

Session 1

What is World Renewal?

How are you doing on the requirements for the trip?

- Passport
- Vaccination/Covid test
- Plane ticket
- Travel Health Insurance
- Online registration filled out
- Joined the WhatsApp team group
- Understand all of the costs of the trip

Do you have any trip tips or questions to add?

How do you think about Mission Trips?

What is your fundraising plan?

Trip Tips

1. Things are going to change. A lot.
2. While you may have to forget some of what you plan, always have a backup plan to make the most of the moment.
3. Take initiative. Tell others what you need. No one can tell what is inside your head.
4. Make sure to take care of you (plenty of rest and water). Make your needs known, but don't complain—this isn't about you.
5. What do you do in another country? Basically the same things you do in your own country. It is just different enough to throw everything off.
6. You, your personality, your likes, and dislikes will not magically change now that you are in a different country. That is ok, but you need to have extra grace and extra flexibility.
7. It is ok to be tired and to say no.
8. Come to serve and be served. Let yourself receive as well as give.
9. You won't understand a lot of what is going on, or the deep layers of culture around you. That is ok.
10. You won't understand half the things you've learned until after you go back home and have time and space to sort out your brain. That is ok.
11. You can't control your health or the weather. It is what it is, and make the best of it.
12. You are not going to change the world.
13. You are going to make lasting impressions on the people around you (mostly when you think they are not looking) about who Christians are, who people from your country are, and if Jesus is worth it.
14. You do not know more than the people you are working with.
15. You do not know more than the missionaries who have been living there for years.
16. You can mess up the local ministries permanently by your misbehavior. Those who live there have to pick up your mess.
17. Don't make promises to the people you meet. Period. If you want to do something extra to help talk to your team leader and the missionaries about it.
18. Dream big and let go.
19. Food really is a big deal. It will be different than you expect. You will need to be flexible, and at times, hold your breath and swallow.
20. DO study the language before you go—with as close of an accent to your area as possible. It will never be "enough," but you will be grateful for the small bit you know—and people appreciate when you try. Don't take it personally if they laugh.
21. Always carry around a water bottle, and drink lots of water.
22. The bigger your prayer/support circle is back home, the easier the trip/transitions will be. Invest in those people, and ask them to be a part of your team. To properly go, you need to be sent.
23. Study culture shock and reverse culture shock: it hits you both directions. Be prepared.

Questions to think about:

- What does God want to accomplish on/because of this trip?
- What has God done in your life that is worth telling the world (your testimony)?
- What will this trip cost you (NOT including money)?
- What are your concerns/worries about this trip?
- How does God "recharge" you when you are tired/at your limit?
- Would you still want to go if you needed to take on a support role rather than work directly with the communities?
- Would you still want to go if none of your goals are met?
- Will you still invest in the trip if the biggest impact is in your own life, not in those you are going to serve?

How we think about Mission Trips

"Missions is less about the transportation of God from one place to another and more about the identification of God who is already there. It is almost as if being a good missionary means having really good eyesight. Or maybe it means teaching people to use their eyes to see things that have always been there; they just didn't realize it. You see God where others don't, and then you point Him out...If you do see yourself as carrying God to places, it can be exhausting. God is really heavy." --Rob Bell

There is a great article at the website ALifeOverSeas.com called "Stop calling it "Short Term Missions". Here's what you should call it instead." His idea was to instead call them Vision (or exposure) Trips (going to gain God's vision on things), Learning Exchanges (learning from them while sharing a valuable skill), or Discernment Retreats (seeing about serving more long-term). What we call things matters.

At the website EthicalMissionsTrips.org, you can follow the site through really great information, as well as some great questions. They ask: are you going on an **action oriented** trip or a **learning oriented** trip? (or a mixture?)

Action oriented trips are skills based. It is fully qualified people bringing a valuable skill (ex. Doctor, teacher, dentist). They are also ABCD based (asset based community development), where fully qualified people are passing on a skill and/or working with those in a community that are also qualified (ex. workshops).

Learning oriented trips are exposure trips (first time trips are *always* vision/exposure learning trips, even if we don't want admit it). They are also advocacy trips, where you go with the goal to be able to help represent that ministry/people to your world at home.

Based on what you know about the ministry you are going to visit, and what you know about yourself and your team, what do you think we should call this trip?

We are excited to go on this trip, to do all these things, but let's look at it from different perspectives:

- What might the missionaries in the country who will receive you be thinking about this trip?
- What might the local leaders and churches in the country be thinking about this trip?
- How might this trip cause harm to the ministry in that country?
- Have any past trips or people from your country caused that ministry harm?

There is a lot of talk of not causing harm when you are trying to help. Many of the books on our resource list can help if you want to study more into that. But on the website ShareFaith.com, there's an article called "Five Reasons Your Short-Term Mission Trip Might Do More Harm Than Good." The reasons are misunderstanding the culture, a bewildering financial value system, a warped view of "missions," a skewed view of the recipients, and superficial relationships. These are all valid and important things to work against, that we will be talking about more as we continue this training.

Before Fundraising...



Know you are called

It gives you credibility



Understand your task

It helps you share the vision



Be commissioned by your church

It makes you accountable

@worldrenewal

How do we think about fundraising?

Is it to enable us to go on the trip because we do not have the money ourselves? Is it to involve other people and create a team instead of me trying to do it all myself? Is it a way to learn to be depended on God? Probably all of the above.

- Fundraising starts with you. Fundraising is not a way to "save money." It is not to make your life easier. It is not a way to get out of your own responsibilities. Take time with the Lord to see if He is calling you first to sacrificial giving, to cut back on extras, to take a side job...We encourage you to be the first person to invest in your trip.
- Fundraising is about creating a team. It is figuring out how to open your heart and be vulnerable to others, knowing you can't do it by yourself. It is hard work to create ways of sharing yourself and your trip with others in real ways that allow them to connect in meaningful ways.
- Fundraising is surprising. There is always something surprising in the fundraising process: perhaps how it changes you, or how it touches others. Maybe in who decides to support you, or who doesn't. Look for the surprises.

1. Make a list: who are the people you would like for your support team (think about your prayer team as well)? Who are the people in your family, community, church, friends that you would like to include in this?

2. What is the best way to reach them? A hand-written note? A newsletter with pictures? a letter in the mail? An email? A social media campaign? A prayer card? A prayer guide? A short video? A blog? The answer will probably be different for different people. You may find one way to reach out to people at your church (hold a commissioning service?) and another way to reach out to co-workers. Divide your list into how you are going to reach out to each group.

3. Move from "asking for money" to "creating a team." What is your plan for once someone gives? How will you include them? How will you keep them updated before, during, and after the trip? How will you say "Thank you?" (notes? presents?) Social media is something that can help make this easier: perhaps your group can make a Facebook prayer group to add everyone who joins the team. You can create an email newsletter to send out a couple times. Have a plan, and make sure it involves follow-up after the trip.

FUNDRAISING LETTER CHECKLIST

Information about the country/culture you are going to



If you are traveling to a high security area, don't forget to follow the Security guidelines regarding what you can and cannot say



Information about the hosting organization and general purpose of the trip



Description of what the team will be doing, and why the team is doing this particular mission trip



The cost of the trip



The date you need the money by



Why you want to be involved on the trip. Describe the reasons for going that you feel strongest about



Why God has called you to go on this trip



How you would like the reader to be involved (prayer, financial, both)



Communicate clearly that all checks must be payable to your church or World Renewal



Sample Fundraising Letter

Dear Mr. & Mrs. **(fill in name)**,

This **(summer or other time of year)**, I am going on a mission trip to ____ with World Renewal. For more information about the ministry there, go to worldrenewal.org. I will be there from ____ to ____ to participate in _____. I am excited to learn from and work with the local leaders who are passionate about reaching their country for Christ. I know that my life will never be the same.

(If you want, insert more information about what you will be doing, and how God called you to go)

I need to raise **(total amount of money)** by **(date for deadline of money to be in)**. I know that God will bring the resources if He wants me to go on this trip. Please pray for me during this time, and especially during **(date of trip)**, that God will use me, as well as speak to me and through me. **(Let them know how you will involve them as part of your team)**

If God leads you to, please send a check to World Renewal P.O. Box 399 Greenfield, Indiana 46140 with a note saying it is for the _____ Trip + my name. Or you can donate online at _____ with the QR code **(get the QR code and include it)**. All donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for all you do for me and God's kingdom, **(Your Name)**

World Renewal can help you create a graphic that has your name, your picture, and the QR code to donate. You can print and give them to people, and/or use it as part of social media fundraising campaign.

FaithWard.org has a short term mission trip planning toolkit with a page called "Mission Trip Fundraising Ideas" that has some more suggestions.

SESSION 1 HOMEWORK



1. What are some Biblical examples of short term missions?
Luke 9:1-6, Luke 10: 1-24,
Matthew 10



2. What were Biblical short term trips like?



3. What did Biblical short term trips do?



4. What principles can you learn from these Biblical examples to apply for your trip?

More Resources

Books:

- Short-term Missions Workbook: From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens, by Tim Dearborn
- Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures, by Sarah Lanier
- Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing STM with Cultural Intelligence, by David Livermore
- Ministering Cross-Culturally: An International Model for Developing Personal Relationships, by Lingenfelter and Mayers
- Before You Pack Your Bags, Prepare Your Heart, a Short-Term Mission Preparation Guide with 12 Bible Studies plus Trip Journal, by Cindy Judge
- Bringing It Home: A Post-Trip Devotional Guide for International and Domestic Short-Term Mission Teams, by Jim Mersereau
- Building Strategic Relationships, by Daniel Rickett
- Cross-cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility, by Duane Elmer
- Toxic Charity: How the Church hurts those they help and how to Reverse it, by Robert, D. Lupton
- When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- Helping without Hurting in Short-Term Missions, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert with Katie Casselberry
- Pursuing Justice: The Call to Live and Die for Bigger Things, by Ken Wytsma
- Beyond Poverty, by Terry Dalrymple
- Portuguese in 10 Minutes a Day, by Kristine Kershul

Websites:

- Worldrenewal.org
- Faithward.org/short-term-mission-trip-planning-toolkit
- Ethicalmissionstrips.org
- Missionexcellence.global/7-standards
- Alifeoverseas.com
- Velvetashes.com
- Takingroute.net
- Amy-medina.com
- Fiveminutesoffergie.com
- Chenetwork.org