

Planning & Paying For a Missions Trip

1. Planning a Missions Trip
 - a. Start early.
 - b. Determine the overall objective.
 - c. Set a few goals based on the info in this document.
 - d. Make a few plans to reach goal.
 - e. Plan for all possibilities. The unexpected may happen.
 - i. Plan to be flexible.
 - ii. Plan extra finances in case of emergency.
2. Pray for the Missions Trip.
 - a. Pray before you plan. Don't try to do it on your own.
 - b. Pray as you plan. Acts 13:2-3.
 - c. Pray as you go and while you are at the location.
 - d. Pray when you get back. Give thanks for what you experienced.
3. Place/Destination. Where should we go?
 - a. Start local at first. There is plenty of local mission/church planting help needed.
 - b. Soup Kitchens - VBS - Building Projects - Crisis Pregnancy Centers - etc.
 - c. Your own supported Missionaries. Start at home, work outward.
 - d. Know your skill set within your church. How has God prepared your church.
4. Purpose. Why are you going?
 - a. What kind of outreach will you do? Will you need translators?
 - b. What type of projects will you be doing? What type of skilled laborers will you need?
 - c. Make sure it is not a sightseeing purpose.
5. Partnerships. What are the benefits to "all" the parties involved, including nationals.
 - a. Good book for the team to read: "When Helping Hurts"
 - b. What is the desired impact or undesirable impact?
 - c. How will the team view national leaders? They may need some instruction.
6. Preparing. Getting the team together and ready to go.
 - a. Know what you are looking for in personnel before you advertise.
 - b. Assemble the team 12-14 month prior to the trip.
 - c. Visit: www.shorttermmissionproject.org
 - d. Use an application process and screening. They must agree to a contract.
 - e. Divide your team into small groups. Establish team leaders for each group. The pastoral team of the church should choose the team leaders.
 - f. Pastoral endorsement should be gained that each person should go on the trip.
 - g. Do background checks on each member.
 - h. Get commitments early - 6-9 months ahead of time.
 - i. Begin to teach the group to bear burdens with each other. They will need this!
 - j. Learn to share the gospel. Practice with each other. Pray with each other.

7. Paying for Your Missions Trip:

a. If overseas:

- i. Passports. This varies from country to country. Not all countries require passports.
- ii. Shots & Immunizations. Check on the regulations and recommendations for each location.
- iii. Airfare - Use a reputable company with group rates.
- iv. Travel in Country - Plan to rent a van for the group size.
- v. Vehicle gas & tolls - You will need currency exchanged.
- vi. Travel Insurance - This is a must in the case of emergencies.
- vii. Food & Lodging:
 1. Consider culture. You should stay in lodging that fits the economical culture.
 2. Expect delays and extra expenses.
 3. Plan food compatible for the team. Too much cultural food early in the week could spoil the teams' ability to work.
 4. The last day of the trip, allow your team to experience cultural foods. They may get sick, but at least it will not spoil the purpose for the trip.
- viii. Have bottled water for the team. Even within the USA the bacteria in water varies from state to state. If overseas, this is a **MUST**. The national leaders will understand this.
- ix. Plan a fun day. One usually is enough especially at the end of the trip. On the fun day plan a place to get souvenirs.

8. How will we pay for the trip?

- a. Church Budget should be a part of it for the whole church. Seed money.
- b. Each person helps to raise the funds. This is a collective project. No one raises only their own funds. All funds that come in go to the overall cost of the project. One person will raise more than another, but all help each other out. You begin to build team work into their lives.
 - i. Fundraisers
 - ii. "Rent-a-teen"
 - iii. Church families willing to do lawn sales with all proceeds going to the missions trip.
 - iv. Approach a business in your community.
 - v. Letters sent to family and friends asking to pray and give. Support letters should include:
 1. Who - who I am, and who I am going with.
 2. What - what I will be doing on the trip.
 3. Where - where I am going, where you can send support funds.
 4. When - when I am going, when is the deadline for paying for the trip.
 5. How - how you can help me, how you can support me - Prayer & Finances.
 6. Why - why do I want to go on this trip.