



Debrief

Trips



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
EXPECTATIONS & REALITY
EXPECTATIONS EXERCISE
HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY
TESTIMONY DEVELOPMENT
MISSION LIFE - BLOG
PRAYER OF EXAMEN
HOPE EXERCISE
SIX PHASES OF DEBRIEFING
PERSONAL DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS
COMMITMENT CARD
PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

FAQ



Introduction

Debriefing your short-term experience is possibly one of the most important steps to an impactful short-term missions experience. Without reflection, there is seldom any lasting change or takeaways for participants. Reflection, processing, journaling, and talking through the experience allows the participant to think through, “What was God doing in me during my time on the field? What did I learn about Him and His work in the world?” And along with that reflection, some action steps.

For me, my natural tendency is to create a slightly too ambitious plan - with action steps correlating with every little thing I learned on the field. This ends up being overwhelming and unrealistic, and I end up burnt out and disillusioned. I’ve had to learn how to let the main things come to the forefront, while allowing the lesser to slip into the background, perhaps just for now, or for a different season. Pray and ask God, “What are the main things you want me to takeaway from this trip?” It might just be one or two things. And then ask, “How can I walk in obedience in these things?” After all, Scripture says, “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much,” (Luke 16:10).

This is not to nullify the fact that God may be calling some of your team to much in this next season - whether it’s mid-term missions, radical lifestyle changes, or bigger steps of obedience. And we need to be faithful to walk with those whom God is leading to these next steps. However, from personal experience, I’ve found that walking in obedience looks like a lot more mundane faithfulness over a long period of time rather than extravagant changes that don’t last.

Encourage your team to process well. This might mean setting aside time for several group meetings (as you did for preparation and training) as well as encouraging them to supplement that time with portions of time (or a day) alone with the Lord to listen for Him. Follow up with them as a group or individually and see how the Lord is leading them.



EXPECTATIONS & REALITY

You might remember this exercise from training before you left! Here's your opportunity to put in your final thoughts - "Reality as I saw it" in the final column below.

After writing in your final notes, take some time to look through your pre-trip expectations, and how those matched up with reality. Were there any unmet expectations that caused tension during your time? Often times unmet expectations can leave a root of bitterness if they go unnoticed or unnamed. Take time to pray through anything that comes up, and extend grace and forgiveness in that situation. Pray about it with a leader, who can help you process!

Also, celebrate the expectations that were exceeded during your time on the field! Take time to remember and thank God for His goodness towards you and your team.

CATEGORY	MY EXPECTATIONS	EXPECTATIONS AFTER RESEARCH	REALITY AS I SAW IT
Living Situation			
Tasks on Trip			
Personal Hygiene			
Relationships with Locals			
Teammate Relationships			



EXPECTATIONS & REALITY

CATEGORY	MY EXPECTATIONS	EXPECTATIONS AFTER RESEARCH	REALITY AS I SAW IT
How People Worship			
Cultural Stress & My Reaction			
What Missionaries Are Like			
Relating to My Leaders			
Language Learning			
Food			

Taken from p. 56 in Cross-Cultural Expectations: Stepping Out and Fitting In Around the World by Duane Elmer, Downers Grove, IVP, 2002.



Expectations Exercise

Read carefully through all of the statements below. Choose the five that represent your re-entry process the most accurately. After you are finished, plan to share your top five, and any other thoughts, with your team.

- Did not expect to feel so “foreign” upon return.
- Did not expect to hit a spiritual “low” when I got home.
- Did not expect readjustment to take so long.
- Expected readjustment to take longer.
- Did not expect to feel like a third culture person—unable to identify fully with American culture.
- Expected to feel God just as powerfully as I did in country.
- Didn’t expect to fall into old habits so quickly.
- Did not expect so many adjustments in returning from a simple to a more complex lifestyle.
- Did not expect so much difficulty fitting into the flow of things at home or work.
- Expected things to pretty much be the same at home as it was before I left.
- Expected others to see things the same as me, even though they didn’t go.
- Did not expect others to show such a lack of interest in hearing about my trip.
- Did not expect people to not remember that I went on a trip at all.
- Did not expect to be so appalled at the values of American Society.
- Did not expect my family to be so possessive of me when I first got home.
- Did not expect people back home to seem so insensitive to materialism or wastefulness.
- Did not expect to see so much apathy and unconcern to the needs of the world.
- Did not expect people to be so ethnocentric, so narrow in their perspective.
- Did not expect people to appear more concerned with job/tasks than with people/relationships.
- Expected it to be easier to apply the things I learned.
- Did not expect to return feeling so uncertain about my future.
- Did not expect my own personal values to have changed so much.
- Did not expect to be so critical of America.
- Did not expect to feel so lonely.
- Did not expect to feel so emotional over little things.
- Did not expect that some redefinition of my relationships would be necessary.
- Expected to be more thankful to be living in the US.
- Didn’t expect to feel guilty for what I have.



How to Tell Your Story

When telling your story of God’s work during your mission trip, avoid the temptation to “wing it.” Too often, “winging it” means that you will speak too long, tell stories that interest you, but bore your listeners, and overuse “ummm . . .,” “ah . . .,” and other “nothing” words that put your audience to sleep.

If you want people to listen to your stories and care about your mission experience, you need to care enough to prepare.

WHO IS YOUR AUDIENCE?

Your presentation will need to be different for a children’s Sunday School class than for an older adult Sunday School class or for a collegiate Bible study. Tailor your presentation – stories, pictures, music, etc. -- to fit the audience.

WHAT STORIES WILL YOU TELL?

Choose stories that show God at work, not just stories about what you learned about yourself (i.e. “I learned I could live without my curling iron for two weeks!”).

Choose two or three stories for each presentation that emphasize your point about the work God is doing in the country you visited.

Whenever possible, choose stories that show the host culture and lifestyle in a positive light. If you share, for example, that you had to shake the ants off of your bread at breakfast each morning, most of your audience will only remember the ants and not God’s work in your ministry.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH THAT YOU WANT YOUR AUDIENCE TO REMEMBER?

Scripture must be the foundation of your presentation. Otherwise, you are simply giving a travelogue that any non-believer could give. Your stories should illustrate truths from the Bible. The Bible is not meant to illustrate your stories (i.e. the Bible is the cake, not just the icing on the cake).

HOW WILL YOU TELL YOUR STORIES?

Share your story in the first person (if appropriate), using active and vivid verbs (Ex: “On the road to the village, our truck crawled in and out of potholes the size of small craters” instead of “Then we went to the village.” Set a 3 to 5 minute time limit for each story. or your audience’s attention will wander. Avoid using:

- Vague generalizations about your experience (Ex: “It was so awesome!” vs. “It was awesome when our translator who had been overtly negative about the gospel asked for a Bible.”)
- The real names of your country of service or of missionaries, national believers/seekers, or villages/towns/cities if you served in a restricted access country.
- Foreign words that you do not translate
- Abbreviations of locations or other items foreign to your audience (names of cities, foods, etc.)
- Names of holidays or other items connected with your host culture/religion which are unfamiliar to your audience (If you say, “Ramadan happened while we were there,” but fail to explain that Ramadan is the month of fasting that Muslims observe, your audience may think it is like the state fair.)
- Names of missionaries or nationals who you do not introduce fully to the audience.

HOW DO YOU WANT THE AUDIENCE TO RESPOND?

Determine what response you want before you speak. Do you want the audience to leave with only warm fuzzies about your mission experience, or do you want a more committed response?

- Do you want people to pray for your people group? Challenge them audience to pray and explain how to pray for a people group.
- Do you want the audience to consider going on mission? Challenge them to go and tell them of opportunities.
- Do you want the audience to increase their giving to missions? Challenge them to give up eating a meal at a restaurant or buying a new CD or new clothes and to put that money toward international missions – possibly toward a ministry need among your people group.

WHAT AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS WILL YOU USE?

A picture is worth a thousand words, but some are not worth showing. Select a few high-quality photos or 3-5 minutes of video about your mission experience.

As with the stories you choose, make sure the pictures or video segment makes your point of what God is doing in your host country. If you show a picture of the tarantula that camped out in your bedroom, your audience will remember only the huge spiders in your host country and not what God is doing there. Power Point is also good for presentations, but not all groups have the technology to present Power Point.

HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

Brainstorm about your memories and take notes – write out your story if needed.

Take a plain piece of paper, write the title and the biblical foundation at the top. Now make random notes about your mission experience that fit the foundation you selected.

From your brainstorming notes, choose 2-3 stories to tell and write out each story completely, or record them on audiotape. Time the story to make sure it fits the 3 – 5 minute time limit.

Write out your presentation, so you know what you will say and have smooth transitions between points.

Ask a friend, minister, or professor to listen to your presentation to make sure it is interesting, relevant, and easy for your audience to understand.



Testimony Development

Preparing your testimony for a cross-cultural experience can be a daunting task. It's difficult enough to know what to say when you are speaking to people of your own culture!

The guidelines on the following pages are a framework for you to follow as you prepare your story. Before you begin, here are a few key points you should be aware of:

1. It's not really your story. It's God's story as told uniquely through your life.
2. There is no other story the same as yours. If you do not share it, it is a part of God's story that will never be heard.
3. Prepare your story to be told in three–five minutes. Remember, if it is being translated, it will be twice as long as you prepared it, so it's best to keep it short and simple.
4. Remember not to use illustrations that include places, people, or circumstances your host culture has not experienced. People will not be able to relate to what you are saying if you mention things like the Pittsburgh Steelers, huge shopping malls, bungee jumping, or Disney World.
5. Also avoid all proper names of people and places, including your church. Your listeners will not remember them, they are difficult to translate, and they typically are a distraction.
6. Avoid use of American slang and everyday phrases that will not translate well.
7. Discern which part of your story is most relevant to your listener and adequately prepare. God honors preparation and loves when you work at telling others about His change in your heart.

Now read the following passage with full confidence that the life you live is the one given to you by God, and He longs for you to share His story as told through your life to the rest of the world!

1 Peter 2:9 (The Message)—You are the ones chosen by God... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.



Testimony Development (continued)

FOUR PARTS OF YOUR TESTIMONY:

1: What my life was like before God changed me.

What common circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?

What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?

What was most important to you?

What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life? (sports/fitness, success at work, marriage, sex, making money, drugs/alcohol, having fun, entertainment, popularity, hobbies)

2: How and when I realized I needed God to change me.

What significant steps led up to your conversion or recognizing you needed God to change you?

What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied with the way you were living without God?

How did God get your attention? What motivated you?

3: How I committed my life to Christ / what decisions I made to let God begin to change me.

What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?

What did you say in your prayer? Be specific.

Were your decisions easy to follow or difficult?

Did anyone help you make those decisions?

How did you stay accountable and committed to your new choices?

4: The difference Christ's Change has made in my life.

What benefits have you experienced or felt?

What problems have been resolved?

How has Jesus helped you change for the better?

How has it helped your relationships? Your home? Your work?

Give a current example.

Key: Follow the Promptings of the Holy Spirit!



Mission Life

BLOG, SARAH BOURNS

With all of our team home and getting back into the swing of normal life, we're in a season of post-trip reflection and evaluation. The most common debrief dilemma we get from students is, "how do I live here in light of what I learned there?" I couldn't be more thrilled with this challenging question, knowing it means they don't just see their summer trip as a stand-alone event to check off of their college to-do list. We, of course, pray and hope and tell them that these cross-cultural experiences are only meant to be the beginning, or a continuation, of a life lived on mission. But I'm finding... sigh... it's a lot easier said than done.

There's just something about the mission trip mentality that is hard to translate into a true missional way of life. And I don't mean that only the students are facing this dilemma. More than ever, I too am being convicted and humbled by the disparity between who I am on the "mission field," and who I am at home. Why is it so much harder to be a light in the darkness in my own city than it is in Indonesia or India? Why are the practices that come so easily for me on a short-term trip, like fervent prayer and daily Bible study, not an absolutely essential habit in my long-term real life? Why do I seem to have more boldness, passion and burden for the lost when I cross a national border than when I cross my own street?

We've all heard that nothing magical happens when you hop on a plane. You're not instantly transformed into a fearless, inspired, powerful communicator of the Gospel. Yet, we've seen the Holy Spirit ministering in us, and through us, on foreign soil in ways we rarely experience at home. So, if He is the same everywhere, and if He lives in me whether I'm in Africa, Asia or America, what am I missing here that I seem to have there?

So I started a list of some possible answers to that question...

A SENSE OF URGENCY—A short-term trip is just that: it's short. We know we're not going to be there forever, so we don't want to waste a single day. We give all we've got and we take every opportunity presented to us.

THE NECESSITY OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES— Since we are constantly pouring ourselves out, we must continually be receiving and hearing from the Lord. We know that our daily ministry, relationships and well-being are directly dependent on our time spent in prayer, worship and Scripture study. It's non-negotiable.

CONSTANT COMMUNITY—For 24 hours a day we're surrounded by fellow journeyers... like it or not! There is built-in (if not forced) accountability, vulnerability, forgiveness and iron-sharpening-iron-ness. We must actually BE the church for one another, often because there is no other church.

AN EXPECTATION TO SEE GOD MOVE—We awaken every morning with a heightened sense of excitement, asking “what’s God going to do today!?” We submit ourselves to His plan, actively look for where He is moving, and jump to join Him when possible.

PURPOSEFUL RELATIONSHIPS— Our conversations, even with new acquaintances, quickly dive into heart and soul matters. Though brief, we want our interactions to be meaningful. We bravely take opportunities to share truth and hope with our new friends and pray earnestly that they would follow Jesus.

THE DESPERATION OF THE LOST AND THE LEAST— Poverty, spiritual bondage, and injustice surround us and hang heavy on our hearts. We are exceedingly aware of all that is not right in the world. God’s passion for the lost and broken becomes ours and we cry out to Him for rescue and redemption. And He vividly reminds us that WE are His light in the darkness.

DAILY SERVICE AND SACRIFICE— We don’t expect it to be easy. In fact, we embrace the difficulties and gladly take up the challenge to tirelessly love and serve. We give ourselves away every day, despite exhaustion and weakness, then we get up and do it again. We count the cost and find that the sacrifice is more than worth it!

Those are some of the things I feel like I left behind when I boarded my flight home. But, did I need to? Are they only valid on foreign soil? Re-read with me the list and let’s ponder whether any of these can translate into our lives here and now...

Yes... I suppose we can live with a sense of urgency today, making the most of every opportunity... And, frequent time in the Father’s presence could be non-negotiable.

We could limit the distractions around us and plug into our community of fellow Christ-followers.

We could approach our normal days with the anticipation that God might want to do something great! We could pursue deeper friendships, praying for a chance to bring hope...

And we could put ourselves right in the middle of desperate people in order to selflessly serve them because the joy surpasses the sacrifice!

...Yes, I suppose we could do that... Who’s with me!?



The Prayer of Examen

FIND GOD IN ALL THINGS

One gift to the church that has been little known among Protestants until recently is the Prayer of Examen. This practice was introduced to members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) by its founder, Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556). It was a primary form of prayer for the Society, which was founded as a missionary order. As a spiritual practice that can be done anytime, anywhere, it is especially accessible to mobile and busy people in the workplace even as it was for the early Jesuits who went throughout the world as itinerant missionaries to establish evangelistic work and colleges.

At the heart of this prayer was Ignatius' teaching to "find God in all things." At the core of this practice is recollecting the presence and activity of God within a period of time: the past day, week, month, year, or some other time frame.

Ignatius originally developed a five-step form of the prayer, but here is the three-step adaptation of Richard Pearce, professor of evangelism and spiritual formation at Fuller Seminary. The three steps are:

- Step 1: Gratitude for God's gifts (acknowledging)
- Step 2: Awareness of God's presence (recollecting)
- Step 3: Confession (repenting)

Protestants often call the third step the "examination of conscience" based on Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Steps 1 and 2 are also referred to as the "examination of awareness."

The Prayer of Examen

THE PRACTICE

This form of the Prayer of Examen takes about 10-12 minutes, and can be done at work, when traveling, exercising, or doing menial tasks. You may do the Prayer of Examen focusing on the past 24 hours as follows:

ASK FOR THE SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE AND RECALL THE PAST DAY

Note key aspects of this time period. You might think of the key aspects of the morning, of the afternoon, and of the evening.

GRATITUDE

Note God's gifts in the hours of the morning, afternoon, evening.

AWARENESS

Notice when you experienced God and His presence.

CONFESSION

Note refusals to God and His will in thought, word, or deed as well as any sins of omission or commission. Repent and thank God for His cleansing through the death and shed blood of Jesus on the cross (1 John 1:9). Thank God that there is no condemnation for you in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).



HOPE Exercise

HOPE OF PRAYER & EVALUATION

You are mere days from the end of your trip! This is a pivotal time for you to reflect on what the Father has revealed in you and how He has changed/redefined your outlook on serving others, community, the purpose of the Body, and how we have been commanded to follow Him. Please use this time well and be honest with yourself as you get ready for your final team debrief.

HEART PREPARATION

Take some time to thank the Father for who He is. He is infinite, powerful, just, sovereign, loving... (fill in your own descriptive words). In the last few weeks, whether they were strenuous, sorrowful, or wonderful (or all of these), think about the ways He has revealed Himself in your life. Read through Psalm 139. Have these words been made true and real in light of your time on the field?

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

How is my heart right now? How are my relationships with my teammates? How are my relationships with local people I have been spending time with? Who has the Father been impressing on me to intercede for? Have I been focusing on making my last few days here all about Him or myself? Am I relying on Him to give me strength to finish well?

WRAPPING UP

As you prepare to do your team debrief, it's important to begin thinking through what you have experienced individually, and what your team has experienced as a whole, before actually assembling. To help you prepare for this, please read through the following "food for thought" and begin asking the Father for wisdom in what you want to share with your teammates during debrief.

(See next page for questions.)

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

- a) When I think of leaving our host country, I feel . . .
- b) My experience here has been . . .
- c) The things I will miss are . . .
- d) The things I will be happy to leave here are . . .
- e) I feel that my goals and expectations have been . . .

TEAM: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- a) After this experience, how would you define the role of “community” within the Body? In your life?
- b) In what ways did your team serve you during this trip?
- c) In what ways did you serve your team during this trip?
- d) Was there any specific person whom you are especially thankful was here with you? Why?
- e) How has this trip equipped you with more of a servant’s attitude and heart?
- f) In what ways can you bring take what you have learned about “community” and implement it in your fellowship with others in America?

SELF: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- a) List two or three things that the Father has taught you about Himself that you did not previously know about Him (about the Spirit’s leading, His character, His global vision, etc.)
- b) List two or three things that the Father has taught you about yourself that you either did not know before or had forgotten (about your spiritual gifts, your calling, etc.)
- c) What have your field workers/local brothers and sisters taught you about your role in the global fellowship of believers?
- d) Has the Father used this trip to expose anything in you that He is calling you to change?
- e) How do you see yourself living differently upon your return to America?
- f) With “mountaintop experiences” (like short-term trips), we often walk away with a passionate intention to live for Him with more conviction, but can get burnt out very quickly. How can these changes be made permanent? How can you avoid confusing a change of heart with a change in behavior?

Read John 21:15-19. This famous dialogue between the Son and Peter is well known by most in the faith. Now that the Son has taken YOU with Him through an adventure, complete with trials and triumphs, ask Him to reveal the depth of YOUR love for Him. Let Him show you how your love and need for Him has grown.

Think/ask about what He means for you when He says, “Feed my sheep” and, most importantly, “follow me.” Finish with time spent in intercession, in song, in praise, or in whatever way you find yourself closest to His heart!



Six Phases of Debriefing

People don't learn from experience; they learn from reflecting on their experience. I firmly believe this and keep preaching it to everyone. To me, all experiential learning activities (simulations, games, roleplays, outdoor adventures, and other such things) merely provide an excuse for debriefing sessions.

You must conduct a debriefing discussion to help your participants reflect on their experiences, relate them to the real world, discover useful insights, and share them with each other. Debriefing also helps you to wind down the learning activity, reduce negative reactions among participants, and increase insights.

A major dilemma in debriefing is maintaining a balance between structure and free flow. I suggest that you prepare several questions before the debriefing session. During actual debriefing, encourage and exploit spontaneous comments from the participants. If the conversation degenerates into a stream-of-consciousness meandering, fall back on your prepared list of questions.

I use a six-phase model to structure debriefing questions. Here are some guidelines for each phase of this model.

PHASE 1: HOW DO YOU FEEL?

This phase gives the participants an opportunity to get strong feelings and emotion off their chest. It makes it easier for them to be more objective during the later phases.

Begin this phase with a broad question that invites the participants to get in touch with their feelings about the activity and its outcomes. Encourage them to share these feelings, listening actively to one another in a nonjudgmental fashion.

PHASE 2: WHAT HAPPENED?

In this phase, collect data about what happened during the activity. Encourage the participants to compare and contrast their recollections and to draw general conclusions during the next phase. Begin this phase with a broad question that asks the participants to recall important events from the training activity. Create and post a chronological list of events. Ask questions about specific events.

PHASE 3: WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

In this phase, encourage the participants to generate and test different hypotheses. Ask the participants to come up with principles based on the activity and discuss them.

Begin this phase by presenting a principle and asking the participants for data that supports or rejects it. Then invite the participants to other principles based on their experiences.

PHASE 4: HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE REAL WORLD?

In this phase, discuss the relevance of the activity to the participants' real-world experiences.

Begin with a broad question about the relationship between the experiential learning activity and events in the workplace. Suggest that the activity is a metaphor ask participants to offer real-world analogies.

PHASE 5: WHAT IF?

In this phase, encourage the participants to apply their insights to new contexts. Use alternative scenarios to speculate on how people's behaviors would change.

Begin this phase with a change scenario and ask the participants to speculate on how it would have affected the process and the outcomes of the activity. Then invite the participants to offer their own scenarios and discuss them.

PHASE 6: WHAT NEXT?

In this phase, ask the participants to undertake action planning. Ask them to apply their insights from the experiential activity to the real world.

Begin this phase by asking the participants to suggest strategies for use in future rounds of the activity. Then ask the participants how they will change their real-world behavior as a result of the insights gained from the activity.

Taken from (WWW.THIAGI.COM)



Personal Debriefing Questions

You will need a Bible, a notebook, and any diaries you may have kept.

Set aside a time for reflection on Philippians 4:8-9. Using this verse as a springboard, spend two or three hours alone, reflecting on your missions experience. As you reflect, make a list of the things you are grateful to God for during your time on the mission field. List them under the headings of true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable.

In your notebook, record the following:

- What you have learned through your experience on the mission field.
- What you have received from God through it.
- What you have seen in the lives of your teammates that you want to incorporate into your own life.
- What you have seen God do in the lives of the people to whom you ministered.

Pray and ask God to show you how you can work these new insights and values into your life once you are back home. Record the specific insights He shows you.

List the obstacles that might prevent you from incorporating these new values and insights into your life. Pray about strategies to overcome them.

Finally, write yourself a letter. Pretend you are writing the letter to a friend, and include in it the most important points you have covered in your personal debriefing. Put the letter in an envelope, and address it to your permanent home address. Ask a reliable friend to mail the letter to you in five or six months' time. When it arrives, it will be a surprise, and should be a great encouragement to you. You will also be able to measure just how well you are doing in applying to your life all the things you learned on the mission field. Covenant with yourself that when you receive the letter, you will correct any deviation that may have crept in from the course you set for your life.



Commitment Card

What now?

“You can’t stay where you are and go with God.” Since God has invited you to join Him in His global purpose, what are your next steps? What actions will you take or adjustments will you make to follow Him in obedience?

What part will you play in God’s great story of bringing His glory to the ends of the earth? Your heart has changed but now how will your life be changed?

MY DECISIONS

1. One team member I will reconnect with and continue processing our experience together is...
2. One thing I will do to encourage or support my field worker is...
3. One person I met on the field who I will pray for regularly is...
4. One next step I will take to learn more about the lost or another culture is...
5. One way I will intentionally pray for the nations and the unreached is...
6. One Scripture I will memorize to remind me of God’s global purpose is...
7. One way I will reach out to an international, an MK or a missionary this year is...
8. One ministry I will donate money to that is advancing the kingdom is...
9. One fellow student I will challenge to go on a missions trip is...
10. One way I will serve the lost or needy in my city is...

Wherever, Whatever, Whenever...

Wherever You want me to be, I’ll go.

Whatever the circumstances, I’m willing to follow.

Whenever You want to meet a need through my life,
I am Your servant.

You may have Your way in me.

Signed _____ Date _____



Practical Next Steps

A short-term missions trip is a great start in the journey of learning about God's heart for the nations and our role as the Church, to reading Scripture differently, and thinking differently. But it's not the end in itself. We want you to continue to grow in your understanding and to take steps of obedience, while recognizing these might look different for each person. Prayer is the ultimate starting point; below you will find a list of ideas that can act as a springboard to more growth.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Take the course Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

Perspectives is a semester-long course (for all ages) on the missions movement that gives biblical and historical foundation to the modern missions movement, inspiring students to join God on mission in the world in a variety of ways. Learn more and find a class near you at <http://www.perspectives.org/>.

Do an Envision Internship

If you are interested in taking another trip, consider doing an internship anywhere from one month to two years with Envision. You'll have the opportunity to be immersed in the culture, be discipled by our on-site Envision staff, and build relationships in the context of different on-the-ground ministries.

OTHER IDEAS:

Mobilizing peers

Whether you have influence on campus or in your church, consider how you can mobilize others to try short-term missions. This can look like anything from hosting a gathering where you share about your own experiences, to one-on-one conversations connecting others' interests to God's heart for the nations.

Praying regularly for missionaries and/or unreached people groups

Joshua Project (<http://joshuaproject.net/>) is a great resource to get daily emails with information on unreached people groups. If you know a missionary, consider praying regularly for them and encouraging them periodically with letters, emails, and care packages.

Reading a book

We recommend: *Let the Nations Be Glad*, *Radical*, *The Heavenly Man*, *Miraculous Movements*, Bruchko; also check out the Traveling Team's list at <http://www.thetravelingteam.org/books>



Frequently Asked Questions

WHO CAN GO ON AN ENVISION TRIP?

Envision trips are designed for people of all ages - from high schoolers to older professionals. We love taking teams from youth groups, to mixed aged groups! You are required to be at least 13 years of age to travel overseas with Envision. Domestic trips are open for Jr. High groups as well.

HOW MUCH ARE TRIPS?

The cost of the trip varies from place to place. There are two costs for each trip: First, the amount paid directly to Envision. This amount can be found on the Trips page. This cost that covers your room, board, on-ground transportation (most locations), and ministry experience at each location. It also covers required international insurance (if you are taking an international trip). The second expense is your cost to travel to the location. You are responsible to purchase your own airline tickets or cover travel costs to get to the site. If you are taking an international trip, you may also have visa costs, passport costs, and departure/airport taxes to pay as well. To learn about visa requirements for your destination, please refer to the Travel Document Systems website.

WHEN SHOULD I START PLANNING MY TRIP?

Planning trips often takes longer than you think. We encourage you to contact Envision 6-12 months before your desired departure date. This will give adequate time for you to raise funds, apply for passports or visas, turn in paperwork, and get all needed immunizations. Starting the dialogue one year before the desired departure date is even better.

WHAT IS THE ADULT/STUDENT RATIO FOR THESE TRIPS?

Generally speaking, we like to have minimum 5:1 ratio of the same gender student to adult.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO AFTER WE HAVE PRAYED AND DECIDED TO GO ON A TRIP?

The first thing you should do is gather your group leaders together and go to the Envision website to pick the location of your choice. Fill out a group inquiry form for that site and request your desired dates. Once your dates are cleared with the site coordinator, register 1-2 people to secure your dates. Then, advertise your decision and recruit your team! When you have recruited your team, register your full group online no later than 90 days before your trip. A 20% non-refundable deposit is required for each traveler. VISA/MasterCard is accepted or you can send a check by 90 days before your trip. The balance of your trip is due 60 days before your departure date. Late payments are subject to a fee.

WHAT ABOUT IMMUNIZATIONS? HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED SHOTS AND WHICH ONES?

The best place to find information on immunizations is on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. This will give you a precise health outlook on the area you are traveling to.

DO YOU HAVE A PACKING LIST? WHAT SHOULD I BRING? WHAT SHOULD I NOT BRING?

Yes. A site-specific packing list is in the Site Handbook you will receive via email after you register.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I LAND IN A COUNTRY? WHERE DO I GO FROM THERE?

When your group arrives at your destination you will first need to go through immigration and customs. You will be given a form on the airplane that each team member must fill out. You will then follow through the immigration lines. Once you make it through customs your host or someone from the Envision site will be waiting for you. They will transport you to your housing accommodations.

WHEN IS OUR REGISTRATION PAYMENT DUE?

Your initial non-refundable deposit of 20% per person is due 90 days before your depart date. Your trip balance is due 60 days from your departure date. If you miss the deadline, your group will be charged an extra \$100. Please communicate any delays to Envision Office as soon as possible.

WHEN SHOULD WE APPLY FOR PASSPORTS?

Immediately. Some groups have a problem getting their passports in time for their trip because they waited too long to apply. As soon as you know someone is going and they don't have a passport, have them apply immediately. To start the process, go to <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.

DO I NEED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INSURANCE?

If you are taking an international trip, you will receive trip insurance from Brotherhood Mutual as part of your registration. The C&MA requires that all mission trips carry this insurance. Trip Cancellation insurance is NOT included. You would need to purchase it on your own if it is desired.

ARE THERE OTHER FORMS THAT WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED?

Everyone is required to complete a Release of Liability form. This form will be emailed to you after you have registered. If the participant is a minor, it must be signed by both parents and/or legal guardians, and must be notarized. Each participant is also required to fill out an online medical emergency contact form that will go directly to the Envision office when completed. The Trip Leader is responsible for filling out the Team Leader Checklist and returning it to the Envision Office.

HOW DO I ADD, CANCEL OR REPLACE PEOPLE AFTER WE HAVE REGISTERED AS A GROUP?

If you need to cancel a trip participant, please notify the Envision Office. You can add people yourself by logging back into your online registration through the original link and adding them. For instructions on how to do this, please email the Envision Office. If you have any problems with the registration system please call the Events Office at 1 (877) 284-3262 (option #5).