SHORT TERM MISSIONS FIELD GUIDE *28:19*

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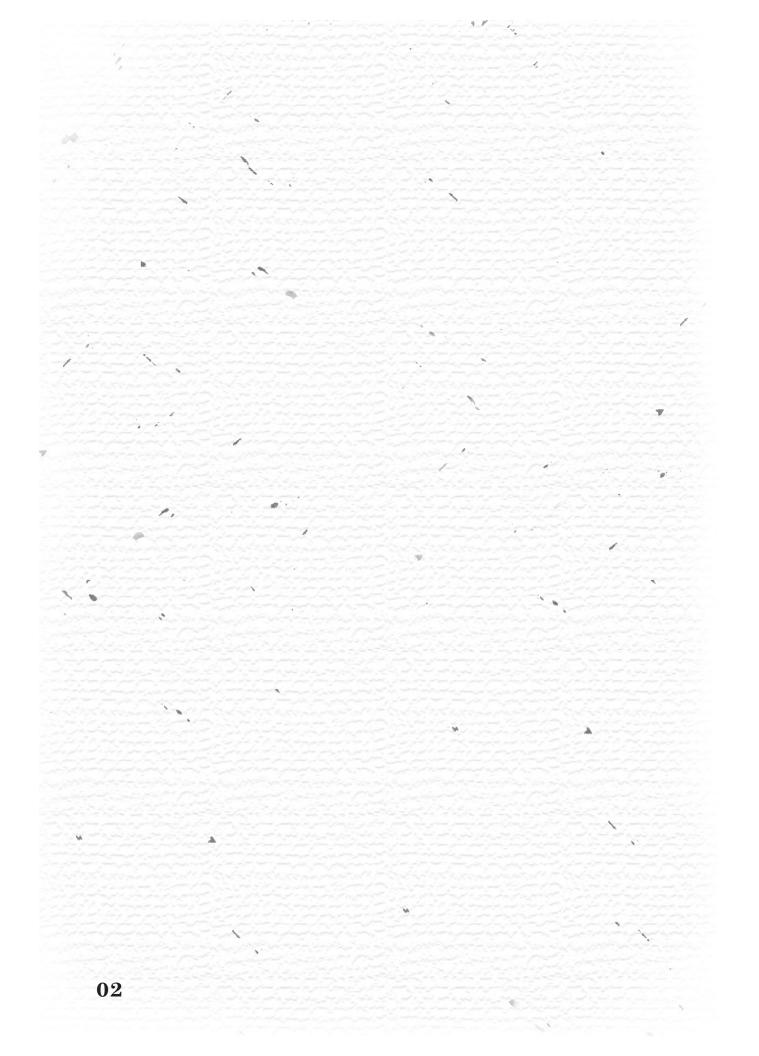
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A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO EQUIP YOU BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER YOUR MISSIONS TRIP.

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Greetings!

Thank you for responding to the Great Commission! The fact that you are reading this gives evidence to the fact that at some level you are answering the call to "go make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19a NLT). Jesus gave us this command, but He didn't exactly spell out how we are to do this. That is not to say that how we go is unimportant. Just the opposite is true. How we go is vitally important to filling Jesus' mandate.

At Foursquare Missions, we developed this Field Guide as a tool to help you go well. This project was spearheaded by Kurt Fuller who collaborated with some of our best missionaries in the field and in the U.S. church to bring you some excellent teaching and insight on how to go effectively. The spiritual as well as practical dynamics of going on a short-term mission are covered.

This book is a valuable resource for you. Read through every page carefully. As you read it, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to mold and shape you and give you a passion for the lost in the country where you will be ministering. God uses faithful servants to do awesome works for Him. Go with the heart of a servant and the passion to see God do amazing things through your life.

The amount of money needed for your trip can seem quite intimidating. God is faithful, and He will provide, often from the most unexpected resources. Fund-raising takes effort, and we have included a fund-raising manual to help you with the process.

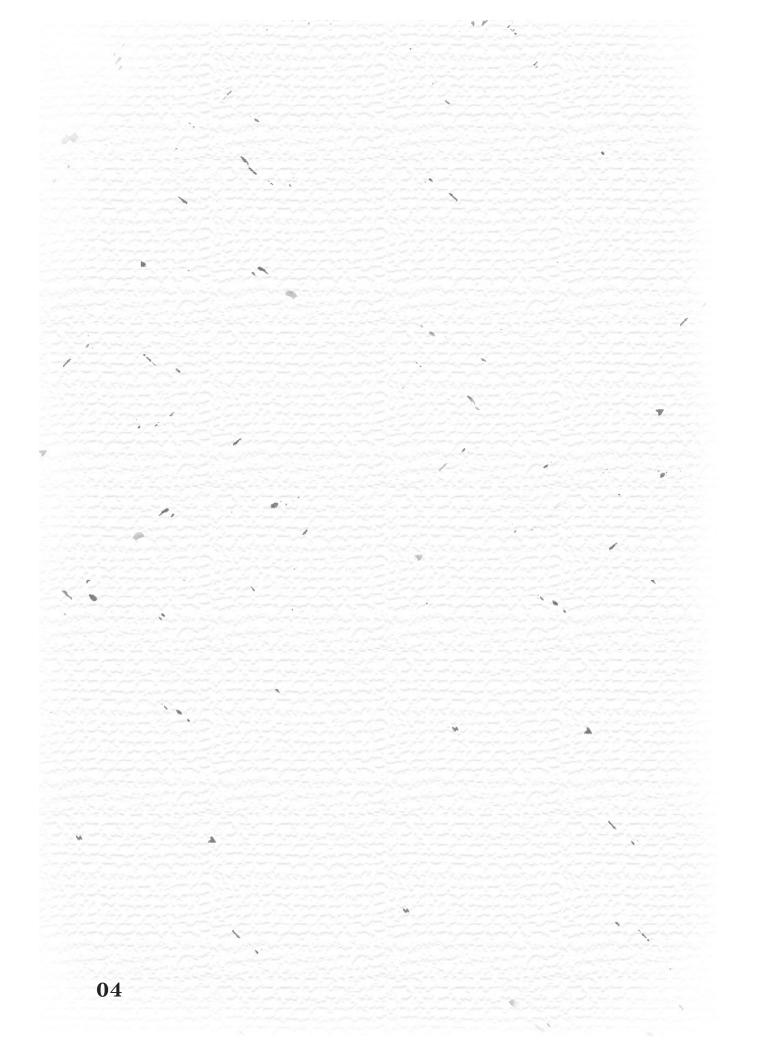
This book was designed to be a great companion to you on your mission trip. There is a journal included at the end of this book. It is important to write your thoughts, emotions, lessons and questions as you prepare to go.

The Foursquare Church is growing. We currently have more than 33,000 churches across the globe. We have the awesome opportunity to go and partner with them to see the purpose of God fulfilled in their country.

It will be awesome! It will be life-changing!

Many blessings,

Team FMI



contents

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES 07

For You or For Them -- by Jacque Antoine **11** The Answer is "YES!" What's the Question? -- by Kurt Fuller **15**

GETTING THE MOST FROM SHORT-TERM MISSIONS 18

Spirit Empowered Ministry -- by Ted Vail **19** The Universal Food Court -- by Kathy Keiselhorst **25** Breaking An American Mindset -- by Bill Keiselhorst **31**

CROSS-CULTURAL CONDUCT 34

Relationships Under Construction -- by Rose Mary Davidson 35 Catch the Little Foxes -- by Aimee Fontes 36

RAISING FUNDS 45

Fund Raising Manual -- by Steve Wilson 47 Fear or Faith -- by Glen Grove 61

TRAVEL GUIDELINES 64

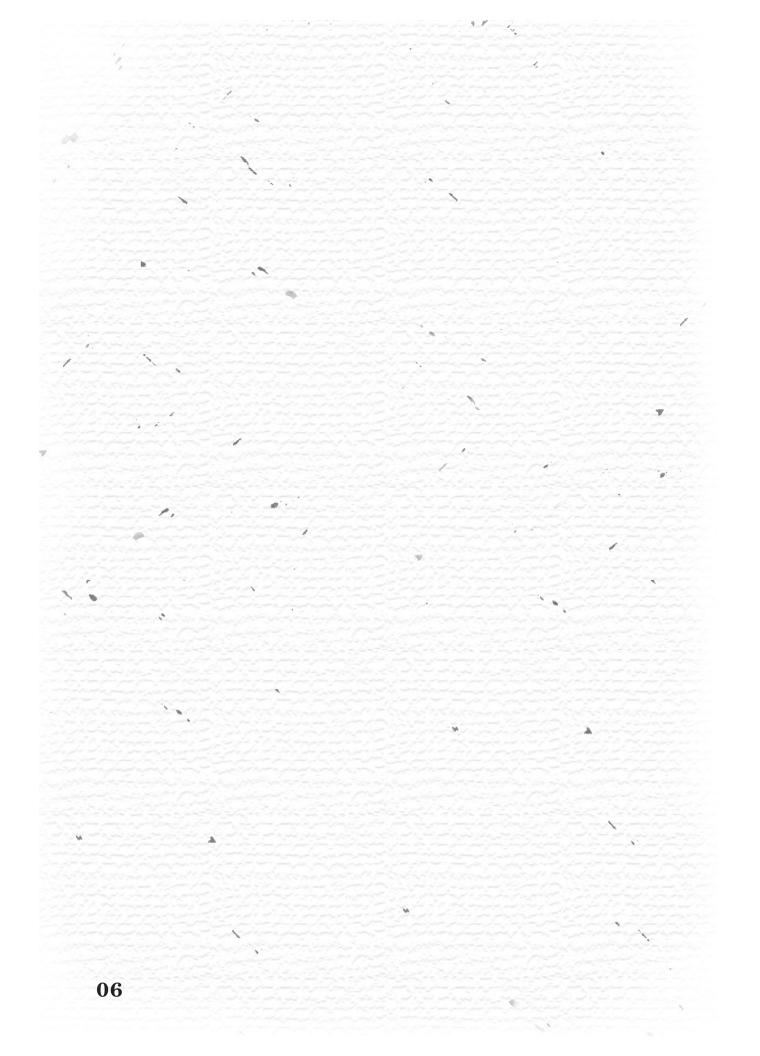
PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY 67

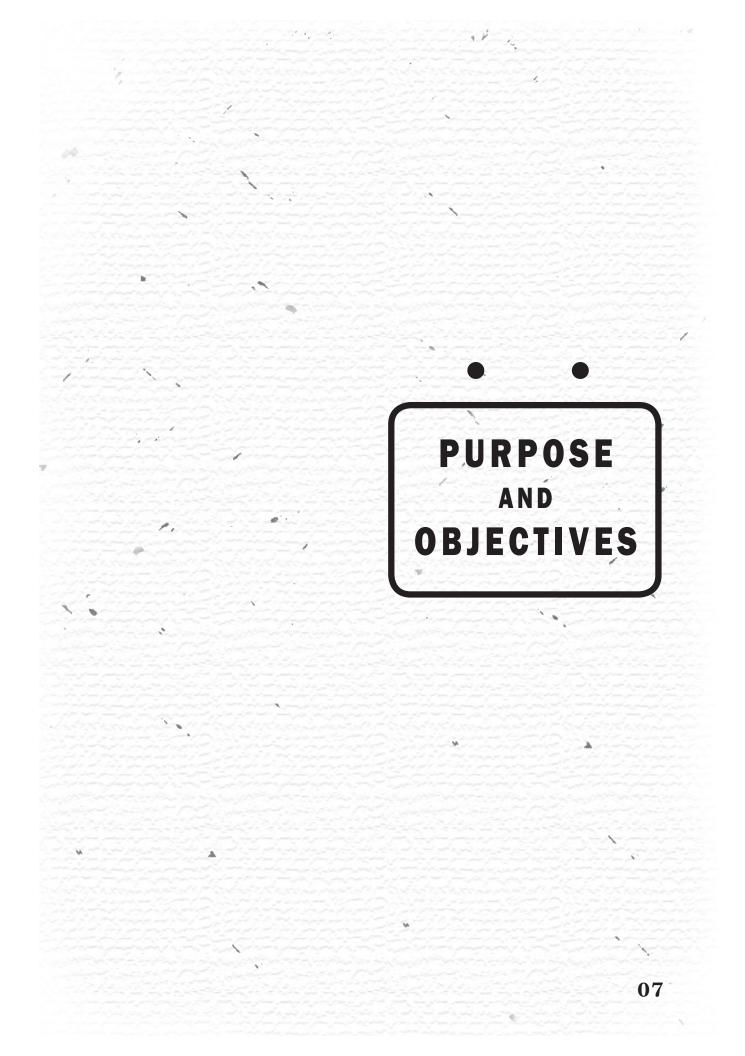
Telling your Story -- by Shah Afshar 67 Personal Testimony **70**

DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL 73

NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME 107







PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

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

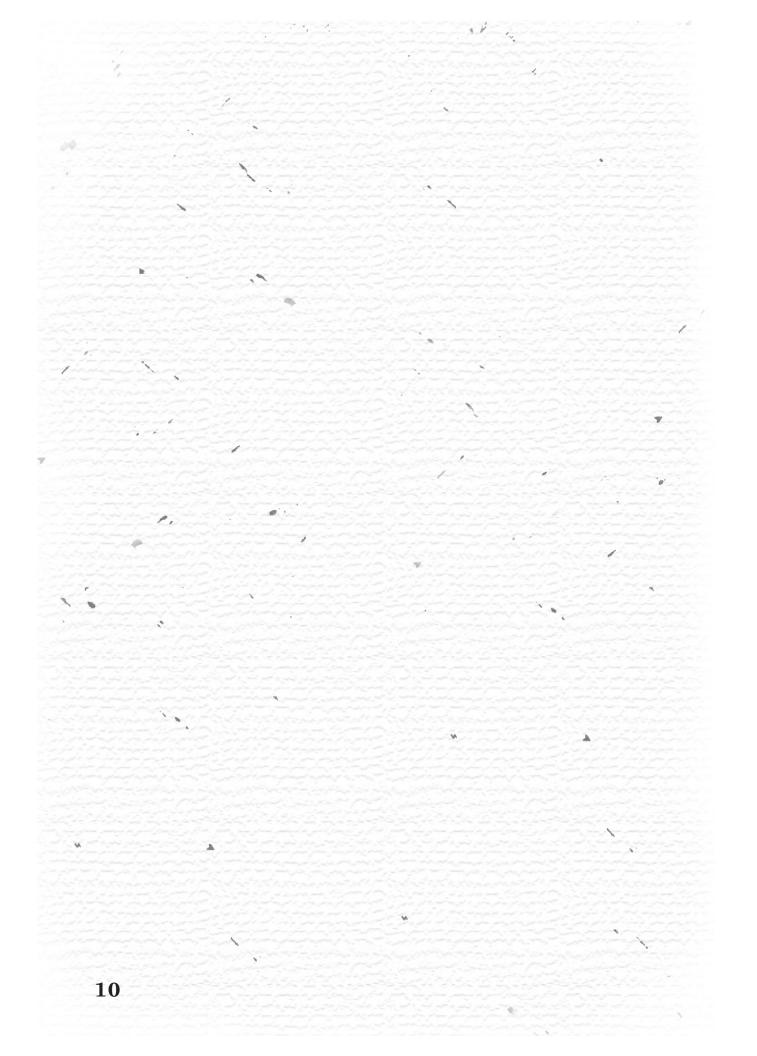
The second **objective** during your trip is for each participant to minister in the power of the Spirit. Many of the people that you will be ministering to are held captive by the chains of sin that grips their lives. Others are living in sickness and are in need of an encounter with the message of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

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. Jesus has called each of us to respond to this commission, to step out in faith, and to move in the power of the Spirit. Jesus said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19 NKJV, emphasis added)

The Word teaches us that if we are walking with Jesus and are willing servants, then the Spirit of the Lord is available to us when we "GO" in Jesus name. Take the scripture above - where you read "**Me**," insert your name there. Read it several times over and believe it! It's the ministry of Jesus to and through you that will change the lives of those you come in contact with.

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



FOR YOU or FOR THEM

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BY JACQUE ANTOINE

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Going overseas, visiting a new country and meeting new people is appealing to many people.

Add to this the excitement of being involved in a different culture and the promise of ministry, and it helps to make it easier to answer the call! However, one *must* ask the question: "What is motivating me to answer this call?"

I can vividly remember my first mission trip abroad. I thought mostly of the two months away, being with new people, and bringing the gospel message to the lost. I did not look at my uniqueness as part of a group where I was twice the age of any member on the team--and a single parent. Ours was a strong team of men and women who were not afraid to witness to anyone and everyone about Jesus. I questioned my importance on the team and wondered what I really had to offer. After being only *one week* in Uganda I dared to ask the question: what motivated me? In prayer, I asked the Lord to show me how to serve and be served during this two-month trip.

During ministry one day, a single mother came up to the group with a sick infant in her arms. She said she had no food in her house and, with heartbreaking tears, told us she was at the point of giving up. Before we knew what was happening she thrust the infant into the arms of the youngest team member.

In total shock the team member almost dropped the infant. She started shaking and crying and told the team she did not know what to do. The team leader turned to me and asked for help. Having experienced some similar circumstances myself, I took the woman and infant aside, ministered to her and then brought her back to the group so we could all pray with her. During debriefing later that night, the group expressed their gratitude for wisdom and presence on the team.

I realized that I was uniquely placed on the team, even if I was the oldest. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Through our relationship with the Lord we are all called to be the salt and light to a world that needs the love of Christ shown through you to push back the darkness, to relieve pain and suffering. Here are a few words that might guide you as you immerse yourself in another culture: Study the people and culture you're in.
Allow them room to be themselves.
Listen to their stories—they have much to add to your life.
Try to learn the language, maybe some of the greetings--it will bless them.

Love unconditionally and let it show. Include areas to work together. Give "self" not "things." Hold onto your values and respect theirs. Teach the Word of God; lift up the name of Jesus so others can

come unto Him.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:12-15 NIV)

How can I let the light of Jesus shine through me, so that others will learn to let their light shine also?

"You are the light of the world..." Matthew 5:16.

What gifts do I feel God has given me?

How can I use my gifts to bless the people I am with? "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Proper Motives for Going

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

Improper Motives for Going

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

14



BY KURT FULLER

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

Some like the adventure, some the opportunity to meet new people, others want to see new places. No matter what your reason, the most important thing to have on your trip is the right attitude. That is the attitude of a SERVANT. A true servant is a person that does whatever is asked, without questioning! Without reservations! It is a heart that says, "yes" even before the question is asked.

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

"Ok, so that wasn't really the highlight of the trip, but we sure did some ministry into these peoples lives, and when you're weak that's the time when you need God the most...less of me, more of him! Personally, that's when I had a break through. I even preached in front of about 200 people...anyways, South Africa is really cool!"

Vibeke said "yes" and because of her willingness to serve without questioning she touched the lives of many, and God used her in ways she never thought possible. You will be challenged beyond your comfort zones. You may be asked to do a task that stretches you in your abilities and mindset. You may be asked to scrub feet, preach in front of hundreds, or pray in an aids clinic. Will you be able to answer "yes"?

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

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. (Philippians 2:6,7) Do you know someone who is a great example of a servant? What traits do you see in them that you would like to emulate?

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

16

How can you best serve your other team members?

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

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GETTING THE MOST FROM SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

The ease of travel has also spawned the age of short-term missions. Instead of the six months it took the first missionaries to get to Hawaii from Boston, today that distance can be covered in ten hours by airplane. Virtually every area of the world is now accessible within 24 hours. This, of course, has created great potential in the area of missions, as numbers of people can now go to the mission field for short periods of time and apply their skills to the task of completing the Great Commission.

There was a time when short-term missions were viewed with skepticism by those who knew the difficulties of learning another language and culture. They had visions of masses of unskilled people flooding the mission field, and in their ignorance and inexperience undoing all that the long-term missionaries had accomplished. There were some initial problems, but overall it has been a very positive experience for both long-term and the shortterm missionaries.

Short-term missions has now become an accepted part of the missionary endeavor, and many mission agencies run some sort of short-term mission program. For those of you who undertake a short-term mission it can be a wonderful, profitable and enriching experience.

SPIRIT Empowered MINISTRY

BY TED VAIL

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, logging and fishing are a part of my heritage. There's an old story that we tell there...

One day a man from the city bought a piece of property outside of town in the woods. He wanted to clear his lot and be an "outdoorsman." He went to the local hardware store, came up to the counter and told the man there his dilemma.

"I just bought this property and it has 10 trees on it. I need to cut them down and section up the wood for firewood...do you have anything for that?"

He said, "I've got just the thing for you," and he pulled out a big chainsaw and plopped it down on the counter with a thunk.

"Here you go. This thing will drop those trees and section them up in half a day."

"Thanks, that's just what I need," said the city fellow as he walked away with the chainsaw.

About 10 days later the city fellow returned to the store, disgruntled, steaming mad, hair messed up, shouting as he slammed the chainsaw back on the counter:

"You said this saw would cut down my trees and section them in half a day...it's been 10 days and I finally got my first tree down!"

"Well, let me see that thing," the hardware man replied as he picked up the chainsaw.

He pulled the cord on the saw and started it right up—revving the engine and watching the chain blur with speed.

Listening and watching this, the city fellow was puzzled by the unfamiliar sound of the motor and questioned, "Hmm, now what is that noise there?"

The hardware man knew the problem—and so do you.

Spiritually, it can be like this for Christians—all of the parts are there and intact—but there's no spark, no ignition. We may know Bible verses and we may have wonderful intentions and heart, but Jesus was clear in Acts 1:4 when it tells how he "ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem" but to wait for the Holy Spirit empowerment to be witnesses. That's the spark. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 also details the need to have more than a religion of mere words. God wants to empower His people and ignite us by His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to extend His hands in this world.

Just like the difference the chainsaw can make when it gets "fired up," it's amazing what a difference your life can make when God's Holy Spirit fills you and fires you up.

As you read the Book of Acts, what do you see happening through the lives of these "Spirit empowered" believers?

If you were ignited and filled with the Holy Spirit what would you hope and expect would happen through your life?

What do you see in scripture as your next steps to seeing the power of God more evident in your ministry?

Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Acts 4:29-35

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PREPARING FOR ANOTHER CULTURE

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

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

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

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

1) Advanced planning and research. Find out all you can about the people and culture you will be visiting. Learn about the types of things you can expect to encounter (this is the best way to handle these things) and what you may want to investigate further when you get there.

2) Talk to people who have been on a short-term outreach to the same nation, city or people. Ask them about their experience. Was it

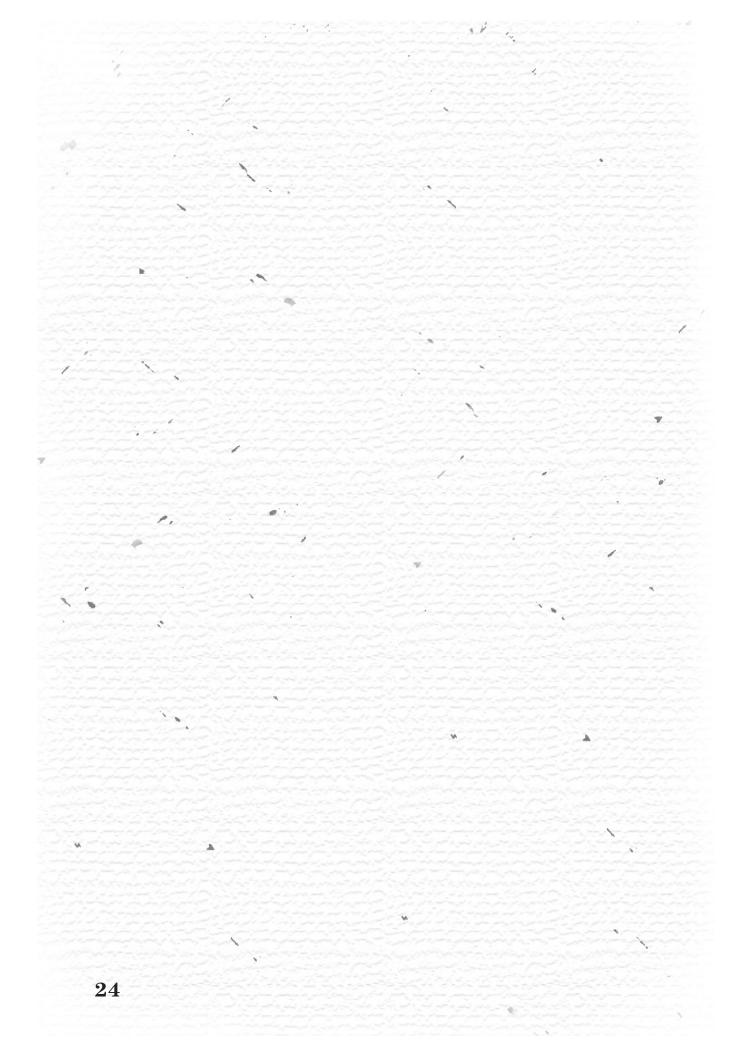
rewarding? If not, why? How did they handle the different culture? Listen to their comments and learn from their mistakes. Be aware of the attitudes that helped them to understand different cultures.

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

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

Go with Open Eyes

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



THE UNIVERSAL FOOD COURT

BY KATHY KIESELHORST

My husband and I were at a Foursquare convention in our favorite African country.

It was lunchtime, so we strolled over to the convention's food court for a bite to eat. It was so hot that even the flies were protesting; they were buzzing and flitting from one piece of meat to another, louder and faster than normal. We stopped to buy a few sticks of beef called *suya*. The meat is thinly sliced, oiled and then rolled in a mixture of ground peanuts, ginger, and cayenne pepper; then it's skewed on a wood stick. We ordered four sticks.

The preparer carefully pulled the meat off of the tray and placed them on his small hibachi grill, where the coals were already red-hot. He squirted a little additional oil on them as he turned them over. Once the edges were crispy, we watched as he deftly took a long knife and sliced the meat off the stick, into two separate piles of yesterday's newspaper. He asked if we wanted extra seasoning – which we did – and then he took a purple onion and sliced ample pieces onto the top of the meat and finished with a tomato that he quickly sliced and threw on top of the onions.

In three swift, well-practiced moves, he tucked and rolled numerous sheets of the newspaper around the *suya* and put each bundle in two separate black plastic bags. This was the take-out window of any fast-food chain in America! We walked away, unrolling our newspaper bundles and munching the spicy-hot pieces of meat (the purple onion is put in to actually "cool" the heat of the cayenne pepper!). We were happy patrons, even knowing that the meat, onions and tomatoes were all health threats by U.S. standards.

We ate a second day in the same food court, under an awning in a "sitdown" place. We ate out of the pots of prepared stews and pounded yams; we washed our hands in communal bowls of water. We ignored the gutter full of gray, grimy water that ran right in front of the food pots. We consciously blocked the smell coming from the piles of refuse that were off to one end of the court. We enjoyed the food and the camaraderie of the other conventioneers. They were comfortable in their food court, and so were we. We had intestinal diarrhea and cramps for almost two weeks following that convention.

Now, I don't tell you that story to boast about our behavior or to say that our behavior should be the norm. I tell that story because it illustrates a major stumbling block for many first-time travelers: food and differences in food. When I used the term "food court," I knew the images that would come to mind, but those images probably faded with each new description. The mention of flies on meat, sitting directly in the tropical sun, started the meltdown. The grimy water and refuse did further damage. The image faded altogether with the mention of diarrhea and cramps.

Culture Shock is the disorientation that results from unfamiliar surroundings and unmet expectations.

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10)

What is the culture shock that Jesus experienced when he came and lived as a man here on earth? What scriptures speak most powerfully to what he endured?

Discuss American-Christian attitudes concerning suffering. What scriptures make the strongest theological statement about suffering?

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In transparency answer: What are you prepared to endure in meeting another culture? How will you deal with the "suffering" that comes in laying down your own expectations and attitudes about how life "should be" vs. "how it actually is?"

BE A SERVANT

To apply your effort and skill toward furthering the work of the gospel on the mission field, you will want to go with a willing and ready heart to serve wherever there is a need. You could end up doing any number of things while on a mission trip. Some activities are more enjoyable than others, but it is important to remember that whatever you are doing, do it as a servant unto the Lord.

You may have skills that would be better used undertaking another task. However, do what you are asked to do without complaint. Your effort may not seem like much, and may not seem "spiritual," but in the overall scheme of things to have an impact everyone must do their part. You must lay down your rights and become a servant. Determine to do whatever is needed to help further the spread of the gospel among the people you are going to.

ALLOW THE LORD TO SPEAK TO YOU

Short-term missions is an opportunity for you to experience another culture first-hand and see if God may be calling you to the field. While on the mission field, set aside time to pray and listen to what God is saying to you. You shouldn't react quickly or superficially to what you see. In order to have God's heart for a city or nation you must pray for it.

Prayer is one of the most important and valuable things you can do while on the mission field. The most important part of prayer is listening. Be willing to die to your rights, dreams and fears and ask God to speak clearly to you. Ask God to call you. Don't resist Him, but plead with Him to break your heart. There are many things that God may reveal to you during a short-term outreach. The most important thing is that you take the time to listen to what He is saying; don't become so busy that you miss it.

RETURNING HOME

After the outreach is over, you will face a variety of emotions. Upon your return home you may have fire and passion burning in your heart that you have never felt before. The enemy will do everything he can to steal that fire. Be aware of some of his tactics. Do not allow him to take away the wonderful work God has done in your heart and life. Here are some things the enemy may use to discourage you:

1) Friends from home. So many times friends who did not go on the trip will try to discourage you. They will try to get you involved in activities that will cause the fire to diminish. Or through their words they will remind you of what you were like before you left. Don't let the enemy use your friends to steal the fire that God has placed in your heart. 2) Be on guard that you don't go back and compare your church with what you experienced on your outreach. Go back to serve, not to compare or criticize.

3) Don't move out of the mode you were in while on your outreach. Many times we return from a mission trip and fall back into the routines of day-to-day living. Don't put your life into a compartment by acting one way on a mission trip and another way back home. The way you reached out to people while on a mission trip is the way you should be at home. That is the way God wants you to live your life. Be careful of the trap that the enemy will set to try to get you back to the way you were before you left on the outreach.

4) Take some time to process all that God revealed to you during your trip. It is common for people to get caught in the excitement of the trip and make unrealistic commitments. Ask the Lord to reveal to you how what you have learned fits into His plan for your future.

CONCLUSION

A short-term outreach can be one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have in life. The key to a successful outreach is to prepare yourself ahead of time. The points outlined here will be of great help in doing this and in coming back to your church with a servant's heart. Get ready, God is going to change your life as you set out to touch this world with the love of Jesus.



BREAKING AN AMERICAN MINDSET

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO KINGDOM THINKING COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

BY BILL KIESELHORST

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An Incident

Kathy and I are sitting toward the back of our small church and worship is beginning to pick up. The conga sets the pace while the guitar, seriously out of tune, leads off. The women are tropical breezes of color, requisite headdresses swaying like clipper ships in full sail, small children in tow, small boats around their mothers. Joy charges the air with laughter and greetings. Anticipation flows in the room. Motion is color set to deeper rhythms. African worship rises from amidst the people like dawn overtakes the night.

Bro. Charles, standing before the small crowd in a pressed black suit tuxedo shirt with gold studs, stunningly handsome, gently brings order by leading into the first song. I notice Bro. James is wearing his Playboy bunny socks—used clothing market—I smile. Bunnies mean nothing to James. Worshipers and singers straggle in behind Charles, the guitar striking boldly if not skillfully toward a melody. The conga carries the advance as body and soul swing into rhythmic pulse. Together we swing, we sing, we move as one motion.

Charles is a banker, part of the leadership team of a local congregation in the north of Nigeria. Charles is professional at what he does, an important part of our team and he is my friend. But he can't carry a tune in a bucket. The entire worship team is grossly out of tune. Nobody notices and we grind through two songs. I groan audibly and hang my head between my knees. Appearing to be praying, I am trying to minimize the pain in my ears and my soul. This hurts. This is really bad. How are we going to salvage this? I am embarrassed for our church – I want to look good. Kathy is amused and presses on singing – in tune.

In the middle of the third song a profound sweetness fills the room. Peace permeates every worshiper. Tears of joy well up and spill. Several people slide to the dusty concrete floor and I join them, on my knees, hands open to the Holy Spirit who has joined us. Tears of shame course down my cheeks – my judgments, my attitudes, my whole demeanor of superiority I lay before the Lord. But He is there to cleanse, to heal, to lift up, to straighten and strengthen – not to condemn.

A Scriptural Response

In writing to the Colossians, Paul urges them to bear with one another in their differences by "putting on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12-13). I was caught in my humanness and my cultural viewpoint concerning Charles' ability to lead in worship. I found myself quite easily judging him even condemning his performance by my own measure of what good music "ought" to sound like. Who made me the judge? Music, I have learned, is a totally culturally learned phenomenon, and what sounds "good" to one people may sound horrible to another.

I learned an important lesson that morning. God simply loves us. That is the gospel. God loves us, and he desires that we worship him, and he does not give a hoot what our style or meter or tone is. Worship is about heart – our hearts given fully to Him. In our service, the hearts of the congregation and of Bro. Charles were given to Him in worship. And the Spirit of Christ came to us and He blessed us, even in our unskilled musicianship, He blessed us profoundly.

Intercultural Dynamics

Intercultural ministry brings you into daily encounters like the one I just shared. You continually encounter cultural behavior patterns that are unlike your own, but you have a different set of expectations. So you react, and then discover that your reaction is inappropriate, possibly offensive. You have an <u>expectation</u> in the midst of an <u>incident</u> which causes a <u>reaction</u> in you. This causes stress, often serious and prolonged stress, depending on how you deal with it.

At this point, you have two choices: you can <u>withdraw</u> in pain and confusion (which will lead to condemnation and bitterness--stress) or you can become <u>aware</u> of your reaction (and experience the stress of learning new behaviors). What are you feeling?

The very act of humbling yourself before Christ and others is witness to the presence of Christ in your life. If you said nothing, this act alone speaks of the gospel and the living presence God. It also says that you are willing to learn about the people you are with. You are humble enough to admit ignorance and become a learner. This is a huge step in becoming an insider in the host culture.

Becoming a cultural insider means that you will have developed a new set of culturally appropriate expectations and your level of stress subsides as a result. Obviously these new <u>expectations</u> and responses begin simply with small things and grow in number and complexity as you encounter greater breadth and depth of the culture. Some adjustments will be relatively easy, even enjoyable, while others will seriously try your values and beliefs. You may discover there are some things you simply cannot accept or cultural issues that you feel clearly violate the scripture. These are usually your greatest points of learning about the culture and ministry to the culture.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. (Colossians 3:12-15)

1. Following are some phrases that express American values: Time is money, shop til you drop, getting to the point, having fun. Think of some potential cultural conflict situations these viewpoints might bring you into and how you might work through them.

2. Reflect again on Colossians 3:12-15. How might you apply your understanding of this passage to your situation and enlist the Holy Spirit's guidance?

a.

Cross-Cultural Conduct

In exhibiting the life of Christ to the people that you are visiting, it is important that your conduct brings honor and glory to Jesus. Remember you are the visitor and guest. Here are some guidelines in exhibiting Jesus within the culture that you will be ministering in:

 First impressions are important. You may be tempted to make a hasty decision as to whether or not you like the people, food, or home. You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Learn to love the people. This is also true in your dealings with your team members and leaders.

2. Do not talk with the nationals about any problems within the team. Any problems you may have on the team should be kept within the team.

3. Smile. Always smile when meeting people.

4. Shake hands at every opportunity. The handshake is a friendship gesture all around the world.

5. Treat nationals with proper respect. Remember *you* are the visitor. Be polite and respectful.

6. Be friendly. Go the extra mile to be as friendly as possible.Wave at people along the highway and streets. Everyone loves it, especially the children.

7. Do not pity nationals. You will encounter poverty, hunger, poor dress, deplorable sanitary conditions and more. Disregard these conditions and simply love the people.

8. Be courteous and gracious at all times.

9. Laugh *with* them, never *at* them.

10. Learn a little of their language.

11. Show respect for everyone - both nationals and team members.

RELATIONSHIPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY ROSE MARY DAVIDSON

What do you mean when you use the word "friend"?

This is the question I asked myself thousands of times when I moved to he United States from another country. I was trying to understand the quality of friendship Americans talk so much about. "My friend told me about a great restaurant," "I'm going to be in my friend's wedding," "My friend and I are working on a project"...it was so confusing! Even though some of them said they were friends, the reality was that they did not have the intimacy of relationship I was accustomed to.

As time went by, I finally understood that most Americans have casual relationships with many people, but deeper, close friendships with just a few. This was a real shock to me because I come from a background where people have only lifetime friendships.

Americans highly value their independence and their privacy. Many people around the world think of Americans as friendly. They tend to smile, be a little loud and even talk to strangers. To people from other cultures, this friendliness might mean that America's are offering their friendship, however, they become disappointed when they find out that a friendly but superficial relationship is all that was intended.

Short-term mission trips are a great opportunity to build cross-cultural friendships. Regardless of the culture, teams are expected to show genuine interest and concern to those they go to minister to. If you only have two weeks to get a construction project done and for some reason construction materials are held up for a couple of days, you might see the delay as a waste of time. However, you can take this as an opportunity to build something more important than a building: a relationship, which is under construction.

Many teams think that mission trips are all about "doing something." They want to save the world! Yet, just a few desire to build authentic and lasting relationships. Many Americans, do have enduring friendships but at certain points in their lives they can be satisfied with transient relationships. For people in the field, these temporary relationships are hard to understand. Consequently, teams can hurt those they want to help so much. They bring the money, they do the task, and those who they "ministered to" once never hear from them again.

How different everything would be if instead of having teams that want to go all over the world "to do" ministry we could have teams that are willing to commit to "work in a long-term relationship." These are the teams that can cause an impact that goes far beyond any cultural barrier.

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). Relationship is the foundation to present the gospel cross-culturally because it reaches people who would refuse to accept our own ways of evangelism approach.

1. How would you feel if the only ministry your team did was sit and drink coffee with the locals or villagers?

2. Is meeting new people and making friends difficult for you? How do you see this affecting your trip?

3. What are some ways you can develop your new friendships once you return home?

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RELATIONSHIPS For your mission trip to be a success in your life, it is imperative that you keep your relationships in tact. Here is a list of some practical ways to keep all relationships in tact on this outreach.

Relationship with God

- 1. Be faithful in keeping your personal and group devotions.
- 2. Keep an active prayer life at all times. Pray without ceasing.
- 3. Seek to exalt Jesus in everything you do and say.
- 4. Give God glory in everything that happens. Know that His will is being accomplished in your life. (Romans 8:28, I Thessalonians 5:18)
- 5. When you are unsure, fearful, or hurt, talk to Him immediately.

Relationships with Team Members

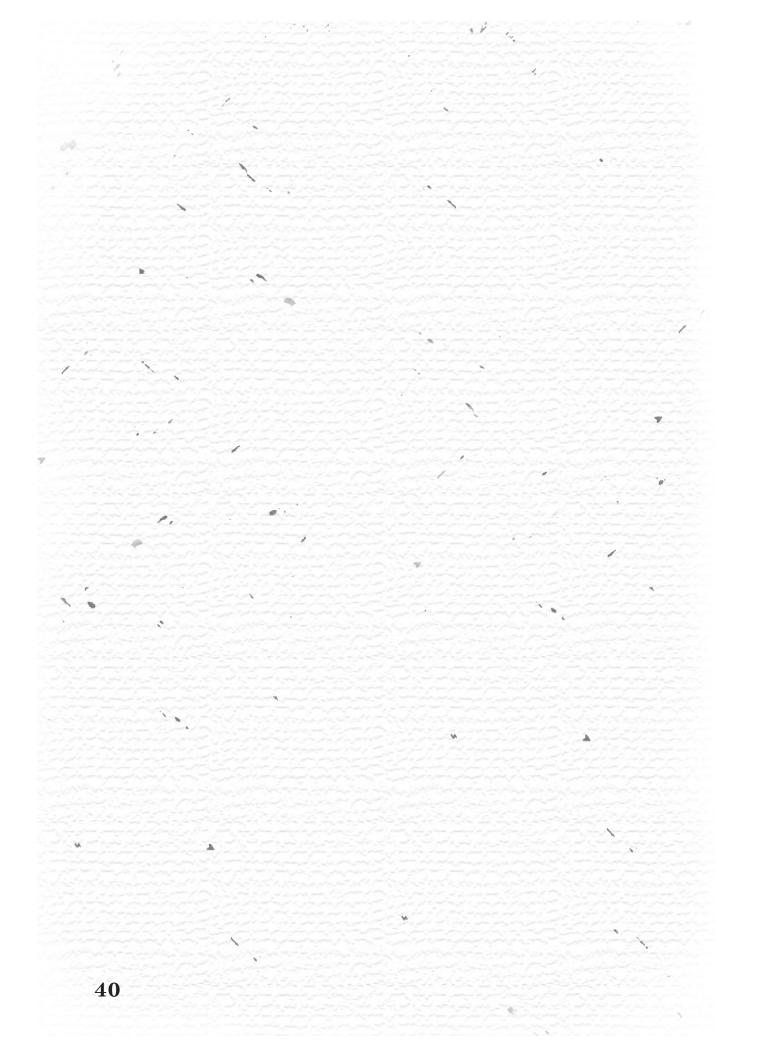
- 1. Never lose sight of the team concept.
- 2. You cannot, MUST NOT, do your own thing. Remember you are a team.
- 3. Pray daily for your team members.
- 4. Remind yourself daily that you have a strategic role as a member of the team.
- 5. Be sensitive to the needs of others.
- 6. Learn to sacrifice for others.
- 7. Be flexible at all times.
- 8. Love people at all times. Remember love covers a multitude of sins.
- 9. Pray together with a team member twice daily.
- 10. Build deep relationships with members of the team.
- 11. Do not talk about a problem you are having with one person to someone else. Deal directly with the person that you are having a problem with.
- 12. Be punctual so you don't create division in your team.
- 13. Do not gossip about or slander other team members.

Relationships with Team Leaders

- 1. Serve your leaders.
- 2. Pray for your leaders daily. They face many difficulties each day.
- 3. Encourage them daily.
- 4. Do not question authority or decisions.
- 5. Remember that they are not perfect people. They will make mistakes.
- 6. Disobedience will do nothing but hinder the team's influence.
- 7. Pay attention when they give instructions.
- 8. Think before you ask questions.
- 9. Do what they ask of you.

Relationships with Nationals

- 1. Respect, honor and love them.
- 2. Remind yourself that they are the reason we are in their nation or city.
- 3. Do not criticize them; our way is not necessarily the best way.
- 4. Avoid, at all costs, an air of superiority with nationals:
 - a. By what you say
 - b. By how you act
 - c. By body language and facial expressions
- 5. Differences in educational and intellectual opportunities does not
- make a national less intelligent or inferior.
- 6. Never talk down to them.
- 7. See the believers as brothers and sisters and the unbelievers as people whom God desperately loves.
- 8. Heed their counsel.
- 9. Do nothing that would embarrass them or hurt their work in the community. Remember they must live in the area after we leave.
- 10. Remember, they know their people, language and the characteristics of their culture.
- 11. Do anything they ask of you. Serve them in every way possible.
- 12. Pray for them daily.





BY AIMEE FONTES

I once read a story about a mission trip.

The team had left home, leaving everything they knew behind, but hadn't made it to their destination. A problem arose. God had appointed a leader and there were two people on the team who were not submissive to the leader. They had a leadership role on the team, but they weren't "the leader" and they were jealous.

The two people knew the rules very well, but despite the rules they gossiped between themselves about the leader. Can you imagine the problems this may have caused that team? They regularly met with the leader to pray for the trip and they all began to notice that their prayer times were flat and ineffective. During a time of prayer, God spoke and revealed the sin these two team members had committed against their leader. They were both disciplined – one of them wasn't allowed to take part in the team for seven days!

This story may sound familiar. It should, it's an adaptation of Aaron and Miriam's rebellion against Moses on their way to the Promised Land (Numbers 12:1-16). Providentially, God intervened before there was any ripple effect through the camp. God dealt with Miriam pretty harshly, she was instantly struck with leprosy and banished from the group for seven days.

That story reminds me of the words of a very wise king, King Solomon. In Song of Songs he is quoted as saying, "Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards..." (Song of Songs 2:15). A little gossip or attitude can ruin a whole team, just like a little fox can ruin a vineyard. An example of a little fox would be the gossip between Aaron and Miriam. God caught the fox before it ruined what He was doing through the team.

When you go on a mission trip, there will be times when little foxes come and try to eat the fruit of your trip. Catch them when they are still little, before all the fruit is gone and the trip is ruined.

"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards..." Song of Songs 2:15 1. Can you think of a time when a "little fox" ruined an experience in your life? (i.e. a vacation, a friendship, a different mission trip)? How could that experience have been better if you had caught the fox?

2. Here are some tips with what to do if a fox rears his head:

- a. Pray about it and see what's going on inside of you. Here are a few questions to ask yourself: Am I frustrated, angry or overly tired? Is my problem caused or increased by any of these?
- b. If you discover that the issue has something to do with external issues (such as the people around you) take time to think about what is causing the issues. Maybe it's a personality difference or perhaps a power struggle.
- c. Last, after you are sure the issue is truly between you and someone around you, take time to pray about your side. And if necessary, confront that person, don't let it grow inside.

3. Take time to seek God and ask him to show you any foxes that may be in your life right now – that way you won't be packing any foxes in your bags!

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DIFFICULTIES & ADJUSTMENTS

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

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



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Raising the money needed for your trip can seem unobtainable.

Most people have difficulty living within their income, let alone raising the money needed to minister on a missions trip. There is an old saying in missions, "If it is God's will, then it is God's bill." If God has called you to go, He will provide the means for you to get there.

Katie was a girl in my youth group several years ago. She believed God had called her to go on a mission's trip to Guatemala. The team leader called me a few weeks before the trip and asked me how Katie was doing on her fund-raising. I discovered Katie had only raised \$200 of the \$1600 needed. Katie assured me that God had called her to "go" and that he would provide, I assured her that she needed to get out and raise some money. There was a local Christian Radio show doing a special on missions and Katie called in to speak with the radio host. Suffice it to say that the conversation centered on her desire to "go" and her lack of funds to do so. The next day an anonymous person who had heard Katie on the radio dropped off a check for the amount she still needed for her trip. She had faith in God and like He always does, He came through.

I am not suggesting that somehow God will miraculously have money appear, I am saying that God will provide through the most unexpected sources. In all my years sending people on mission's trips, I have not observed an individual fail to go because they did not have the finances. Our God is a missionary God and He will bless you as you step out in faith to reach people on a mission trip. Pray everyday for God to provide what you need and pray God's blessing on those who commit to sponsor you. Trust that God will provide for your every need before, during and after your trip. Believe that God will amaze you with His goodness and grace.

* "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 15:16)

1. What are some hesitations you have about the fund-raising process?

2. How do you see the fund-raising process as a tool for God to teach you about faith and trust?

3. How do you see the lessons learned in fund-raising affecting your ministry on the trip?



BY STEVE WILSON

INTRODUCTION

We are excited about your choice to participate on a mission trip this year. Over the next few months you will witness the hand of God in your life. You will be astonished as you watch the Holy Spirit perform the miraculous in your midst. This outreach will truly change your outlook on life.

One exciting aspect of every mission outreach is the time before the actual event. This is the preparation stage where God is preparing you as an individual, and your entire team for one of the most incredible events in your lifetime. During this time God is doing many things in the hearts and minds of every trip participant.

Most people do not like fund-raising. It has been looked at in a negative way for two reasons. First, most people that engage in fund-raising do so with the wrong perspective in their mind and heart. Secondly, most have had a bad experience in fund-raising. This is a result of bad planning, choosing poor fund-raising events and overkill by doing too many fund-raising campaigns over a short period of time. People therefore see it as a drag, headache and too much work. Even though this tends to be the most wide-spread view of fund-raising, I believe it is the wrong view. Fund-raising, in my mind, is one of the most exciting and rewarding acts that we can involve ourselves with. It's an opportunity to watch the mighty hand of God at work.

Jesus talked more about money than any other subject. Reading about His perspective on money will help develop a proper and more biblical view on fund-raising. Here are some positive results of fund-raising:

It is an opportunity to put God in a position where He will prove Himself to you and your team.

It will develop team unity and greater vision for the outreach. Whenever people work together and sacrifice together for a common project, the rewards are tremendous, both materially and spiritually.

It is opening the door for thousands of individuals to be blessed by God for participating in an activity that is furthering the cause of Christ around the world. Through their giving and financial support they are going to be blessed in an unusual way by the Holy Spirit.

This manual will help change your perspective on fund-raising and present you with many ideas that will make fund-raising an enjoyable and rewarding task. Remember it's not the amount of fund-raisers that you do that will raise the money needed for the outreach, it's the quality of fund-raisers and how you choose to involve the Holy Spirit in your efforts. Before we go any further in this manual, I would like you to meditate on the following scriptures. They will build faith in your heart to believe God for His provision. If you are a group leader, please share these with your team.

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:7-11

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Matthew 21:22

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." John 14:13

"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:14

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." John 15:7

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 15:16

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind." James 1:6

"You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God." James 4:2

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your own pleasures." James 4:3

"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him." I John 3:21-22

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." I John 5:14-15

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON FUND-RAISING

There are four areas you want to address and understand as you prepare to develop a proper perspective on fund-raising:

Make sure the return is worth the effort.

I once was involved in a fund-raiser where we sold Christmas trees. The Christmas tree lot was open for three and a half weeks for twelve hours each day. During each of those hours there was at least three people working. I found myself at the tree lot at least ten hours each day. The weather was miserable and it was a very difficult time. When it was all said and done our group raised about \$800. If you were to total up all the money made and divide it by the number of people-hours that had been put into the project, we made about 25 cents an hour. We would have been better off if all the kids had worked at McDonald's for a month and given half their paychecks to the mission trip. The return was not the worth the effort. This put negative thoughts in the minds of many members of our youth group toward fund-raising and discouraged many to not participate in future fund-raising activities.

Ask.

The biggest problem in fund-raising is our reluctance to come right out and ask for money. We try many gimmicks to get people to the point of asking for money, but we are afraid to offend them, so we stop short. We need to remember that there are people who don't have time to participate on mission trips but gain great joy in financially supporting someone else.

Don't leave God out of the process.

With all our gimmicks and clever ideas for raising money, we can forget that our source of funds is the source of all things. We leave God out of the process at our own peril.

There are two ways God will provide for this outreach ...

In each of our lives there are certain lessons that God is trying to teach us. I have discovered in conducting mission trips in over forty nations that God usually provides in two ways.

The first is *miraculous provision*. God simply does a miracle. I have seen many young people have their trip paid for in one lump sum by an anonymous giver. Perhaps God needed to show that young person that He is the great provider.

The second way is *sacrifice*. I have witnessed hundreds of young people over the years who had to sacrifice much in order to participate on a mission outreach. For some reason God wanted to teach them the importance of sacrifice and the rewards that are a result of it. And in many cases, God will use a mixture of both...sacrifice and miraculous provision.

Conclusion

In concluding this section, we must be reminded that God commands us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. **This is not an option; it's a command.** And this is a command for all those who claim to follow Jesus Christ. Please be reminded the Bible does not say "Go into all the world if you are rich, or if your parents are rich." No, it simply says "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." If we are obedient to the Lord's final command, He will provide the resources to fulfill the command. It's not our obligation to provide the money, it is His. Our obligation is to be obedient. God will provide the resources needed to enable us to carry out His command.

In the next section of this booklet we will provide you with many creative ways that will put God in a position to prove His word to you. As you pray over your fund-raising efforts, be reminded of these four points:

- The money is there we just have to find it.
- We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.
- Pray and work hard.
- Believe God and His Word.

CREATIVE WAYS TO RAISE MONEY

There are many ways to raise money. We have listed a few to help generate creative thoughts in your mind. This will enable you to raise the support needed for the mission trip in which you will be participating. Please note that these ideas can be used by both an individual and a group that is participating on an outreach.

Throughout the entire fund-raising campaign, it's imperative that you keep the mission outreach as the focal point in any fund-raiser. This will motivate people to give more generously because they will be aware that you are going to another part of the world to touch suffering, hurting and lost people with the love of Jesus.

The key to effective fund-raising is proper motivation. You should allow each student to apply any dollars they raise directly to their trip. It's unwise to throw all the funds in one big fund and divide equally. This should only take place with church offerings and anonymous gifts for the outreach.

INSTRUCTIONS - GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL

If you have signed up as an individual and your church or youth group is not participating on the outreach, here is how you can use these ideas. Look through all the ways to raise support listed throughout the manual. After praying and evaluating which fund-raisers would be good for your church and the area you live in, present the idea to your pastor or youth pastor. Ask him or her to support you in the endeavor and inform him that you would like to take the lead in setting up the fund-raiser(s). You will plan, organize, run the event and recruit all volunteers. Convey to your pastor or youth pastor the items that we mentioned in the last section in relation to you being part of an army. Remind them that you are being sent out from your church or youth group to further the cause of Christ in another part of the world. Let him know that you want the church or youth group to be part of this event. You would like all members of the church or youth group to know that you will be representing them in another part of the world.

If you are a group leader and your church or youth group is participating in a mission trip, it's your responsibility to provide ways for each team member to raise the support needed for the outreach. Please look through the list of ideas and pray and evaluate which fund-raisers would be best for your church or youth group. Below is a suggested format for fund-raising.

Six Months Out Five Months Out Four Months Out Three Months Out Two Months Out Six Weeks Out Five Weeks Out Four Weeks Out Two Weeks Out One Week Out Church Inclusive Fund-Raiser A "Thon" (walk-a-thon, clean-a-thon) Community Fund-Raiser Letter Writing Campaign Church Inclusive Fund-Raiser Church Offering Community Fund-Raiser Church Inclusive Fund-Raiser Community Fund-Raiser Church Offering

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Church Inclusive Fund-Raiser

This is a fund-raiser that is done within the church such as a dinner, bake sale, etc.

Community Fund-Raiser

This is a fund-raiser that is done to involve the community such as a car wash, candy sales, etc.

Church Offering

On a Sunday morning the senior pastor presents the need and purpose of the outreach. He challenges every person to give a sacrificial gift to send the team to its mission destination.

CREATIVE FUND-RAISERS

Create A Prayer Support Team.

Prayer is the key ingredient to every outreach. It is vital that each team member create a team of volunteers that will pray for them on a daily basis. This is the first act that each team member should do in the fund-raising effort.

Missions Luncheons

After Sunday worship services, many people eat out, so why not serve a hot lunch in the church at a reasonable price? This will help create missions awareness in the hearts and minds of the people in your church. This is an effective fund-raiser for large congregations.

Auctions

Enlist businessmen, travel agents, stores, service-oriented businesses, restaurants and local church members to donate various *new* items and services for an auction. This auction can be conducted in two ways . . . open to the entire community or to the local church members only. To make this a success for the entire community it will be necessary to have a very good advertising campaign. Advertise in the local newspapers, on community billboards, etc. This event can raise thousands of dollars if it is done right.

Servant Auctions (Slave Auctions)

This is an auction that you should conduct within the confines of the local church. In this event you are auctioning off team members to individuals or businesses to serve in a volunteer capacity for eight hours to the highest bidder. Usually each team member can raise between \$50-\$150 for this event.

Crazy Stunts

This is an event where the group leader and well-known personalities within the church offer themselves to participate in crazy events after a church service. Examples of these are pie in the face, shaving hair, beard, or mustache, etc. This is accomplished by setting a goal of what it will cost to see certain events take place. For example, if you as a leader were going to shave your head, you would set a figure like \$5,000. Then the bidding would start. Each bid would count as an amount toward the goal. Once the audience has pledged the \$5,000, your head would be shaved on the spot. It's best to conduct this event with a dinner or after a church service.

Flea Market

This event takes a lot of planning and coordination. Six weeks prior to the event you would place an announcement in the church bulletin asking for people to donate items for the flea market. Over the next four weeks you would have team members pick up these items and store them at a single location. Two weeks prior to the event, you would advertise the flea market to the public. It's important that you find a good location to hold the flea market. This can be a big money raiser if done right.

Windshield Wiper Brigade

A group of Texas high-school students raised funds for a local mission project with a "Windshield Wiper Brigade." Enthusiastic students armed with clean rags and window cleaner worked one Saturday afternoon at the parking lot of a large shopping mall. They placed colorful posters at the entrance of the parking lot. The posters said: "Help us find our way to (nation they were going to) to touch hurting people. Let us clean your windshields for 50 cents each." They got a tremendous response. The cleaning process took an average of one minute per car and generous tips were offered to the students.

Parents Night Out

Offer the parents and adults a night out that gives them dinner and babysitting all for one low price. Have a list of restaurants with certain meals already pre-negotiated with the restaurant. Operate on a voucher system and part of the proceeds of the meals will go to the students.

Macho Bake Sale

Get all the men in the church to bake cakes, cookies, and pies. You might even want to make it a contest between the men - no women may help them. This event will be a lot of fun, generate a lot of enthusiasm and raise good money.

Candy Sales

This is an excellent fund-raiser that takes little effort. Buy a variety of candy bars from places like Sam's Club, Costco, etc. Mix up the candy in quantities of 50 and have each student sell the candy at school. An average student can sell 50 candy bars per day. The profit on 50 candy bars is around \$11. I tell students: "It's like getting paid to go to school!"

Clean-A-Thon

Thons can raise thousands of dollars of support. By far they are the most productive fund-raiser. There are many thons that a group can participate in. Examples are: Bowl-A-Thon, Jog-A-Thon, Car Wash-A-Thon (take pledges for each car washed at a free car wash). However, it is my opinion that the Clean-A-Thon will raise more money than any other. Why? Because you are doing something positive for the local community and people can see that your team is making a difference. Here is how to conduct a Clean-A-Thon:

• Find an area in your city that is run down.

• Go to the city council and inform them that your team would like to volunteer to take a day to clean up the area. (painting, repairs, lawn care, planting flowers). Ask them to write a letter endorsing that project.

• Take that letter to the local police and inform them of your efforts. Invite them to take part by conducting an anti-drug presentation. Have them involve their K-9 unit for a special show. Have them write you a letter of endorsement as well. • Present these letters with a cover letter to local businesses, asking them to donate supplies needed for the Clean-A-Thon.

• Create a pledge form with a cover letter and distribute them to each team member as well as others who would like to raise funds for this outreach. In the cover letter explain that each potential sponsor is sponsoring a team member per hour to clean up the local community. The funds being raised then will send the team member to a troubled nation to be a source of hope to hurting people.

Trash-A-Thon

Get pledges for every pound of trash your group can pick up in a day. The trash, and therefore the money, adds up quickly and this is one fund-raiser that requires a minimum of hassle and preparation.

Buy A Mile

Members of a youth group in Oregon took a large map and sketched their travel route to and from their mission site. They added up the travel expenses and divided them by the total number of miles they would travel. Using the cost per mile estimate, they drew a red line over their route to show how far they'd get on the money raised thus far. Church members were given the opportunity during the next few months to help advance the teams journey by purchasing miles. This idea can unify the church family and provide a great visual tool of how the fund-raising is going. It is also wise to bring this visual tool to all fund-raisers and have a box with envelopes available where people can buy miles and extend the trip.

Golf Club Wash

Set up a booth at the eighteenth green of a local golf course and offer to wash golf clubs for the retired hackers. All you need is permission from the golf course pro, a pail of soapy water, a brush, a pail of clean water, a coin collector and a few towels. For extra money, you can wax the woods and use a metal polish on the irons. If the money is going to a worthy cause, most golfers will be glad to pay a reasonable price.

Car Wash

The keys to a successful car wash are to secure a good location and have an adequate supply of workers. We have found that the car washes that generate the most funds are those that are run on a donation basis. When the customer learns the purpose of the car wash and that the proceeds are going to send people on a mission outreach, they usually give a substantial gift. It's also wise to sell hot dogs, chips, and soda during the car wash.

Yard Clean-Up

Advertise by going door-to-door and hanging up flyers. On the ad inform potential customers of the purpose of the fund-raiser. Offer to mow lawns, rake leaves, pull weeds, clean windows, etc. Have a crew that can work every Saturday.

Baby Sitters

Arrange a list of baby sitters and advertise to the congregation. There are many parents who need baby-sitters but do not know where to find them. This fund-raiser can raise many dollars over a period of time. It also helps students who will be participating on the outreach to build relationships with adults and therefore open doors for potential support.

Adopt-A-Student Program

This is a program that you can implement in your local church. There are many adults within the local church who do not have children. Either they never had them or their children are now adults and no longer live at home. Many of these adults have a deep desire to "Adopt' students who are involving themselves in worthy projects and causes. They will assist in sponsoring these young people. The best way to communicate this within the church is through a bulletin insert and a phone campaign.

SUPPORT LETTER

The support letter campaign is one of the most productive fund-raisers to generate support for mission outreaches. It is also, a way to involve those who are unable to participate on the mission outreach by traveling with the team.

One of the most common misconceptions about support letters is that you are begging for money. This is the furthest thing from the truth. In reality you are actually inviting people to be part of a tremendous event. You are giving them an opportunity to be blessed by the Holy Spirit. Whenever a person gives a financial gift to help send someone to another corner of the earth to preach the gospel, they will receive a tremendous blessing from God.

There are many ways to conduct a support letter campaign. After years of research and assisting thousands of individuals, we have found that the following ideas work best. Please follow these guidelines in your support letter campaign.

1. Prayerfully put a list together of people who you personally know. Begin to pray for each of these individuals. Ask God to open their heart to support you on your missionary endeavor.

2. Categorize these individuals in the following categories: Family, friends, parent's friends and influential adults with whom you have a relationship.

3. Once you categorize every person on your list, choose one of the two letters provided to send to them. The difference in the two letters is simply this: one asks for a one-time gift while the other asks for a four month commitment of \$25 each month. Most of international outreaches cost between \$1100 and \$3000. If you choose the monthly support letter you would only need 11 to 30 people to support you.

4. Before you send out each letter, pray over each one. Ask God to give you favor with those who will receive it. Mail the letters five days before the 1st or 15th of the month.

5. Pray every day for your supporters. Wait two weeks and examine the response from the original list of letters that you sent out. For those who did not respond, pray about calling them. If you decide to call them, inform them over the phone about what you are doing. Remind them of the letter you sent and ask them if they might consider supporting you. Inform them of how much money you have raised thus far. Invite them to be a part of this missions endeavor. Following the phone call, send them a thank-you letter for taking the time to listen to you. Do this even if they do not support you. This will touch their heart and could cause them to support your endeavor.

6. Within each letter, enclose a response envelope with a stamp on it. Make sure you enclose your response voucher. The address on the response envelope should be in your handwriting. If you're part of a local church team, put the local church address on the envelope. If you're an individual that is not part of a local church team, put your address on the return envelope. Enclose four envelopes and vouchers if you are sending the monthly support letter.

7. For each person that responds to your appeal, phone them and thank them. Also send them a personal thank-you card. Do not neglect to do this and do it immediately.

8. Upon the completion of your outreach, send out a report to all your supporters. Highlight exciting events that took place. Tell a personal story of someone's life that was changed in the location where you ministered. Limit the report to two pages. Try to include photos within the report. You can do this by following the same instructions listed above for your support letter. This report will cause those who supported you to stand with you again on future outreaches.

A FINAL NOTE

P.

God will supply all your needs for this outreach. He has not placed this in your heart to let you down. God does not taunt us. He fulfills our dreams and desires. He causes them to take place and come to fruition.

There will be times before this outreach where you will feel greatly discouraged. It will seem like there is no hope of the money being raised. The enemy will do everything within his power to distract you. These will be times that **you must encourage yourself in the Lord**. Remind yourself that He is the one who called you. And so He must provide. And He will. God is the great provider. So do not be discouraged for you know that God will do His part if you do your part.

ACCOUNT RECORD

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SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Date

Dear

Greetings! I have some wonderful news to share with you. I have been accepted to go on a team to __(country)___ this summer with (church name or organization). This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I am thrilled to be a part of it!

We will minister to the people through ______, and other creative approaches. I will get to share my faith and experience growth in my walk with Jesus like never before. The people of ______ are (include some demographic, etc info here . . .).

I ask you to consider being involved in this endeavor with me. First, I need much prayer over my trip. I will be going to an unfamiliar country, with many foods and ways of life to adjust to. Also pray that many people will be saved and filled with God's love and power. Your prayers mean a great deal to me. It is such an essential part of missions!

Second, if God is leading you to support this ministry financially, the information you will need is at the bottom of the letter. I need to raise _(cost of trip)_ by _(date \$ is due)_. Contributions are tax-deductible and non-refundable. Without your support and the support of other friends this trip will not be possible.

Thank you for your partnership in building His kingdom in _(country)_!

His love and mine, Name

*Please send any checks to me in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope: make checks payable to "(your church name)."

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER 2

Name Address City, State Zip Phone Number

Date

Dear Friends and Family,

This year alone, 80 million people will die without even hearing the name of Jesus once. Whether or not we choose to face it, the reality is that there is a hurting world that is desperate for a real God to bring hope, love, healing and provision. I recently went to a conference where I was deeply moved by hearing about a needy world. My passion for people was stirred, and I knew that I wanted to be part of the move of God in my generation.

"All gave some, but some gave all," was quoted at the conference and I knew then that I didn't want to be someone who just gave "some." I want to give all.

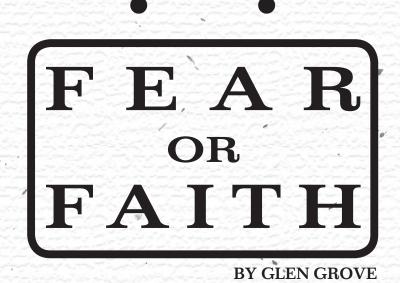
In the summer weeks of June 22-July 8, as my senior trip, I have the opportunity to go on a mission to serve in Uganda, Africa, with Foursquare Missions International. Uganda has known civil war which has caused mistrust, fear, injustice and deep hurt to the soul of this nation. The Ugandans have a great lack of sufficient medical aid. My mission team will be working with Life Bible College graduates in the capital city of Kampala to bring God's hope, restoration and healing to the community, by building and pioneering a church.

The trip has a total cost of \$3,000 per person, which includes airfare, lodging, meals and emergency needs. There are eight of us going from my youth group and we are all a little nervous about leaving the country. However, we have already started many fund-raisers and are committed to bringing in the needed finances. I would ask if you would consider giving to this cause both prayerfully and financially, if possible. Any amount of support is deeply appreciated, and will benefit the Ugandan people for generations. Please let me know if you can commit to pray for our trip. Donations can be made to my local church, and are tax-deductible. God's promise for sowing is reaping, so if you choose to give, please consider what you desire to reap. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please call.

Love, Your name

Here is a "real-life" example of a fund-raiser letter. Notice how she includes facts about the country--people love this! Make sure people understand that the checks need to be made out to "(your local church)" but sent to YOU. (You may want to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their donations).



Joshua chapter eleven:

The children of Israel are just coming into the land that God had promised them. They know that there will be many battles ahead and that they need to be prepared. In fact, through the Lord's strength they have already seen victory in a few battles. However, because of these victories several kings have gathered together and established a mighty force to wipe out the Israelites. In verse six the Lord says to Joshua: "Do not be afraid of them because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain." That must have caused a bit of rejoicing in the camp. But then the Lord also says: "You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots."

That part about the slain enemies must have sounded pretty good to them. But I'm guessing the instructions to make the horses lame and to destroy the chariots might have chaffed a bit. I mean, they knew that this was not going to be the last battle on this mission. There were going to be many more skirmishes and in that day chariots were the equivalent of a Black Hawk combat helicopter. Why on earth would God ask them to destroy the very kind of tool that could be so helpful in bringing them into the land that the Lord had promised to them? I think part of the answer is to be found in Psalm 20:7 where David writes, "Some trust in chariots" and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

One of our fear responses is to try and use our resources to deal with the scary situation at hand. So often when we can look ahead and anticipate an uncomfortable situation we want to surround ourselves with things that will make the situation better. We want certain people around us; we want some money close at hand or we want a computer or other tool that will help us out in our time of need. We want horses and chariots.

When your team is ministering in a rowdy prison in Brazil and your portable sound system crashes there can be room for fear as you scramble for some batteries. When, in the dim light of the hut's only candle you look at your dinner and can't figure out what any of it is you may have a lump in your throat as you feel in your pack for some granola bars. When your team's plane lands in the wrong country you may have some tightness in your chest as you press your group leaders for answers. But, God will always call us to place our trust in Him.

Be sure that there will be any number of opportunities for fear on your trip. Also be sure that the Lord is bigger than any of those fears. In Philippians 4:6-7 Paul offers this advise when it comes to fear and faith: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." Psalms 20:7

Chariots aren't evil and sound equipment isn't from Satan (despite what it may seem like at times), and yet these things can be used to divert our trust away from God. It's good to be prepared but we can't let fearful preparation misplace our faith.

As you've looked forward to this trip what are some of the things that may have caused you to fear?

Has part of your preparation for those fears been to turn them over to the Lord? Are you holding on to "chariots" or have you given these things to the Lord in faith?

What about the daily surprises? Is your first response to trust in tools to fix the problem or to have faith?

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TRAVEL GUIDELINES

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

Emergency Procedures

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

What to Pack PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANYTHING THAT WOULD TERRIBLY UPSET YOU IF IT WAS LOST, RUINED OR STOLEN.

Every team member should try to bring a small backpack (as your carry-on) and fanny pack as well. Do not bring a "camping type" backpack. A backpack will allow you to carry important items with you each day (snacks, bottled water, tracts, bibles, cameras, etc). The fanny pack will be very useful in protecting your valuable assets (money, jewelry, wallet, maps, etc.)

- Bible, notebook, and pen
- □ Casual dress or skirt outfit (for girls) this will be main attire in some countries.
- □ CONSERVATIVE swimsuit (GIRLS: only one-piece suits)
- □ Tennis shoes and sturdy shoes (for extensive walking and hiking)
- □ Completely waterproof raincoat and umbrella
- □ Some article of clothing to keep you warm at night (pack according to country climate)
- □ Casual clothing (jeans, pants, sweats, T-shirts, sweaters, and sweatshirts)
- □ Make-up (for skits)
- □ Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- Undergarments
- □ Water bottle or canteen
- \Box Sleeping bag
- Towels and washcloth
- Flashlight and batteries
- □ Plan of salvation (MEMORIZE)

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

- □ Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- □ Kaopectate, Pepto Bismol or Imodium (for diarrhea)
- □ Malaria pills (if needed for the country you are visiting)
- □ Personal medication (i.e. allergy, aspirin)
- \Box Candy and gum, etc.
- \Box Camera and film
- □ Spending money (\$30 to \$50 per week suggested)
- Dictionary (language of the country/English)
 Tracts in the country's language
- Tracts in the country's language
- □ Airmail stationery (buy stamps in country)
- □ Baby wipes to remove your skit makeup
- □ Alarm clock
- □ Small container of laundry detergent
- □ Instrument (i.e. guitar; harmonica)
- Gatorade, or another powdered drink mix
- Scrub brush (to get out tough stains)

What Not to Pack

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

Please DO NOT pack the following:

GIRLS:

- 1. Mini skirts
- 2. Crop tops or spaghetti strap tops
- 3. Two-piece bathing suit or an immodest one piece
- 4. Shirts without sleeves
- 5. Off-the-shoulder shirts
- 6. Tight pants
- 7. Clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco products, secular rock bands, Christian rock bands
- 8. Jewelry

GUYS:

- 1. Clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco products, sports teams, secular rock bands, Christian rock bands
- 2. Earrings
- Bicycle pants or shorts
 Fishnet shirts
- 5. Immodest swimsuits

Important Team Policies

On your outreach there will be several policies that we require all team members to follow. It is important for every member to understand that they are part of a team, not an individual participating in a trip. We will need you to look out for other team members and pay close attention to the following guidelines.

Travel Procedures

- Your team may be traveling through airports on your outreach. It is very important for everyone listen to instructions. Teams cannot afford for any person to be unsure or unclear about instructions. International airports are large places filled with thousands of people and hundreds of flights every day. A team will have to go through customs, passport control, transfer terminals, and in many cases be taken to planes by buses or trains. It is imperative that you stick close to your team. Please know at all times what carrier you are flying on, the flight number, and where you are flying to. Please be aware of all the connecting cities that you will be traveling through. If you get lost in an airport, immediately go to the courtesy phone and page your team leader. If you can't find this phone, go to any airline or airport personnel and ask them to help you page your team leader.

On many occasions during the trip you may be traveling in buses, vans, subways, and cars. Be very careful to listen to all instructions. When you are on a subway, city bus or train, make sure you pay close attention so you aren't left behind when your team leader exits the vehicle. Stick close together when using these modes of transportation.

Passport Information

Passports are essential for international travel. It is essential that you apply for your passport immediately so there is no danger of you missing your trip. We absolutely cannot let you go without your passport. When you get your passport make three copies to put in your luggage then give copy to your team leader!

Where to get your passport:

Any regional passport agency or a designated Post Office or Clerk of Court. You can check your local telephone directory for locations. Look for Passport Services under the Department of State listing in the Federal Government blue pages of the directory.

What you need to do:

You will need to appear IN PERSON before an agent authorized to accept passport applications at either a post office, court house or passport agency. You need to bring the following items with you:

- 1. Proof of U.S. Citizenship (one of these)
 - Previous U.S. Passport
 - Certified birth certificate
 - Consular Report of Birth Abroad
 - Naturalization Certificate
 - Certificate of Citizenship
 - 2. Proof of Identity (one of these)
 - Previous U.S. Passport
 - Naturalization Certificate
 - Certificate of Citizenship
 - Current, valid driver's license
 - Government ID: city, state or federal
 - Military ID: military and dependents
 - Work ID: must be currently employed by the company
 - Student ID: must be currently enrolled
 - Merchant Marines card: also known as a "Seaman's or AZ" card
 - Pilot or flight attendant ID

3. Two Passport Photographs

Photographs must be 2x2 inches in size. The image size from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head should be between 1 inch and 1 3/8 inches. They may be in color or black and white. They must be full face, front view with a plain white or off-white background. Photographs should be taken in normal street attire, without a hat or headgear that obscures the hair or hairline. Uniforms should not be worn in photographs with the exception of religious attire, which is worn daily. If prescription glasses, a hearing device, wig or similar articles are normally and consistently worn, they should be worn when the picture is taken. Dark glasses or nonprescription glasses with tinted lenses are not acceptable unless required for medical reasons. A medical certificate may be required to support the wearing of such glasses in photographs.

- 4. The Application Fee
 - \$75 for those 16 years and older
 - \$60 for those under age 16



BY SHAH AFSHAR

Today more than ever in man's history

we are bombarded with high-tech communication and endless formulas for effective evangelism. Yet, the most effective way to lead people to Christ is the oldest, purest and most natural— it is the same method that Jesus, Paul and all the early believers used—and that is story telling.

Everyone has a story to tell to those around them, especially if you have become a part of the Story of God. According to Leighton Ford, the story produces a vision, and the vision transforms character. What enables a tongue-tied believer to become God's storyteller is that transformed character he/she has experienced through becoming a follower of Christ—the character we received when our story merged with God's Story.

In John chapter 9, we see just such a merger. Jesus heals the man who has been blind since birth. The man has no idea who healed him. So, when the religious leaders of his day ask him how he was healed, he answers, "The man they call Jesus." But the Pharisees demanded more explanation. So what did the man do? He tells his story. It is simple and without any religious jargon. Eventually, the man believes in Jesus—his story (The man they call Jesus has healed me) produced a vision ("Jesus is the Savior, the Son of Man"), and that vision has transformed his character ("I believe"). Now he is a *storyteller*.

In many nations of the world you may not be able to evangelize or witness openly, however you are often able to share your salvation story without any difficulty. In my years of sharing my faith with Muslims, my personal life story has always been my most effective tool in reaching them for Christ. Throughout the years I have learned how to perfect and contextualize my story so it can fit into any cultural setting.

I remember when once I was asked to bring a greeting in a Muslim gathering. My greeting was more than simply waving at them and sitting back down. Instead, I greeted the audience with my story. I did not preach at them, but simply told them how Jesus had transformed my character. My Muslim audience received me very well. You may be asked to do the same soon, so learn to tell your story well.

Look up the parables of the *Good Samaritan* (Luke 10:25-37), the *Lost Coin* (Luke 15:1-10), and the *prodigal son* (Luke 15:11-32). Identify Christ's audience in each parable. Who are they? Does the Lord treat them all the same way? Put yourself in their place. Walk with them. See yourself standing next to the Lord and listening to Him. Do you feel the tension that is in the air? With which one of these people (the audience and the characters of the parables) do you identify with most? How would you reach that person? Now, tell your story in such a way that would create the same results. Remember, the same Holy Spirit who guided our Lord is in you also.

Use the space below to write your thoughts and your story. ~ 4 . 4 5 . ١Ŀ 1, -1 ŝ 1 - 1 1. 11 1. 1 ŵ. 1 h -. * . . 56 1 --1 5 69

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PERSONAL TESTIMONY

It is important for every person on a mission outreach to learn how to communicate his or her personal testimony. This is the most powerful witnessing tool you have because it communicates with others how Christ changed your life. It speaks to the fact that Jesus is indeed real because you are a person that has been transformed by His love. You should be ready to give your testimony at any given moment. Please read through the worksheet provided and follow the instructions.

I. The General outline of a personal testimony

- 1. **Before** A short sketch of what your life was like before you became a Christian.
- 2. How Specifically how you took the step of becoming a Christian.
- 3. After A description of the changes in your life.

II. Guidelines for developing your testimony

- 1. Make it sound conversational. When you are putting together your testimony, write it out as though you are talking to a friend. Don't make it sound too formal or technical.
- 2. Remember you are sharing, not preaching. You are testifying to something you experienced. Speak and write it in the first person. Keep it warm, personal and to the point.
- 3. Avoid religious words, phrases, and jargon.

<u>Religious Words</u> Believe	<u>Possible Substitutes</u> Invited Christ to come into my life.		
Sin	Disobedience; turned my back on God; breaking God's laws.		
Under the blood	Decided to turn my life over to God. Accepted Christ		
Saved	God forgave me of my failures		

4. Generalize, so more people can identify with your story. Don't name specific churches, denominations, or groups. Avoid using dates and ages.

5. Include some humor and human interest. When a person smiles or laughs it reduces tension. Humor is disarming and increases attention.

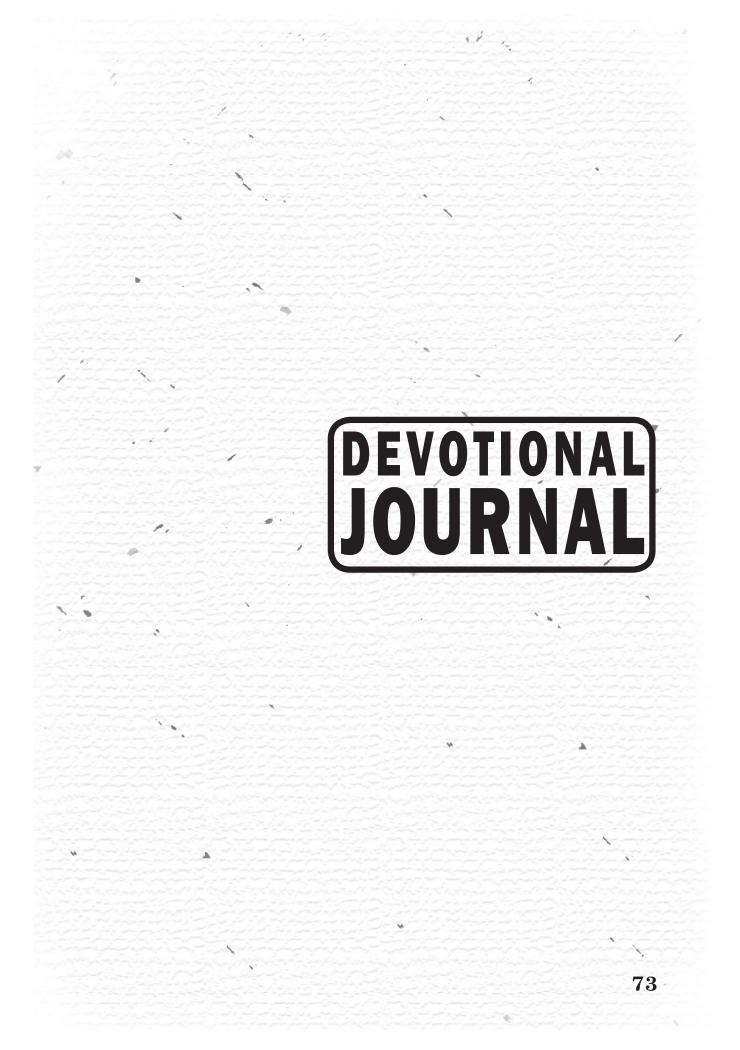
- 6. Paint pictures with your words. Don't just say "I grew up on a farm." You might briefly describe the farm to make it more interesting.
- 7. Include both good and bad aspects of your life in describing what your life was like before you found Christ.
- 8. In the "How" aspect of your testimony communicate the gospel clearly and briefly. You need to include:
 - 1. The fact of sin
 - 2. The penalty of sin (life without God for eternity)
 - 3. Christ's payment for the penalty
 - 4. What it takes to have eternal life
- 9. Use the word "pray" when referring to receiving Christ into your life. This will communicate to your listeners what they need to do.
- 10. In the "After" part of your testimony, rapidly conclude with two or three personal benefits of becoming a Christian.
- 11. Avoid dogmatic statements which skeptics can question. Always refer to what Christ has done in your life.
- 12. Simplify your testimony in order to reduce chatter. Mention only a limited number of people and events that led up to your conversion.
- **13.** Make the Bible the authority when sharing. An example of this would be "Bill shared with me that the Bible said . . ."
- III. The Preparation Part of Your Testimony
 - 1. Before you begin writing, pray for God's help. Ask Him for insight and wisdom.
 - 2. Accumulate brief notes on three separate sheets of paper labeled *Before*, *How*, and *After*.
 - 3. Write out your first draft and read it. It should take about five minutes to read.
 - 4. Make the improvements on your second draft and then have your youth pastor or pastor read it and help you make some corrections. Have them help you to cut down your draft to where it can be read in four minutes.
 - 5. Outline your presentation on a 3 x 5 note card and practice giving your testimony by using this outline.
 - 6. Learn to give your testimony in three to four minutes without using the outline.

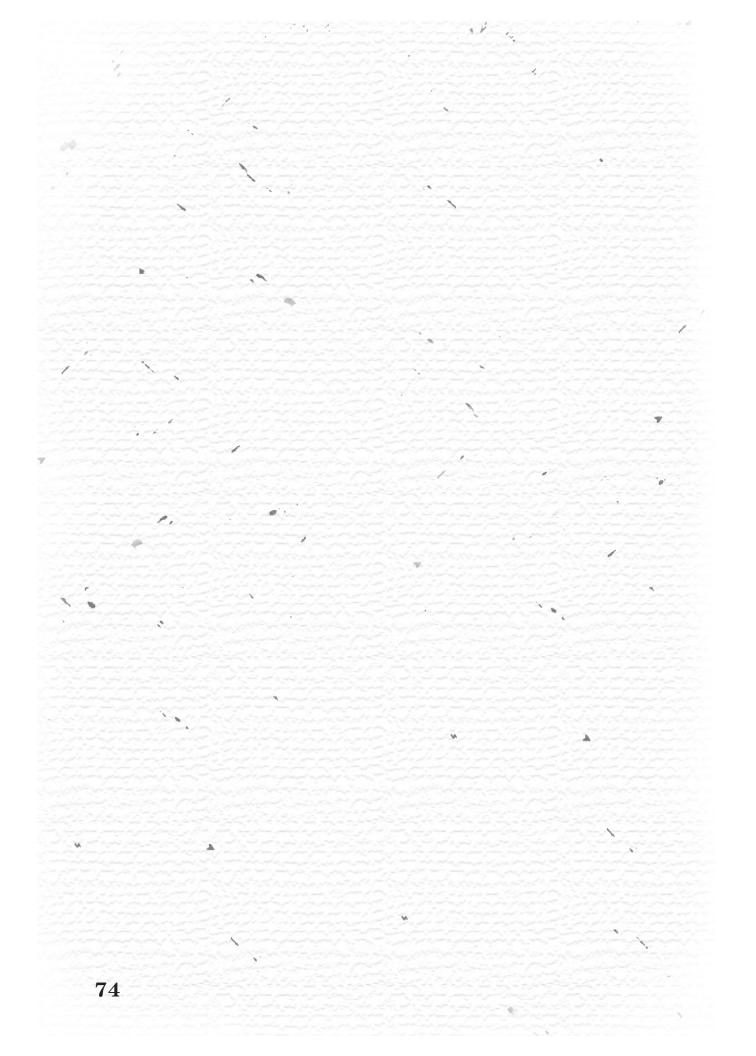
GIVING A TESTIMONY THROUGH AN INTERPRETER

Be prepared to give a testimony through an interpreter. Our whole purpose in giving a testimony is to give witness to the fact that Jesus saves. In many settings and cultures you will need to use an interpreter to share your testimony. There are certain things you can do to effectively communicate your testimony through an interpreter.

- **Smile** People respond to those who smile. In doing so, you will convey gentleness and kindness to your audience.
- **Gesture** Be natural, do not over do it. Allow your enthusiasm for Christ to show through.
- Speak up Be loud enough to be heard clearly.
- **Be brief** Remember that whenever you are speaking through an interpreter, the length of your testimony is automatically doubled.
- Speak in short statements Carry your thought through so the interpreter knows what you are trying to convey. Pause in places where there would be a comma.
- Do not criticize or condemn any other religions or denominations.
- Keep your testimony limited to:
 - a. What Christ has done for you
 - b. How much you love Him
 - c. What He can do for them

• Greet the audience in their language. The people will love it!





HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS JOURNAL:

The first and most important way to benefit from having a journal is to write in it! It is a radical concept, but it's true.

Definitions and ideas of what to do:

God's Word for the Day: (Do this each morning)

Take some time every morning to read God's Word. Before you read it, ask God to speak to you through His Word. Read it again and be quiet and think about what you just read.

My thoughts on God's Word:

What is God saying in this passage? If I had to reword the truth of each passage, how would I say it? How would God want me to respond to this passage?

I heard God when: (Do this each evening)

How did God speak to me today? Did God use the daily verses, a team leader, a child or anything else to grab my attention today? When did God speak to me in a special way? This may not happen every day, but if you are listening for God's voice continually, it is easier to hear God' voice regularly.

My words to God:

Use this section to write out your prayers for the day.

Events of today: (Describe what happed during the day) The more details you give, the better you will remember. This will help you to give updates to your family, friends and supporters.



A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. **Galatians 6:9-10**

My thoughts on God's words: 1. 2 I heard God when: a 76

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God's Word for the Day:

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2

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My thoughts on God's words:

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I heard God when:

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44 My words to God: ~ ٩ . 4 5 5 le. 1, e, Events of today: 1 1 1 e 1. 1 1. 3 1. 56 à. a 54 79

God's Word for the Day:

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. **1 Peter 3:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

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My thoughts on God's words:

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God's Word for the Day:

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32**

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

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Colossians 3:23,24

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God's Word for the Day:

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

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

My thoughts on God's words:

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God's Word for the Day:

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

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. Jeremiah 15:16

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God's Word for the Day:

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

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

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Philippians 2:14

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God's Word for the Day:

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **Colossians 3:13**

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

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God's Word for the Day:

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **Ephesians 4:29**

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. **Ephesians 6:7,8**

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God's Word for the Day:

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. I Peter 4:10-11

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16

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"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:27-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. I Corinthians 1:18

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Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. I Corinthians 2:4-5

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He must become greater; I must become less. John 3:30

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

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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God's Word for the Day:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. **Philippians 2:3**

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

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FINAL THOUGHTS

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I don't want to ever forget:

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1 1 11 1 ŵ This week God showed me: 2 56

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14 12 When I return home I want to ... 1 * 04 4 . . -1 le. N * 1 ŝ 10-1 I am thankful for ... 10 1. 1 -W. ~ 1 . 56 à 1 ъ -1 105

\$ 1 This week I discovered ... 1 1, 100 1 Changes I need to make in my life are... ø 11 1 ŵ 1. 10 . 1 . à. a 5 ٦. . 106



BY KRISTOPHER DAHIR

REMEMBER, everyone may not be as excited about your trip as you are. People may want to hear a little of what happened but give it to them in small pieces. It is easy to get discouraged upon coming home because it seems that people really are not interested in all of the wonderful life-changing things that have happened in the last couple of weeks. Share some stories about your trip then let them talk about their last couple of weeks. They have had a life, too.

Upon the return from my first trip to Costa Rica I think the best way for me to describe what happened is using a medical term that we all understand. **I threw up on them!** I came home and whether they wanted to hear about my trip or not, they heard about the whole month. Many people had the great opportunity of being thrown up upon more than once. After a few weeks I noticed people avoiding me. Please make sure you do share the great thing Jesus has done... just take it slow. Make it so people come back wanting more.

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

John 1:1-4

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

The very first mission trip I went on was for the wrong reason. It was to show off. I wanted to be the first person in the youth group to go overseas. What a leader I would be in youth group then! The Lord used the trip for other purposes, but upon my return, oh my. What a fool I made of myself as I walked around waiting for people to see this great new leadership mantle in my life. I was shocked to find out that they did not see that at all. Instead they saw a prideful young man that needed to be put in his place.

"Jesus replied, 'If I glorify **myself**, my glory means **nothing**. My father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me'". John 8:54 ➢ WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE. Upon coming home, many people decide that they now know more than their pastor, youth pastor and parents put together. Because of this great mission trip you suddenly become all wise and filled with the power of God. Maybe you have been touched by God and hopefully so, but if Jesus truly is changing your life then your response should be one of respect. To best show the people over you the great things Jesus has done all you need to do is submit under them and serve. God has placed you in that surrounding for a reason. Even if you think things must change at you church, submit yourself to your pastor and serve him. Earn his trust and then help him make the changes that are needed. Under <u>his/her</u> guidance!

Many people who return from missions complain to me. "My church doesn't work like this. They do nothing for Jesus like what we have done." There is a thing that I call "American Christianity." The complaint is correct that many people and churches do not serve the Lord like we do while on mission trips. The pace is upbeat and if you are not ministering you are sleeping. At home many people run after life and fit Jesus in. On mission trips we run after Jesus and fit life in. Instead of getting upset at the people that surround you at home, give them a different example. Show them what living for Jesus might look like. This can be done without saying a word about how they have chosen to live their lives.

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eves, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my thronhe, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 3:14-22

PRAYER! Remember on the mission field how you prayed for any problem that arose? When the bus broke – you prayed! When you lost the make-up bag – you prayed! When someone was sick – you prayed! When someone was hurt or needed a touch from Jesus – you prayed! Keep that same mentality...We need to be people of prayer. It doesn't all change once we get home. If anything, it is more difficult to live for Jesus here, so we should pray <u>more</u>.

We were preparing for a time of ministry in Costa Rica out at the market place. I found out that the person responsible for charging the sound box did not do it. We have a dead sound box, people standing around waiting for the drama, and I was getting angry. The young man was feeling bad, or maybe he simply saw the look of death I was giving him. He quickly got spiritual and called everyone together and prayed for the sound box and for the people. In my mind, I was thinking he had better repent while he is at it for he may see Jesus soon! He walked over to the sound box, turned it off and then on, and it worked just long enough for the play. Needless to say there was no bloodshed that day. I believe that God can do the same miracle right here on our own soil. We just need to call out to Him at all times.

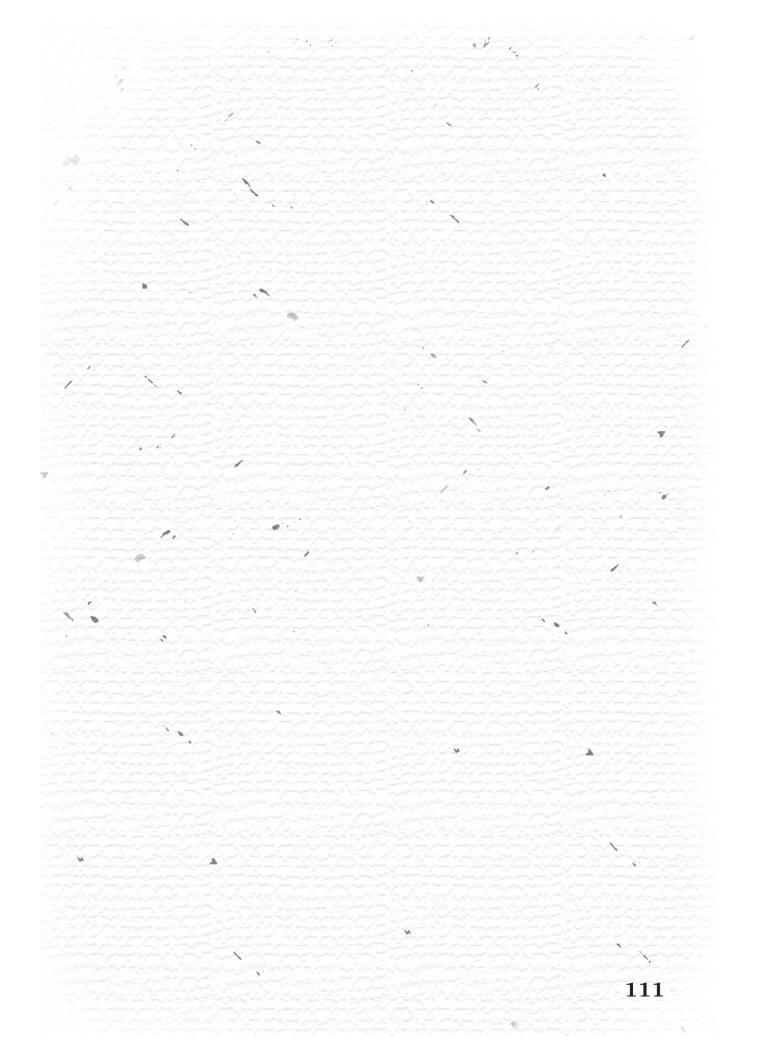
"And pray in the Spirit <u>on all occasions</u> with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." **Ephesians 6:18**

Set FILLED UP... Did you notice how while on the mission field it was easy to have time for the Lord? It was easy to feel the longing for time with Jesus. Every day you would pour out your life for the sake of the gospel, and it was vital to get filled up again by the Lord. Then we come home and it begins to slip away. I would venture to day that the reason it slips so easily is that you are not pouring out your life anymore. Keep the circle of life going! Jesus fills you up and you pour it out. Life is easy if we think that way.

As a pastor, this applies to my very existence. The times when I get frustrated with people or with the Lord the most, is when I have poured myself out and have not taken the time to hang with Jesus and simply get filled back up. Think of it like a relationship. If you do not spend time with the one you love but only show up to simply ask for money, or the car, or just when things get real bad, that relationship is gong to be strained. Run to Jesus everyday. He longs to fill you back up!

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35

The reason that Jesus honored you enough to be a part of something as awesome as leading others to Him is because He has more for you. He is preparing you for other areas of ministry. So begin to pray now for God to continue opening doors into other lives. Just because your trip is over doesn't mean your ministry is done. Ask God what's next. What are His ministry plans for you now?





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