of opportunities and then be flexible with the schedule. It will certainly change.

Guidelines for Photography Social Media Use

Adapted and expanded from Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (Moody Publishers).

1. Give Yourself Boundaries

When we enter another community, we need to set boundaries to help us remember that we are guests. The stories we hear and the scenes we see aren't ours to share with the rest of the world by default. We have to respect the dignity and privacy of the people we encounter. That means we should operate deliberately and willingly by a different set of rules in our photography and social media than we use at home.

2. Respect Your Hosts

Ask your team leader about your hosts' preferences and policies for social media and photography. Some hosts may ask you to refrain from all social media use while others may request that you don't post or photograph certain events. In particular, hosts in closed countries or areas experiencing hostility toward Christians may request that you don't post or photograph anything at all. Submit to whatever guidelines and policies they provide.

3. Avoid Spectacle Mode

When entering low-income communities, if not careful, our use of photography and social media can be exploitive. We can unintentionally act as tourists, capturing and consuming the materially poor's images and stories as if they were a show to be observed. This dynamic dishonors the image of God in low-income people, and can contribute to feelings of shame and powerlessness that they might already feel.

4. Be Present

Even if your host allows social media, consider taking a break during your trip. Be fully present with those

around you, and be aware of the Holy Spirit's movement. You will learn more, engage more deeply, and bless the people you visit more fully if you set aside the urge to document your experience for an online audience. You can share about your trip when you return. While on the field, simply be.

5. Honor Certain Spaces

Don't post or photograph during worship services or when in people's homes. Put all devices away during those times, ensuring that you don't distract yourself or others from entering into worship and fellowship together. Further, pulling out a phone or camera in church might be seen as rude or sacrilegious. Similarly, when in people's homes, focus all your attention on engaging with them.

6. Do Unto Others

Before photographing or posting, ask yourself how you would feel if your roles were reversed: How would you feel if people drove down the street photographing your daughter or niece without your permission? What if they then posted the images on Instagram? How would you feel if your son or nephew randomly appeared on a church's Facebook cover image? Pause before shooting or posting, considering whether you are "doing unto others" well. Ask permission before posting pictures of or with people, and be extremely cautious of posting pictures of or with children. Also be considerate of other team members and avoid posting unflattering pictures just to get a laugh.

7. Avoid the Savior Syndrome

Does what you are posting imply that you are saving people who are poor? Does it paint you as the hero and them as the helpless victim? Be especially careful of cliché phrases like "the least of these" or "bringing light and hope" in your posts. Use any social media updates to highlight the dignity of the community and what God is

already doing over the long haul, rather than elevating your own role and impact.

8. Tell the Whole Story

Do the pictures or posts you are crafting tell the whole story about the community? Are they highlighting the beautiful and redemptive things God is doing in a community, or only the heavy and painful brokenness of poverty? Don't reduce low-income people or communities to a caricature of desperation, but also don't ignore the reality of poverty. Avoid statements like, "They have absolutely nothing," or, "They are so happy all the time." You wouldn't like your life and identity reduced to a single slice of your wide spectrum of experiences. Don't do it to others!

9. Delay Your Posts

Mentally running your posts through these filters requires diligence and hard work. It takes effort to retrain our brains to consider others' realities in our social media use, especially when in low-income communities. If you are unsure about a draft post, walk away from it for a half an hour and then look at it again. Or, consider showing your draft to other team members to see if it strikes them as appropriate and dignity affirming. Ultimately, if in doubt, don't post.

10. Share What You Learn

There is a place for sharing what you experience on a short-term mission trip. When crafted with the above guidelines in mind, social media and photography can be a powerful way to advocate for the work and community you visited—especially after you return home. You have an opportunity to share with your friends what you learned during your trip, encouraging and challenging your peers to engage in the work God is doing in the world.

Tips for Shopping

- Exchange some money to the local currency, your team leader will help.
- Ask your host what are some typical souvenirs from their country and where the best place is to purchase them. (Also ask what would be a decent value for those items.)
- Keep your money divided in small amounts in different pockets.
- Have your calculator with you to calculate the exchange rate
- When bartering, start low and work up to the price you are willing to pay. Don't act too interested to start with.
- Be patient and be willing to walk away. More than likely there is another shop right around the corner with the same merchandise.
- Stick to your limit to what you are willing to pay.
- Remember, whatever you buy you have to bring home so consider your luggage space and weight requirements
- Look for small items that you can bring back for friends and family that helped support your trip.
- Support Christian vendors when possible.
- Buy in a bulk and in a group if several team members are buying the same item.
- Don't ruin your Christian witness for the sake of getting a great deal.

10 Ways To Ruin Your Mission Trip

To maximize your short-term experience, AVOID doing the things on this Top Ten checklist:

- 1. Keep narrowly focused on "spiritual" activities.** Since you want to win people to Christ, focus on only the loftiest of things. Avoid menial work like data entry, loading trucks, or working on buildings. Such things will distract you from your primary task.
- 2. To tighten up your schedule, eliminate personal prayer and Bible study.** You will be so rushed away that you probably won't have time. Besides, can't you get all the spiritual food you need from group devotions and from church services?
- 3. Stay organized and on schedule.** Set detailed goals before you go. Establish schedules and refuse to deviate from them. Do not accept delays, last-minute changes, and impromptu visits and invitations. Those things will just keep you from getting things done for God.
- 4. Help the missionaries by pointing out their mistakes.** Bring them up to date on what you've heard are the latest trends in missions. Some missionaries are stubborn. So, you may need to enlist some support among the nationals for your views about how things should be run.
- 5. Get involved romantically with someone.** Being away from family and friends makes this the perfect time to get involved romantically. While it may distract you slightly from the work, you will be able to expose national Christians to America's progressive dating customs.
- 6. Don't embarrass yourself by trying to pick up the local language.** People are always saying that English is spoken all over the world. So, insist that those people use it with you.
- 7. Immediately begin pointing out your team members' faults.** Time is short. It will be difficult for people to make the needed changes if you don't help them right from the start. Focus your helpful criticisms on team leaders.
- 8. As you go all out in warring against dangerous germs, don't eat any of the local food.** To be sure, you may miss some friendly opportunities with "the natives," but you'll keep those awful germs at bay!

9. Keep your distance from team members who couldn't raise their full support. They may try to mooch off you. Don't give in. Sweating over finances builds faith!

10. When you return home, scold your home church and friends for their lack of commitment, for their weak prayers, and for their inadequate giving to missions. This may be one of the few times you will have their deferential respect. Make the most of it.

If you'll do all of these Top Ten things (or even some of them), you can expect a bad short-term mission trip.

Adapted from Commissioned, Jan/March 1995.



Songs for Group Singing

10,000 Reasons

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul O my
soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul I'll
worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day
dawning It's time to sing Your song
again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies
before me Let me be singing when the
evening comes

Verse 2

You're rich in love, and You're slow to
anger Your name is great, and Your
heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on
singing Ten thousand reasons for my
heart to find

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is
failing The end draws near and my
time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise
unending Ten thousand years and then
forevermore

CCLI Song No. 6016531

© 2011 Thankyou Music/Said And Done Music/Kingswaysongs & Jonas Myrin/ SHOUT! Music Publishing. |
Matt Redman | Jonas Myrin

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

CCLI Song No. 4768151

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Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

Be The Centre

Verse 1

Jesus be the centre
Be my source be my light
Jesus

Chorus

Be the fire in my heart

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Verse 2

Jesus be the centre
Be my hope be my song
Jesus

Verse 3

Jesus be my vision

Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus Jesus

Be my path be my guide
Jesus

CCLI Song No. 2650429
© 1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Vineyard Music UK)
Michael Frye

Better Is One Day

Verse 1

How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You

For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells

Ending

Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere (2x)

CCLI Song No. 1097451
© 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
Matt Redman

Come Now Is The Time To Worship

Chorus

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your
heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Verse 1

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow

CCLI Song No. 2430948
© 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Vineyard Music UK)
Brian Doerksen

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out for You
The living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You

Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Verse 2

Willingly we choose to surrender our
lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and
strength
We gladly choose You now

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer; Here by Thy great help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at

home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Chorus

Create in me a clean heart
O Lord my God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart
O Lord my God
And renew a right spirit within me

Verse 1

Cast me not away from Thy presence O Lord
Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

CCLI Song No. 96927

© 1982 Bases Loaded Music (Admin. by BMG Music Publishing)
Brown Bannister

Forever

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus 1

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

CCLI Song No. 3148428

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Give Us Clean Hands

Verse

We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

Chorus

Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another

And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob

CCLI Song No. 2060208

© 2000 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps Music | Charlie Hall

God Of This City

Verse 1

You're the God of this city
You're the King of these people
You're the Lord of this nation
You are

You're the light in this darkness
You're the hope to the hopeless
You're the peace to the restless
You are

Pre-Chorus

There is no one like our God
There is no one like You God

Chorus

Greater things have yet to come
And greater things have still to be done
In this city
Greater things have yet to come
And greater things have still to be done here

Verse 2

You're the Lord of creation
The Creator of all things
You're the King above all kings
You are

CCLI Song No. 5037070

© 2006 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps Music | Aaron Boyd | Andrew McCann | Ian Jordan | Peter Comfort | Peter Kernaghan | Richard Bleakley

You're the strength in the weakness
You're the love to the broken
You're the joy in the sadness
You are

Chorus 2

Greater things have yet to come
And greater things have still to be done
In this city
Where glory shines from hearts alive
With praise for You and love for You
Great things have yet to come
And greater things have still to be done
In this city
Greater things have yet to come
And greater things have still to be done here

Ending

There is no one like our God
There is no one like our God
There is no one like You God
There is no one like You God

Here I Am To Worship

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

CCLI Song No. 3266032
© 2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)
Tim Hughes

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
 And time is in His hands
 Beginning and the End
 Beginning and the End
 The Godhead three in one
 Father Spirit Son
 The Lion and the Lamb

The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
 Worthy of all praise
 My heart will sing
 How great is our God

CCLI Song No. 4348399

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 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

In Christ Alone**Verse 1**

In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light my strength my song
 This Cornerstone this solid Ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled when strivings cease
 My Comforter my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 Till on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

CCLI Song No. 3350395

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 Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

It is Well With My Soul**Verse 1**

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain

It is well, with my soul,
 It is well, with my soul,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Verse 2

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Verse 3

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Lord I Lift Your Name On High**Verse**

Lord I lift Your name on high
 Lord I love to sing Your praises
 I'm so glad You're in my life
 I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
 To show the way
 From the earth to the cross
 My debt to pay
 From the cross to the grave
 From the grave to the sky
 Lord I lift Your name on high

CCLI Song No. 117947

© 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc. (Admin. by Maranatha! Music)
 Rick Founds

Mighty to Save

Everyone needs compassion
 A love that's never ending
 Let mercy fall on me
 Everyone needs forgiveness
 The kindness of a savior
 The hope of nations

Chorus

Saviour he can move the mountains
 My God is mighty to save
 He is mighty to save

Forever author of salvation
 He rose and conquered the grave
 Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as you find me
 All my fears and failures
 Fill my life again
 I give my life to follow
 Everything I believe in
 Now I surrender

CCLI Song No. 4591782

© 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
 Ben Fielding Ruben Morgan

Open The Eyes Of My Heart**Chorus**

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
 Open the eyes of my heart
 I want to see You
 I want to see You

Verse

To see You high and lifted up
 Shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love
 As we sing holy holy holy

CCLI Song No. 2298355
 © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Paul Baloche

Bridge

Holy holy holy
 Holy holy holy
 Holy holy holy
 I want to see You

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Saviour
 Lord there is none like You
 All of my days I want to praise
 The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
 Tower of refuge and strength
 Let every breath, all that I am
 Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us
 sing

CCLI Song No. 1406918
 © 1993 Wondrous Worship (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
 Darlene Zschech

Power and majesty, praise to the King
 Mountains bow down and the seas will
 roar
 At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hand
 Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
 Nothing compares to the promise I
 have
 In You

Take My Life and Let It Be**Verse 1**

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2

Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
 Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Verse 3

Take my voice, and let me sing Always, only, for my King; Take my lips, and let them
 be Filled with messages from Thee. Filled with messages from Thee.

Verse 4

Take my silver and my gold: Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect, and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
 Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Verse 5

Take my will, and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

Verse 6

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be, Ever, only, all for Thee.
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

This is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder

Chorus

The King of Glory, the King above all kings
This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Chorus

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy, worthy, worthy

CCLI Song No. 6333821

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Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickman

The Wonderful Cross

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Chorus

O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find

That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name

Verse 2

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Verse 3

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul my life my all

CCLI Song No. 3148435

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You Are My All In All

Verse 1

You are my strength
When I am weak
You are the treasure
That I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Chorus

Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name

Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name

Verse 2

Taking my sin
My cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all

When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

CCLI Song No. 825356

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Spanish Songs:

Abre Mis Ojos O Cristo

Abre mis ojos oh Cristo
Abre mis ojos Te pido
Yo quiero verte
Yo quiero verte

Coro:

Y contemplar Tu Majestad
Y el resplandor de Tu Gloria

Derrama Tu amor y poder
Cuando cantamos:
Santo, Santo

Santo, Santo, Santo
Santo, Santo, Santo
Santo, Santo, Santo
Yo quiero verte.

Alabaré

Coro:

Alabaré, alabaré
Alabaré, alabaré
Alabaré a mi Señor
Alabaré, alabaré
Alabaré, alabaré
Alabaré a mi Señor.

Juan vio el numero de los redimidos
Y todos alababan al Señor
Unos cantaban y otros oraban
Pero todos alababan al Señor.

Cuan Bello es el Señor

Cuan bello es el Señor
Cuan hermoso es el Señor
Cuan bello es el Señor
Hoy te quiero adorar.

Coro: La belleza de mi Señor
Nunca se agotara
La hermosura de mi Señor
Siempre resplandecera.

Eres Todo Poderoso

La única razón de mi adoración
Eres tú mi Jesús
Mi único motivo para vivir
Eres Tu mi Señor
Mi única verdad esta en ti
Eres mi luz y mi salvación
Mi único amor eres Tu, Señor
Y por siempre te alabare

Coro
Tu eres todo poderoso
Eres grande y majestuoso
Eres fuerte invencible
Y no hay nadie como Tu

Mi Cristo Te Canto (Shout to the Lord)

Mi Cristo, te canto
Nadie hay como tu
Quiero adorar, siempre exaltar
Las obras de tu gran amor.
Consuelo, refugio
Roca de mi Salvación

Renuevame

Renuevame, Señor Jesús
Ya no quiero ser igual
Renuevame, Señor Jesús
Pon en mi Tú corazón

Porque todo lo que hay dentro de mi
Necesita ser cambiado Señor
Porque todo lo que hay dentro de mi
corazón

Yo Tengo un Amigo Que Me Ama

1. Yo tengo un amigo que me ama,
Me ama, me ama;
Yo tengo un amigo que me ama,
Su nombre es Jesús.

Coro:
Que me ama, que me ama,
Que me ama con su eterno amor;
Que me ama, que me ama,
Su nombre es Jesús.

Este es el Dia

Este es el dia, este es el dia
Que hizo el Señor, que hizo el Señor
Dia de alegría, dia de alegría
Y de gozo, y de gozo

Este es el dia que hizo el Señor
Dia de alegría y de gozo
Este es el dia
Este es el dia
Que hizo el Señor.

Toda creación, todo mi ser
Siempre den la gloria a ti

Canta al Señor toda la creación
Gloria y poder, majestad sea al Rey
Postrense montes y breme el mar
A tu nombre escuchar
Canto con gozo por tu obra en mi,
Dandote amor siempre vivo por ti
Incomparables promesas me das Señor

Necesita mas de ti.

Tú Fidelidad

Tú fidelidad es grande
Tú fidelidad incomparable es
Nadie como tú, bendito Dios
Grande es tú fidelidad

2. Tu tienes un amigo que te ama,
Te ama, te ama;
Tu tienes un amigo que te ama,
Su nombre es Jesús.

3. Tenemos un amigo que nos ama,
Nos ama, nos ama
Tenemos un amigo que nos ama
Su nombre es Jesús.

Next Steps

Your mission experience is not over when you return to your home. The mission field is all around you. We hope your eyes have been opened to the needs of the world and your place in fulfilling the Great Commission. Every believer is called to be a missionary, some across the street, some around the world. As you move back into the normal routines of your life, there will be adjustments to make. We encourage our GO team members to practice the three I's on their return to the states.

1. **Intercede** – take time to pray as often as you can for the new friends, in this country and abroad, that you made on this trip. Pray for the churches that you worshipped in and the families that you worked with. Pray for the projects that you were involved with and pray for GO InterNational. We believe that prayer is the fuel for missions. We need your prayers. God hears them and He will be moved.
2. **Invite** your friends to go on a mission trip. Best of all is to invite them to go with you, but if you can't go again soon, encourage them to go on another GO InterNational mission adventure. We have several teams going every month of the year. Share some materials about GO or give them our email or website address. Also, you can help us by liking our Facebook page, sharing your status updates on the GO page and encouraging your church to get involved with GO. Ask your pastor if you can share about your mission trip with the whole church or a Sunday school class or small group. Ask your pastor if he will invite a GO speaker to come and share at your church. We love to do that! We will do anything we can to help you help us! Thank you.
3. **Invest** in missions. GO is a faith based mission movement. If you can financially support GO, it will help accomplish the great commission. Ask you church missions committee if they will consider supporting GO from their mission's budget or take a special offering for our work around the world. You can make a difference at your church. A church that supports God's mission around the world is usually a vital and healthy church! We would be glad to help you with materials or slideshows or videos anytime!

Team Debriefing

However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Mark 5:19 (New King James Version)

--If you have not done so-- journal your experience. You think you will remember everything, but the reality is that you will not. Take a few moments to write down the people, and moments of this trip that had an impact on your life (what you did, what God did and what you think He is saying to do next).

--Be careful of your attitude when you get home. Many times we return home completely tired and exhausted and all that we communicate is the negative aspects of the trip such as the food, conditions, workload and the people that drove us crazy. Stay positive and encouraging.

--There are **4 kinds of people you will run into when returning home from a mission trip:**

- a. Those who didn't know that you were even gone.
- b. Those who thought you were on vacation.
- b. Those who are just casually interested in the highlights. All they want to hear is that everything was "good"
- c. Those who want to hear more information (but not all the grueling details). Be careful how you disburse information to this group. Give them incremental information.

--Before you leave your country of service, or on the plane ride home, think in advance how you will might share one story of God's faithfulness to you during this trip to the people who are really interested. Be sure to keep it positive and hopeful

--Don't be surprised or disappointed when people are not interested in your trip. Their lives have been 'business as usual' during your absence. Ask them about how they are doing before you jump into your story.

--PREPARE YOUR SOUND BITES—If you only get a few words in about your trip—make them count—think them through.

--Be prepared for reverse culture shock when you return home. We often expect culture shock when we arrive in a new country, but the truth is that it is also possible to experience it after you have been acclimated into a new culture and then go home.

- Beware of “rear guard” spiritual warfare following your trip.
 - a. Most team members are prayed up before and during a trip, and then drop their guard once the trip is over.
 - b. Some of Satan’s greatest attacks will happen after you let down your guard.

--Please take a few moments to post some of your best pictures and stories on the GO InterNational Facebook page. That is a great help promoting mission trips.

--Take time to thank those who personally supported you on your mission experience. One idea is to take a photo from the trip, turn it into a post card, and send it, along with a personal note of gratitude, to their prayer partners and financial contributors.

--We would love copies of your pictures from this trip if you can get them to us in electronic format.

--Commit to pray for the people, partners and projects that have impacted your life on this trip.

--Suggestions on sharing your story when you get back.

If you prepare a slide show, Prezy, or PowerPoint:

- a. Delete any picture that is not clear or up close.
- b. Center your subject in the picture.
- c. Use captions that give one or two word explanations.
- d. Use multiple images on a page when possible.
- e. As much as possible use pictures that include people.

- f. Use a timing device so that you are not clicking each picture individually in your presentation. It's best to set it so that the pictures are changing automatically every 2-3 seconds.
- g. Upload a lot of your pictures to social media sites like Facebook or Instagram so that people can look through them at their own pace. Take the best of the best to use in your presentations and then place the rest in albums where people can have access to look at them at their own leisure.
- h. Have a good balance of pictures that are staged and pictures that are spontaneous.

--Think through what you want to say and how you want to challenge your group. Stand up, speak up, and then sit down.

--Only take the allotted amount of time you are given to share your story from this trip.

--Take time to thank those who personally supported you on your mission experience.



Next Steps Devotions

Devotion 1: Re-entry Tips and How to Share Your Experience

1. Re-entry tips

Now that you have returned home, you may be experiencing a phenomenon called re-entry. Re-entry occurs as you try to process what you saw and experienced during your time in another culture. Although re-entry after a short term mission trip is not nearly as much of an issue as after a longer term period of mission service, there are still some thoughts and feelings you may experience that we want to help you process.

You should prepare yourself for a variety of feelings. You may feel irritated when nobody seems to care about the suffering you've seen or when friends who have so much are complaining. You may feel guilty about leaving people who have so many needs.¹

The Short-Term Missions Workbook² lists four stages of re-entry that you should consider.

1. *Fun*. You can take a hot shower, sleep on a bed, eat your favorite food, and see your family. You are glad to be home.
2. *Flee*. You begin to notice and become discouraged about how materialistic and busy life seems here. No one seems interested in your experience. You try to escape into reflecting on your experiences, but that is difficult due to the pressure and busyness of life here.
3. *Fight*. You may feel depressed, as people seem indifferent to the real issues in life. Even the church can seem self-indulgent and self-centered. You may become critical of life at home.
4. *Fit*. You are trying just to fit in. You have so much to do here that it's hard to think about your trip and the people you met. You begin to forget about the people you met and the promises you made.

Unfortunately, for many people, the process ends here. The trip becomes a distant memory and other than an occasional prayer or possibly a financial donation to a mission project from time to time, they experience no lasting life change from their experience. They just don't know what else to do.

The GO Next Steps Program aims to help you turn your experience into something that impacts the rest of your life. You will receive these lessons for the next few weeks to help you along the way. Feel free to contact your team leaders or any of our staff with any questions, concerns, or problems you may experience along the way.

Eight Great Questions to help you process your experience.²

We encourage you to take some time over the next week or two to write down your answers to these questions to help you learn from your trip. Include them in your trip journal if you kept one.

1. Who am I? What have I learned about myself?
2. Who is God? How has my understanding of God changed?
3. Who are we? What have I learned about community in my team and with those from another culture?
4. What is the impact of culture on faith? How do I see life and the gospel differently because of what I've experienced?
5. What's wrong with the world? Why is there so much suffering and injustice in it?
6. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? What have I learned about discipleship?
7. What is of value? How do I live here in light of what I have learned there?
8. Where am I going? What is God calling me to be and do as a result of this experience?

Consider getting together with a friend or two from your trip and share your answers together to help you grow and learn from each other.

2. How to share your experience.

Most people returning from short-term mission trips will have a desire to share their experience with others. You may just want to share with friends or family. You may be asked to share with your church, Sunday school class, or small group. In any case, remember these tips as you share.

1. Remember that the people you talk to have not experienced what you have experienced. They can't possibly understand the depth of your experience. Because of this they may not seem as interested as you think they should. Don't take this personally. Just do your best to help them come a little farther along in their understanding of what you experienced.
 2. It is better to give too little information than too much. Give people a short story picture of what your trip was about. If they are interested, they can ask for more. If they aren't, just go on. It's O.K.
 3. Carry just a picture or two in your purse or wallet or on your phone so that if you see someone in the hall at work or church, you can supplement your brief story with a picture or two to help you tell the story. Most people won't want to see your whole photo album. However, for those few who are more interested, you can then arrange a time to show them more of your pictures.
 4. Don't focus on statistics or general accomplishments. Try to tell stories about specific people that impacted you and use names as much as possible. Focus on what God did in your life and the lives of those you met.
 5. Avoid details of food, living conditions, travel difficulties, etc. It is certainly fine to share these as people ask, but the focus should be on what you saw God do among those you went to serve.
-
1. Leish, Howard and Bonnie. *Helping Hands-Healing Hearts*. Deeper Roots Publications, 2009.
 2. Dearborn, Tim. *Short-term Missions Workbook*. Intervarsity Press. 2003.

Devotion 2: Keep the Flame Alive: Become a World Christian

As you adjust to life back in the U.S. after your mission trip, you return having been exposed to a world that is much bigger than your community and a church much bigger than your local church. You have worshiped with God's children in a different place and in a different language. You have seen his church function in a different culture and it may have looked quite different from what you are used to seeing in your church. What does all of this say about our God? How should you respond?

The first thing we must come to understand is that our God loves the world and sent his one and only Son to die on the cross to redeem it. This is not just found in New Testament writings, but has been God's plan from the beginning of time.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,
² that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2*

God blesses us for a reason, to make his ways known *among all nations*. Even to the people of Israel, who were God's chosen people, he shared his desire to redeem all nations.

*And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to serve him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to worship him,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant-*

*⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 56:6-7*

God's plan will have its ultimate conclusion when we all gather in heaven.

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

These passages and many others show us God's heart for the nations. John Stott says simply "Our God is a missionary God." The scriptures, together with what you have experienced, call you to realize the same thing. If God has a heart for the world, should we have anything less? Should this knowledge affect the way we live life?

Those who answer yes to this question are often referred to as World Christians. They aren't superior to other Christians, they've simply decided to allow every decision of their lives to be directed by God's purpose. The World Christian says I'll do whatever it takes to be faithful to Christ and to live strategically for his purpose.

Be L.I.G.H.T.

Brian Heerwagen presents the following acrostic as a way to fan the flame that has ignited in your mission trip.¹ These things will give you a good start to becoming a World Christian.

Live differently. Determine that what you experienced on your trip will actually impact how you live going forward.

Invest in the mission field. Stay involved through your prayers, encouragement of missionaries, and giving.

Guard your mind. Allow only things into your mind that will encourage your faith. Do not let a barrage of unwholesome movies, books, television, internet sites, and music make your heart cool toward God.

Hide God's Word in your heart. Consistently study and memorize the Bible. Nothing will give you God's vision for the world like spending time in his word.

Take risks. You went out of your comfort zone to go on your mission trip. Don't get back in it. Decide that you are not at the end of your mission trip – you are at the beginning of a new missional life.

Practices of World Christians

Consider the following practices of World Christians. They will help you along your journey. We'll spend the following weeks exploring some of these in more depth.

Pray. "In the ongoing work of the Kingdom of God, nothing is more important than intercessory prayer." - Richard Foster

Send. People don't just go to the mission field. God's people send them. Acts. 13:2-3

Welcome. The United States is host to over a million international students and refugees, most of who come from the least-reached parts of the world. Get involved in reaching out to those near you.

GO. For some, this may be continuing to participate in short-term missions. For others, it may be moving to a new place. But God is calling us to GO.

Mobilize. Draw others into the work of sharing God's love around the world.

Learn. Explore and study what God has been stirring in your heart. Prepare yourself to be effective in the mission God gives you. Consider taking a Perspectives course.

We believe that God wants each of us to have a heart for the things of God. And God has a heart for the world. By becoming a World Christian, you will come closer to the things of God. Our hope and prayer at GO InterNational for you is that you'll continue on the journey you've started toward becoming a World Christian. Your mission trip was just the first step. Please let us know how we can help you along the way.

1. *Heerwagen, Brian. The Next Mile. Short-Term Missions for the Long Haul. 2005. IVP Books Downers Grove, IL.*

Devotion 3: Spiritual Disciplines for the World Christian

Most people experience a spiritual high on their mission trip. Getting outside our comfort zone makes us more dependent on God and increases our spiritual sensitivity. Doing the pre-trip devotions, team devotions, sharing times on the trip, and worshiping with the nationals are all great opportunities to grow closer to the Lord. Just unplugging from a busy routine and focusing on the Lord and serving others for a week or two can be a big boost to our spiritual life.

You may have arrived home with a new desire to continue your spiritual growth. You may have big plans for living as a World Christian, putting into practice some of the things we discussed in the last lesson. Then it happens. You get busy with the routines of family, work, and church life that were familiar to you before the trip and before you know it, those new commitments are quickly forgotten. Or you enthusiastically jump into a new ministry or get busy planning for another mission trip, but soon you are so busy you have little time for the God who you are supposedly serving. How can we stay true to growing in Christ and serving him faithfully for the long haul?

We need to remember to keep first things first. George Mueller, who started homes that cared for thousands of orphans in England in the late 1800s said this:

“The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord. According to my judgment, the most important point to be attended to is this: *above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord.* Other things may press upon you; the Lord’s work even may have urgent claims upon your attention; but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself. Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life.”

Few men have been busier or done more to serve the needy and show the love of Christ to people than George Mueller. Yet, he kept first things first. He knew that his power for ministry came from his relationship with Christ. That was the thing of primary importance.

Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission, was a missionary who was key to bringing the gospel to the previously unreached regions in that country. He also knew the importance of maintaining our relationship with the Lord.

“Take time. Give God time to reveal himself to you. Give yourself time to be silent and quiet before him, waiting to receive, through the Spirit, the assurance of his presence with you, his power working in you. Take time to read his word as in his presence, that from it you may know what he asks of you and what he promises you. Let the Word create around you, create within you a holy atmosphere, a holy heavenly light, in which your soul will be refreshed and strengthened for the work of daily life.”

Christ himself modeled the importance of time alone with God in prayer. There are many times recorded in the gospels of Christ slipping away from the crowds and the disciples to spend time with God in prayer. If Christ needed this time with God in order to minister effectively, how much more do we!

“I can’t do this, I am not Christ,” you may say. The good news is he gave us the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is key to maintaining our relationship with Christ. AW Tozer says, “The Holy Spirit is not a luxury to make deluxe Christians, he is a necessity to make normal Christians.” Missionary Carissa Alma says to those considering cross-cultural ministry, “You have to be empowered supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. If you aren’t, the enemy is going to eat you for lunch. You must be filled. You cannot get away with a mediocre life in the Spirit in cross-cultural ministry.” To which I would add, or any other ministry.

What are some practical things we can do to follow through on this in our lives?

1. Take time. There is no magic number and there is no specific time of day, but you need to arrange your schedule to allow adequate time alone with God. For many this will be first thing in the morning. There is value in prioritizing the day by focusing on Christ first. However, if the demands of your situation make it impossible to spend adequate time in morning devotion, at least spend a few minutes to set the tone for the day and then spend more time in the evening.
2. Spend time in God's word. Bible reading, study and memorization keep us grounded in God's priorities for our lives.
3. Pray. Talk with God, share your needs and the needs of others. Is there a problem in your life? God has the power to help you solve it if you ask.
4. Listen. Prayer is not just a one-way conversation. We need time meditating on what we read in the Bible and listening for God to tell us what we are to do in light of his word. All relationships require listening and our relationship with God is no different.
5. Be filled with the Spirit. This may sound daunting to some. The truth is, it is as simple as asking. Luke 11:13: *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* Then we need to trust that he is with us and seek his guidance continually. Romans 8:5-6 reminds us to keep our mind set on him: *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."*

Devotion 4: Start Where You Are

In our previous Next Steps lessons, we've discussed the need to become a World Christian and the necessary spiritual disciplines, which are our foundation. Now it is time to get started. How do you discover where God is calling you to serve?

One way is to discover your spiritual SHAPE. This acronym stands for finding your:

Spiritual gifts. God gifts his followers with gifts for service.

Hearth. What passions has God placed in your heart?

Abilities. What are your natural skills and talents?

Personality. What are your personality traits? Where can you best serve given your God-given temperament?

Experiences. What experiences in your life can God use to help others?

Lists of spiritual gifts can be found in Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 1 Peter 4:9-11. Common ones include teacher, pastor, wisdom, giving, service, mercy, evangelism, hospitality, faith, encouragement, leadership, healing, and administration. One way to discover your gifts is to ask some godly people who know you what gifts they see in you. There are also several different assessment tools available. Your church may have one they recommend or you can find several online. Sometimes the best way to discover your gifts is to just begin serving. Over time your gifts will become apparent to you and those around you.

Your personality/temperament also has a big impact on the type of involvement you should pursue. Whether you are outgoing or reserved, task-oriented or people-oriented, a big-picture person or a detail person will all impact your effectiveness in different settings. There are assessments available to help you explore this further.

It is an amazing discovery to realize that God has designed each of us uniquely for His purpose. It's not enough to learn that we have gifts and skills, we must use them for God's glory. We each have a place in his plan to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

Once you have discovered your SHAPE, you need to discern where to plug-in. It is important to begin where you are while at the same time realizing that ultimately God wants to use his people to take the gospel to all nations. As David Platt says, "The will of God is for you and me to give our lives urgently and

recklessly to making the gospel and the glory of God known among all peoples, particularly those who have never even heard of Jesus.”

Acts 1:8 gives a good framework for how to start. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Think about how you can be involved in each of these areas.

Jerusalem. Your community

The most effective evangelism occurs in relationship within the same language and culture. Don’t travel around the world to share Jesus and neglect to walk across the street to share him. Start by serving in a ministry at your church. Reach out to your neighbors and co-workers in creative ways with the good news of Jesus. Get involved in serving the poor and needy in your community.

Judea. People in your culture in the larger region where you live.

Some of these ministries may be similar to the ones in Jerusalem, but by expanding your geography, you may have different opportunities.

Samaria. These people are also geographically close, but of a different culture.

Many of them live in our communities but are shunned by culture and even our churches. Examples might involve getting involved with prison ministry, ministry to the homeless or those trapped in drug addiction, or outreach in a crisis pregnancy center. Ministry to recent immigrants is another great opportunity.

The ends of the earth – ministry outside your country and culture.

You may not be ready to pack up and move to another land right away, but there is much you can do right where you are

to impact the ends of the earth. Mobilize others in your church to get involved in missions. Commit to regular, persistent prayer for the nations (we'll look at this in greater detail in the next lesson). Encourage and support missionaries serving on the field. Continue to be involved in short-term missions as the opportunity arises. Commit to serving the Lord wherever he may lead you and begin exploring what that may look like in your life. Consider the following quote from Count Zinzendorf, a leader of the Moravian missions movement in the 1700s, "I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." We believe that is true for us today.

One final note. Finding your SHAPE and getting involved is a process, not an event. Dr. David Stevens says, "You can't steer a parked car." The key is getting started on the journey, keeping your relationship with God primary, and then allowing him to guide you through the Holy Spirit as you walk this journey with Him.

Resources

SHAPEd to Make a Difference. A series of lessons on discovering your SHAPE by Rick Warren. You can listen at <http://rickwarren.org/series/shaped-to-make-a-difference>. For an online spiritual gifts test and descriptions of the gifts, go to <http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com>. People Keys. Learn more about personality styles and take a free assessment at <https://free.peoplekeys.com>

Devotion 5: How to Pray for the World

In our last lesson about becoming a World Christian, we mentioned that one of the disciplines of a World Christian is prayer. This is no surprise, since prayer is a cornerstone of spiritual growth for all Christians. The difference for a World Christian is the focus of our prayer life - a focus on seeing God glorified among the nations. In this lesson, we hope to help you expand your prayer life by helping you to know how to pray for the world.

What is prayer for?

John Piper states that "we cannot know what prayer is for until we know that life is war." He goes on to say that "the number one reason prayer malfunctions in the hands of believers is that we try to turn a wartime walkie-talkie into a domestic intercom."¹ In his analogy we need to realize that we have been given a mission by Christ. John 20:21 Jesus says "*As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.*" As believers we have the mission to take the gospel to the world. Prayer is our primary means of support. We are totally dependent on God to carry out our mission. Prayer is the means by which we call on God for the strength, wisdom, support, and resources to reach the world for his glory. In wartime, the forces use the walkie-talkie to call for support, reinforcements, direction and orders from headquarters to help them accomplish the mission.

Prayer is designed to work the same way. Unfortunately, many believers have lost sight of our mission and its urgency. We use prayer to ask for more comforts for the home front instead of resources to help us in our mission to reach the world. No wonder we see so little fruit in our prayer life. When we begin to pray for God to be glorified among the nations, we begin to pray in accordance with his will for the world and begin to see our prayer life rejuvenated as we see God at work around the world responding to our prayers.

Why is prayer so vital to the cause of world missions?

Again learn from John Piper that "Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that he will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles *us* as needy and exalts *God* as all sufficient."¹ Prayer is the basis by which God's kingdom advances in the world. We must remember that we are in a spiritual battle. How can the darkness of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism in the world be overcome without prayer? "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*" (Ephesians 6:12)

Andrew Murray emphasizes the importance of prayer in missions when he says “the supreme question of foreign missions is how to multiply the number of Christians who will individually and collectively pray for the conversion and transformation of people. Every other consideration and plan is secondary to that of wielding the forces of prayer.”² There is more to missions than prayer, but without prayer all of our efforts in missions will bear little fruit. However, even one person totally committed to praying for the world can have an impact that we can’t even imagine. You could be that person. Even if you never give another dime to missions or go on another short-term mission trip or serve as a long-term missionary, you can change the world through prayer. Not only will you change the world, but also in the process God will change you. He will then be better able to use your giving and going as well as your praying.

How do I start to pray for the world?

1. **Start where you are.** Praying for the world can seem overwhelming. There are 168 countries in the world and currently over 6000 people groups who have no Christian witness and are considered unreached by the mission’s experts. You can’t effectively pray for all of them, but pray for some you know about.
2. **Pray specifically.** “God bless the missionaries” types of prayers have much less impact than more targeted prayers. You may pray specifically for the country you just visited. You can pray for the people you met and for the non-Christians there. Pray for your team leader and other GO InterNational staff as they work to reach the areas of the world in which they serve. Pray for the GO InterNational partners you have met, that God will bless their leadership and make their ministry fruitful. You can pray for other countries and missionaries you may know through your church. There are many other resources, some of which we list below to help you pray for the world.
3. **Pray regularly.** Some people do better if they set aside time in the morning, others in the evening. The key is being consistent. Consider a prayer calendar in which you pray for certain countries or missionaries on certain

days of the week or month. Many agencies and resources publish these in print or online and they can be helpful. Supplement these aids with your own list based on places you've been and people you know.

4. **Follow Jesus example** and pray that the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest. (Luke 10:2)
 5. **Pray for the church of Christ around the world**, that it may be lifted out of its indifference, and that every believer may be brought to understand that the one object of his life is to do his share in bringing the coming of God's kingdom on earth.
 6. **Pray especially for the persecuted church** around the world.
 7. **Be persistent.** Be encouraged by the fact that God's purpose is to bring some from every tribe, tongue, and nation to his throne to worship him. He has promised that one day, the task will be finished. What a joy to be a part of his glorious purpose through prayer!
1. Piper, J. Let the Nations be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2003.
 2. Murray, Andrew with Bruce Wilkinson. Daily in His Presence. Multnomah Publishers, Sisters, Oregon, 2004.

More Resources

1. For GO InterNational prayer needs, check our website and also be sure you are on our mailing list. Also be sure you are on your team leader's mailing and email lists to receive specific prayer requests. You can also like our Facebook page for more information.
2. Operation World. This website has information on the people, language, economic status, the status of the church, missionary presence, how God has been answering prayer, and prayer needs for every country in the world. Find it at <http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/index.php>. You can also order this information in book or CD-ROM formats.

3. Global Prayer Digest. This is a publication from the U.S. Center for World Mission. You can view it online each month or subscribe to the print version. There is a monthly focus on a part of the world, with a daily mission devotion, scripture, and prayer focus, usually for a specific unreached people group. Find it at www.globalprayerdigest.org.

Devotion 6: The Lifestyle of a World Christian

In lesson 2 we talked about being a World Christian, that is, one who lives strategically to see Christ's purpose to make disciples of all nations a reality. In the last three lessons we've looked at different aspects of living as a world Christian. As we walk with God, as we serve, as we pray, what other practical indicators of a World Christian's commitment to Christ's mission should be evident? Should they live a different lifestyle? How should we live out our commitment to Christ in the world? This is a very complex question and the answers will be highly specific to the individual. However, the bible does give us some guidelines, which will be helpful for us to consider.

1. God will call us to account for the blessings he gives. We are called to be good **stewards**.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Tim. 6: 17-19

2. God calls us to a lifestyle of **sacrifice**. The principle of sacrifice is found throughout the Bible. Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us. We are called to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12). While this includes much more than finances, it does include our finances as well.

3. God also calls us to **solidarity** with those who are oppressed or in need.

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?*

*⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with
shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and
blood? Isaiah 58:6-7*

One of the realities you probably had to confront on your mission trip is the reality of poverty, as well as the reality of our relative affluence as Americans. Compared to most of the world, even a lower middle class American is wealthy. At times on your mission trip, you must have asked yourself why. Why does God bless us with so much material wealth while others have so little? This is also a complex question, but the Bible makes clear in Psalm 67 that one reason for God's blessing on some is to allow them to bless others.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,
² that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2*

Those of us who are financially blessed are called to bless others and specifically to make God's name known among all nations. We are called to invest some of the blessings he has given in the great cause of taking the gospel to the nations.

God also calls us to share with our Christian brothers who are in poverty in other places in the world. He blesses us with the expectation that we will share those blessings.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴At the present

time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, ¹⁵as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."^[b] 2 Cor. 8:13-15.

Given all of the above and the many other teachings of the Bible, it seems that to obey Christ and become all he wants us to be, we need to confront this issue of lifestyle. God has allowed us to be born into a life of abundance so that we have choices to make about lifestyles. Those born into poverty don't have that choice. Thank God we have the affluence to be able to choose to live simply to see him glorified in the world.

Paul Borthwick tells us "a world Christian lives in such a way that reflects a global perspective. In light of the awesome number of poor and suffering in the world, we commit to traveling light so that we are freer to serve and less encumbered by material concerns."¹ The Bible doesn't give us specific lifestyle requirements such as how much to live on, etc. However we can get started by applying these principles.

1. **Discernment.** Is the purchase I'm about to make something I need or something that slick advertising has convinced me that I can't do without or that I "deserve it?" How many resources would be freed up for the cause of world missions if American Christians learned this type of discernment?
2. **Chosen hardship.** This is an area of unlimited potential creativity. Can I do without eating out one meal a week and give the savings to the hungry? Can I choose a less expensive vacation and give the savings to help a missionary take the gospel to people who haven't heard? A retired person may choose to work a part-time job to generate income to give for the cause of world missions. The possibilities are endless.
3. **Beware of debt.** Our recent economic crisis is enough motivation for this. However, a more God-honoring motivation to avoid debt is the resources that we can commit to the great commission by spending less than we earn.

Once we are committed to a sacrificial lifestyle for the sake of God's kingdom, how do we decide how to invest these resources?

1. Give through the local church. This should be a starting point for your giving.
2. Give regularly. The bible teaches the principle of regular giving. It may be weekly, monthly, or quarterly. The key is discipline.
3. Give strategically. Try to focus your giving outside your church in a few areas that God is calling you to be personally involved. Don't spread yourself too thin. Look for ministries that focus in some of the areas that we've talked about such as reaching the poor taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Research those ministries to be sure they are using Biblical methods in their ministry and that they have evidence of financial accountability. (Membership in the ECFA, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability is one good marker for this.)
4. Get involved with giving. Try to get to know the people in the ministry personally. Support missionaries that you know. Pray for them regularly. Try to see the ministry in action. Many people returning from short-term missions choose to get involved long-term in supporting the ministry or project they were involved with or the missionary they visited or traveled with.

Although we have focused on finances and giving, lifestyle involves much more. Am I allowing God to guide my educational and career choices to prepare me for service to him or to make a more comfortable life for myself? These are actually lifestyle issues. Choosing to serve regularly on a short-term team is a lifestyle issue. Becoming a mission's mobilizer in your local church is a lifestyle issue. Moving overseas to serve with a mission agency is a lifestyle issue. The most important underlying issue of all is committing all of our life to serving Christ, making our life a "living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God"
(Romans 12:1)

Recommended Reading List

1. Short-Term Missions Workbook. Tim Dearborn. 2003, IVP Books.

A workbook designed to be used by teams, good materials to use for team training.

2. Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission. Roger Peterson, Gordon Aeschliman, R. Wayne Sneed. 2003, STEM Press

Gives the biblical foundation for STM and the basis for the Standards of Excellence.

3. Serving with Eyes Wide Open. David Livermore. 2013, Baker Books.

Great guide to serving with cultural intelligence. Good resource for team training.

4. When Helping Hurts. Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. 2009, Moody Publishers.

How to do STM without creating dependency and inadvertently causing harm.

5. Let the Nations Be Glad. John Piper. 2003, Baker Academic.

Excellent review of biblical basis of mission. Great for team training & devotions.

6. The Next Mile Goer Guide. Brian Heerwagen. 2005, Intervarsity Press.

A practical short-term mission resource with emphasis on post-ministry follow through

7. Radical. David Platt. 2012, Multnomah Books.

More biblical basis for missions and a good resource to challenge team members to live a missional life when they return home.

Going Deeper

8. Cross-Cultural Connections. Duane Elmer. 2002 IVP Academic.

Source for much of the on-line cross cultural training material we use. Duane also has a great book on cross cultural servanthood.

9. The Hole in the Gospel. Richard Stearns. 2010, Thomas Nelson.

A call for the church to deal with issues of poverty and holistic ministry.

10. Unveiling Glory. Bob Sjogren. 1992, YWAM publishing.

Another good review of the biblical basis of missions

11. Spiritual Equipping for Mission. Ryan Shaw. 2014, Intersity Press.

A great guide to spiritual preparation for all involved in mission.

12. Ministering Cross-Culturally Lingenfelter and Mayers. 1996, Baker Books.

Helps us better understand what it means to establish relationships of grace with those from different cultural and social backgrounds.

Missionary Biographies Stories and Resources

- *Miracle at Tenwek* by Greg Lewis
- *Peace Child* Don Richardson
- *Bruchko* by Bruce Olson
- *The Insanity of God: A True Story of Faith Resurrected* by Nik Ripken

12 REASONS I STILL BELIEVE IN SHORT TERM MISSIONS **by Rev. Bert Jones**

The noted author Philip Yancey threw in his weight for short-term missions by saying: **"I support short-term missions. Despite their drawbacks, such trips provide two distinct cultures a taste of the harmony that exists between members of the Body of Christ."**

- 1 Short-term mission examples are found in the Bible.
--There are Biblical examples for short-term missions in the Scriptures.
--Jesus sent His disciples on short-term missions
- 2 Short-term missions can offer a foundational experience for the development of a "World Christian Mindset".
- 3 Short-term missions enable lifetime meaningful relationships to be formed and strengthened.
--One of my dearest friends in life—was formed on a short-term mission experience. (Jorge)
--Both with team members and with ministry partners.
- 4 Short-term missions can continue to expand our "world view" as we continue to live in obedience to the Great Commission.
- 5 Short-term missions offer great exposure to what God is doing around the world.
- 6 Short-term missions can be a great venue to explore the fields that are already white unto harvest.
- 7 Short-term missions have the potential to expand the field of full time career missionaries. I think it is the best way to recruit for career missionaries. Short-term missions are not in competition with career missions.
- 8 Short-term missions give participants a unique opportunity to express their spiritual gifts and engage gifts outside their comfort zone.

- 9 Short-term missions can be of great encouragement to ministry partners around the globe. (If done correctly)
- 10 Short-term missions can be "faith building" encounters from start to finish.
- 11 Short-term missions give the "GOers" a chance to engage in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 12 Short-term mission encounters equip participants who are helping to fulfill the Great Commission to finance it as well. Many times people on a short-term mission trip become very generous when presented with real needs. The fact is that many people who give regularly to world missions have gone on a short-term mission trip.

Have you ever been to the food court at the mall? You are walking through and someone offers you a sample taste of some food from the restaurant. It is just a little toothpick with a taste of something good on the end. Sometimes it is enough to make you stop and order more of the sample they just gave you!

Short-term missions serves as a sample of what God is doing around the world. I believe the more we offer people a taste of what He is doing—the more likely it is they will develop a hunger to serve God by fulfilling the Great Commission through full-time missions.

GO InterNational founder, Maurice Stevens responded to someone who said "it is a waste for me to go on a mission trip, I'll just send money." by explaining, "You can't send love in a care package."

