

GLOBAL MISSION FORCE



Xtreme Global Opportunities
Manual
2010

From the Director

We are so glad that you have chosen to consider going on one of our Xtreme Global Opportunities short term mission trips. Please take time to read through our team prep manual, especially noting pages 29-34. Take the time to pray, asking God if it is His will for you to be a part of a team. This is a time and energy commitment - both spiritually & physically - as well as a finance commitment that you will be making, so you want to know that God has urged you to go.

Rest assured that between the training manual, Luane Thomson, our short term missions coordinator, and reading requirements, you will be well prepared for your journey. Luane will happily assist you with all the details. There is paperwork, training and preparations to be done by you, but you won't be alone in the process.



If you feel that yes, indeed God is urging you to go, then start the journey by working through the following list and then you'll be hearing from Luane.

- Fill out pages 28, 29 & 30 and return to Luane at the address below along with your \$50 non-refundable application fee.
- Print out page 34, the Pastoral Recommendation Form, and give to your pastor or ministry leader. Request that they fill it out and return it to our office as soon as possible, as their recommendation is required for your participation. (It's best to include a stamped, addressed envelope for their convenience.)
- The Team Policy Statement (pg 31) and the Release Form on pages 32 & 33 are due after your approval for participation. You will also mail these to Luane.
- If you do not have a valid passport, take the necessary actions to procure one - asap. (See page 3 for instructions). Upon receiving your passport, send 2 copies of the signature/picture pages to the office.
- We also ask that you purchase the book Serving with Eyes Wide Open by David Livermore. Each team member will read this book as part of their preparation, along with receiving further training through Luane Thomson, our short term missions coordinator

It is our desire to not only be a blessing to the country where we are going, but for the Lord to touch your heart, enlarge your world view and make a difference in His Kingdom in Peru and in your home town. We look forward to having you as a team member.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Luane at the address, phone number or email address listed below.

Invading the Darkness
2324 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Phone: (678) 521-6643
Fax: (770) 941-9237
email: Luane.Thomson@gmail.com

Networking Nations,

Paul Whitley
Director of Mission
FCFI
itd7773@aol.com

THE BENEFITS OF A SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP

Serving on a short term mission team can transform your life, as well as those whom God appoints for you to encounter, as you humbly allow Him to work in and through you.

Kent Hunter, Senior Editor of Global Church Growth, lists 6 results of being on a short term mission team.

1. *You will come home with expanded horizons.* You will no longer see the United States as being the center of the universe. People look different, act and speak differently, live differently and worship differently around the world.
2. *You will come home with a new economy.* You will no longer feel the same about how you spend your money. If you don't tithe before going, you will want to when you return. If you tithe now, you will want to give more in offerings. You will discover that you don't have to spend so much money on yourself.
3. *You will return home with a new enthusiasm for missions.* You might want to return to the field, support a missionary, serve on a mission committee or join a mission organization.
4. *You will have a new worldview.* You will no longer find it easy to see color or look down on foreigners visiting or living in our country. You will discover that you don't have to travel overseas to impact the world for Christ. You can do it right in your own backyard: the United States.
5. *Your missions experience will strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ.* Since Jesus was a missionary, you will now begin to appreciate the things He did and said. You will find that you want to pray more for those who are still living on the soil from which you just returned. You will probably desire to be used more in the spiritual gifts.
6. *You will encourage your church.* Your testimony will touch others around you. You may find that others want to do what you just did. Sadly, there will be others who will resent what you have done and not want to hear your testimony.

Two Common Objections & Responses to Short Term Missions

1. Short-term missions cost too much.
 - a. These trips may be costly but the thing to keep in mind is the investment in the individual's growth and discipleship, as well as those God is appointing for them to meet. We spend thousands on computers, books and school in order to invest in our futures. Money spent on short-term missions is an investment. Few experiences teach a person about as many different areas of life as do short-term missions. Is the cost too much if it causes the person to see the world differently, changes their world view, and results in them being obedient to the Great Commission? An investment in one's spiritual life will result in great return for the individual, the church and those to whom the individual ministers. It is an investment in lives – and we know the price God places on those!
2. Short-term missions are not a wise investment of funds. It is better to send the money directly to the field. The work can be done better and cheaper.
 - a. This objection may be correct from a limited perspective. This shortsighted objection focuses only on getting the work done. A short-term experience is a tool for discipling people in servant hood and missions. As important as the actual work is, it is equally important to build world Christians who can influence beyond this one project or trip. Short-term missions have been the most significant influence in the call of many people to full term missions, as well as churches in long term partnerships that create church planting movements around the world. People who experience missions first hand are more likely to pray & give in the future. To decide it is better stewardship to send money to the field is to meet an immediate need at the expense of a long term investment that will pay great dividends in the future all over the world.

PASSPORT PROCEDURES

Following is an overview of how to get your passport, but we recommend that you visit the official website for all the details.

http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

1. A passport is a document proving citizenship. To obtain a passport, apply at your local passport office (Post Office). While the government of the country to which we are going may not require a visa*, all American citizens leaving the United States must have a valid passport.

NOTE: If you apply in person at a passport office, the normal processing time for your application should be 4 weeks. However, we have experienced 10 week processing times so, **DON'T DELAY!** Your passport will be sent to you by mail.

2. To apply you must provide:
 - a. An original, **certified** Birth Certificate or previous passport. (If you do not have a certified copy of your birth certificate contact the records office of the city in which you were born for a copy.)
 - b. A driver's license or valid photo ID with a signature on it.
 - c. Two identical 2" x 2" passport photos, black and white or color. (Most camera stores and copy centers advertise "passport photos"; as well as some Walgreens and CVS pharmacies; and can provide them "while you wait.")
 - d. If 16 years of age or older:
Two payments totaling \$100* (\$75 for the passport and \$25 for processing.) Checks, travelers checks, cashiers checks or US postal money orders are accepted. **NO CASH**
Passport is valid for 10 years.
 - e. If under 16 years of age:
Two payments totaling \$85* (\$60 for the passport and \$25 for processing.) Checks, travelers checks, cashiers checks or US postal money orders are accepted. **NO CASH**
Must apply with parent or guardian.
For ID, you may use a certified copy of your Birth Certificate and an official school report card or other document. Passport is valid for 5 years.

NOTE: The cost of a passport **is not included** in the cost of the trip.

NOTE: A person's passport must be valid for six months beyond the date of return to the US.

3. **Upon receipt of your passport, sign it and mail 2 copies of the first page** (which contains your photo, signature and passport number) to Luane in the Short Term Trips office with your first installment.

Invading the Darkness
Attn: Luane
2324 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

* Some countries require both a letter of invitation and visa. These expenses are not included in the price of the trip. (Peru does not require a visa)

EXPENSES

Prices will vary depending on the trip. We do a cost + airfare arrangement. Please keep in mind that some flights depart Lima before midnight on Fridays and some in the early morning hours on Saturdays. Both flights will arrive back into the US on Saturdays. These prices do not cover departure taxes (about \$32, which needs to be in cash), souvenirs or meals on your own.

Included in the trip cost: Training materials

- Lodging (Leadership will decide location)
- Meals (except lunch and dinner on last day)
- All ground transportation
- Translator expenses
- Ministry and administration costs

NOTE: This does not include purchase of souvenirs, snacks, personal offerings, or phone calls. (Suggested amount of personal money: \$100-\$200 per person depending on the amount of shopping you want to do.) We suggest clean, crisp, denominations of \$10 or \$20. Many countries will not change money that is unduly dirty or written on or torn.

Credit cards are limited in their acceptance for shopping in many countries. Debit cards can usually be used in bank machines. Make sure you know your PIN #. You may want to bring along a money belt or belly pouch to carry important documents and money. Do not leave money in your hotel room.

Phone calls to the US can be very costly and must be paid for at the time the call is made. Check ahead with your card company to determine special numbers to use for calling back to the states. The good news is that in Peru calls from special locations called Locutoria can be made for about \$.20 per minute.

VERY IMPORTANT:

Do not exchange money on the street. Use only banks and official money exchange places.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Usually when we go on these trips, we are in locations that are difficult to reach by telephone or internet. Therefore, we ask that you give family members the following number to call in case of emergencies. This is the number for ITD: 1-770-497-1425. They will know how to reach us in case of emergencies. If there is no answer at this number, they may call Tim Cummings at 765-220-0459.

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

You've been accepted on the team, applied for your passport and sent in required documents to the mission office, now it's time to start building your sending team. Below is a teaching about sending teams, their importance and how to go about establishing yours. This is an essential part of the journey, so let's get started:

SENDING TEAMS

What is a sending team? In simple terms, it is a group of people who partner with you for the purpose of fulfilling God's call on your life to go on a mission trip and their call to partner with you. When people join your sending team, they are committing to join you in ministry through prayer, finances, and encouragement. God calls us to interdependence in the body of Christ in order to accomplish His purposes in the nations, as well as in our own lives. It can be a humbling experience to build a sending team – but that is one of God's greatest desires that we humbly depend upon Him and His body.

Missions is essentially building relationships. Ministry is basically sharing your life with another person. It is communication, love, sharing God's grace, showing and telling what He has done and can do. It does not consist of how far you travel or what activities you do. You are preparing to invest yourself in another part of the world for the purpose of extending Christ's love...**That's giving!**

To make giving happen, you need people to send you. Let your friends and family know about your mission trip. You will gain encouragement, help, advice, and finances from these supporters...**That's receiving!**

One of the most difficult things that missionaries find to do is ask for money. This is a wrong attitude. You are simply giving Christians and non-Christians alike an opportunity to be involved in the Great Commission. They may never have the chance to go on a short term mission trip, but their giving to your trip affords them the opportunity to be personally involved in the evangelism of people in another country. You are doing them a service!

A. Discovery – Who is your sending team?

1. God provides support for those He calls
 He tugged at your heart – you answered
 If He called you, he has a sending team for you
 You just need to find out who the team is.

2. Two primary areas for short term missions support
 - a. Prayer – not secondary, but the foundation and most important thing we need. Purposefully seek out those who will pray for your preparation, the outreach, the nation, the onsite workers, your fellow team mates, etc.
 - b. Finances
 These go hand in hand – those giving are usually the ones praying for you

 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
 ~Jesus, Matthew 6:21

3. It is helpful for those who support you to see themselves as part of a team
 - a. United with one another for the common cause of making you as effective as possible in your cross cultural ministry.
 - b. They need to feel that they are intimately involved in the ministry and not just in charitable giving.
 - c. Don't ever forget that in short term missions the sending team is just as important as those doing the cross-cultural ministry.

Discovering the Biblical Basis:

It's important that we are not embarrassed when building our sending team. If we are embarrassed, not clearly understanding the Biblical basis for a sending team – we will not properly challenge people to join us.

4. Where will the support come from?
 - a. Read Philippians 4:19, 1 Chronicles 29:12-14, Mark 12:41-44

Answer:

5. Am I and my ministry worthy of this support?
 - a. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Matthew 10:10, Galatians 6:6, Philippians 4:10-20, 1 Corinthians 9:3-14, 1 Timothy 5:18

Answer:

6. Is building a sending team easy?
 - a. Read Ephesians 6:10-12

Answer:

7. Should I challenge people to give of their finances?
 - a. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7, Romans 10:15

Answer:

8. Should I ask directly for financial support?
 - a. Read Romans 15:24, Philippians 4:14-20

Answer:

9. Sending team levels of commitment

Not all will be equally involved – that's OK!
You will need people involved at two different levels

 - i. As givers
 1. They may give a one time gift and pray occasionally – these are valuable members – keep them informed.
 - ii. As pray-ers
 1. You need people committed to praying for you at least once a week before the trip, daily during the outreach and once a week for a month afterwards.
 2. Seek out 10 people to commit on this level.

B. Building Your Sending Team

Building a good sending team will enhance your short-term experience greatly. It may seem like a lot of work but remember that you are inviting others to join you on a mission with God, not just raising money for a trip.

1. Where to start
 - a. Pray – it's not *work* that makes things happen... it's God.
 - i. Read Isaiah 26:12 and Zechariah 4:6.

- ii. Even though your support comes through God's people, it is the Holy Spirit that moves them to be involved.
 - iii. Pray:
 1. For God's direction in making your list of potential sending team members
 2. For the Holy Spirit to guide people as they consider committing themselves to praying, giving and helping
 3. For people to be open to God's leading
 4. For boldness as you share your needs
 5. For wisdom and clarity as you share about your ministry
- b. List potential sending team members
- i. Pray about who should be on the list, asking God for guidance
 - ii. Relationships are key – those people that have shared in your life and ministry are probably going to be part of your team
 - iii. Some ideas:
 1. your church family
 2. friends from school
 3. work colleagues
 4. neighbors
 5. relatives
 6. hair dresser & other associates
- c. Consider how God wants you to personally contribute from your own resources. Sacrificing some personal indulgences (i.e. Starbucks, movies, restaurants, etc.) to add to your mission trip fund is a wise thing to do.
Remember, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..."

C. Sending Team Letter Tips

- 1st Paragraph:** Greetings and an explanation of what the project is and plans to accomplish it.
- 2nd Paragraph:** The reason behind your personal desire to be a part of this mission project, what we hope to accomplish there through ministry and what you hope to accomplish in your personal life.
- 3rd Paragraph:** An explanation of your support needs and how you are raising that sum. You want to ask the individual if he or she would like to share in your ministry by prayerfully and/or financially supporting you. Let them know that all gifts are tax-deductible if made out to Invading the Darkness or your local church. Be specific on the date your funds are needed (give the payment schedule.)
- 4th Paragraph:** Thank the person for considering being a part of your Sending Team, indicating that you will be in contact with him/her after your mission outreach.
It's good to hand write a personal note to the form letter.

Few Final Tips:

- Pray over your letter, as you write it and as you send it, asking God to use it to further His Kingdom.
- You may want to include stamped, self addressed return envelopes
- Always write a thank you note in response to everyone who supports you, either in prayer or in finances. If feasible, invite them to a special prayer time for the outreach
- Give your Prayer Supporters an itinerary of the trip so they can pray accordingly.
- Keep a list of your supporters with you so, when the need arises, you know who to ask the Lord to have pray. And He just might prompt you to pray for them too.

Whether you think the prayers & money will roll in or that you will never build a sending team, God knows your needs (people, prayers and money). Allow the Lord to build your team. Allow Him to work in you during the process as well as through you to impact others' lives. Don't focus on the task and forget the people the Lord is bringing together to send you well. Continue to allow the Lord to break the pride and independence from you – it's worth the effort!

Portions of sending team letter information adapted from Culture Link, Marietta, GA

SAMPLE LETTER

(Date)

Dear _____:

I am writing you to share with you something very exciting in my life-I am going on a short term mission trip to _____(country)_____. I have the opportunity to be part of a team that will be building houses for poor people, evangelizing on the street, doing children's ministry and many other life changing activities. My trip will be from _____(date)_____ to _____(date)_____.

I am hoping that you would like to be a part of this wonderful opportunity. I am asking my dear friends and relatives and Christian family to help me by sending a tax-deductible donation that will make it possible for me to go on this trip. The cost of my trip is \$_____ but I am not asking you to give all of that. I am simply asking that you prayerfully give as you feel impressed. \$10, \$25, \$50 or any amount would be a great blessing to me and help to make a difference in many lives. Whether or not you can be a financial part, I am also asking that you pray for me and the team while we prepare to go as well as for those whom the Lord is preparing for us to reach. My airline ticket must be purchased by _____(date)_____ and the trip balance must be paid by _____(date)_____.

If you would like to make a contribution to my trip, you may do so by sending a check to Invading the Darkness, Inc. 2324 Mt. Vernon Rd. Lithia Springs, GA 30122. You must include a note that this is for my mission trip but please do not write a notation on the check. If you have any questions, you can call me at (your number) or you may contact Invading the Darkness at 770-497-1425 and speak with Maria; or Luane at 678-521-6643. Your contribution is tax deductible.

I want you to be blessed as part of my sending team so I will be sending you a report of what God did on this trip when I return. I know that not everyone can go on a short-term mission trip, but we can all be involved either by going, sending or praying for those who do go.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As David said to his men after an intense battle in 1 Samuel 30:24 "The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." I am confident that He has some good things in store for all of us.

Gratefully,

(Your name)
Phone & Email

Packing Tips

1. You are limited to two checked bags of 50# (one for personal items and the other for team items) plus one carry-on bag of 10#. We suggest that you pick up a very inexpensive bag at a thrift store, Salvation Army, Good Will, etc., and then either leave it in Peru or use it to bring back souvenirs. Remember, in most cases, you will be carrying your own luggage, so pack accordingly. Please go to the webpage of the airline that you are using and read the baggage information that tells you what is allowed. In these days of heightened security and economic problems, many airlines now only allow one, free checked bag. In this case, we are asking that you raise enough support that you can pay the extra fee in order to get to the mission field the equipment and materials needed for the mission trip.
2. Think through what items should be in your one "carry-on" bag. This could be the only bag that makes it to your destination. If your luggage is lost or delayed, which items would you need most? Toiletry items, medications, change of clothes, or at least one change of under garments.
3. Take only the clothing/items that you need. A good rule is to pack for ten days. Wearing the same clothes during your trip is a small price to pay for the freedom you gain by packing lightly.
4. You may want to pack any liquid items in sealed bags. If one of those items were to break or spill in your suitcase, you may have the fragrant smell of your shampoo or Pepto-Bismol@ the remainder of the trip.
5. Limit the amount of valuables you take overseas. As you pack, ask the question: "Can I live without this?" If the answer is yes, leave it home. Sentimental or favorite items, such as a gift (e.g. the watch your dad gave you) or heirloom items should be left at home.
4. Clean out your wallet. Only take necessary identification or credit cards with you. It is advisable to secure some type of special "pouch" for carrying money, credit cards, traveler's checks and/or passport. These can generally be purchased at luggage stores and department stores.
5. Keep a copy of your passport & visas, and credit card numbers (along with the telephone number of the credit card company) apart from those actual items. The companies will need to be notified immediately if they are stolen.

REMEMBER: All that you take for yourself must fit into your one suitcase, one carry on and your briefcase, camera case or computer case. This is all the luggage that will be allowed for your personal items.

DO NOT PACK YOUR PASSPORT OR VISA IN YOUR LUGGAGE TO BE CHECKED! You must carry them with you wherever you go.

Packing List

Be sure to check with your hosts and adjust accordingly.

General

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible/notebook/journal/pen
<input type="checkbox"/> Spending money
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal snacks (train, breakfast)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bath towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent/lotion
<input type="checkbox"/> Suntan lotion/sunscreen
<input type="checkbox"/> Missions Workbook
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunburn remedy
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |
|---|--|

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel pillow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiny Flashlight/batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel mug w/top |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera/film/batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Handi-wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm clock | <input type="checkbox"/> Language book |

Personal Sundries

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush/paste/floss/Listerine | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper w/out roll |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Razor/shaving cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Moist towelettes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine hygiene items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Kleenex travel packs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo/Conditioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or cap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/brush | |

Personal Medicines

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins | <input type="checkbox"/> Ibuprofen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Immodium, laxative/ Pepto-Bismol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items needed from medical list | <input type="checkbox"/> Tear drops (not Visine) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sinus medication | |

Optional Considerations

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money belt | <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial sweeteners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Debit card | <input type="checkbox"/> Current adapters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money in crisp 20's and 50's | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic utensils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple gifts (candy, bookmarks, pins)
for translator | <input type="checkbox"/> Flip-flops/slippers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheap watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Powder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addresses of supporters | <input type="checkbox"/> Big plastic cup/travel mug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air mattress | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife/scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo of your family/city/country |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel games/reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Work tools |

Clothing

(Always, err on the conservative side)

Men

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pants (1 dress, others casual) | <input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts (1 dress, others casual) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes/socks (Comfortable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tie (if necessary) | <input type="checkbox"/> Undergarments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes/socks (Comfortable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Modest swimwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear | |

Women

- Skirts
- Shirts
- Casual dresses
- blue jeans or slacks for work and street evangelism
- One Sunday-type dress
- Shorts for "tourist days" (if appropriate!)

TRAVELING TIPS

When traveling, we must stay together as a team. Never go off on your own. If you must leave the group, let the team leader know. He/She has the prerogative to say no.

If you are asked to go somewhere with one of the nationals, make sure you know who that person is and that your team leader knows and approves.

We will try to stay on schedule as much as possible. This can only be accomplished with your cooperation. It is important that you respect the established times so that all that we have planned can be accomplished.

Whenever possible, we will try to keep you informed when plans change. Be patient. We can't always foresee changes or prevent their occurrence.

Use travel time to better acquaint yourself with other team members. This especially helps when ministering as a group.

Never lay down your camera, money pouch or anything valuable.

Do not attempt to change money on the street.

FLIGHT INSURANCE

Flight insurance is available and either can be purchased at the airport or through an independent agent. The cost of this insurance is not included in the price of this trip. Should you decide to purchase this coverage, the premium amount you select is based on the price of the ticket. See your trip leader for this information.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.weather.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KP1xD3e7ONI>

www.kayak.com; www.expedia.com, www.priceline.com

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook

www.cdc.gov

MINISTERING CROSS CULTURALLY

I. The Peace Corps web site defines Culture as “a system of beliefs, values, and assumptions about life that guide behavior and are shared by a group of people. It includes customs, language, and material artifacts. These are transmitted from generation to generation, rarely with explicit instructions.”

A. CULTURE - Provides a patterned way of doing things. It is the “super glue” that binds people together and gives them a sense of identity and continuity.

The identity of the group is most obviously seen in behavior.

The group's choices and behavior reflect their cultural values, which give the “should” and “ought” in order to “fit in.”

The values in a culture are not selected arbitrarily, but reflect an underlying system of beliefs.

AN ICEBERG: Culture has been aptly compared to, yes, an iceberg. Just as an iceberg has a visible section above the waterline, and a larger, invisible section below the water line, so culture has some aspects that are observable and others that can only be suspected, imagined, or intuited. Also, like an iceberg, the part of culture that is visible (observable behavior) is only a small part of a much bigger whole. *From the Peace Corps Web Site*

B. Observable Features of Culture (Above the Waterline):

- facial expressions
- religious rituals
- paintings
- holiday customs
- gestures
- foods
- eating habits
- music
- literature
- styles of dress

C. Invisible Aspects of Culture (Below the Waterline):

- values
- concept of beauty
- concept of fairness
- child raising beliefs
- understanding of the natural world
- religious beliefs
- importance of time
- concept of self
- concept of leadership
- nature of friendship

D. Entering a new culture involves encountering differing belief systems such as:

- People not smiling or greeting each other on the streets.
- A woman in Peru nursing puppies.
- Children & adults in South America wiping mucus across their faces.
- Babies in Central Asia being tied in their cribs.

Many or even most of these behaviors and belief systems can be far different than our own. As our own belief systems are challenged culture shock will set in.

II. CULTURE SHOCK/STRESS/FATIGUE

Culture shock is defined as a psychological disorientation that stems from unfamiliar cues and unmet expectations in a new culture.

One of the toughest parts of entering a new culture is that you simply don't know or understand the rules and expectations being put upon you. You can feel like a baby – you can't speak the language nor understand why people are doing what they do – or what they want you to do. And this is pretty stressful!

A. Culture shock/stress/fatigue has been likened to:

- Having a low voltage hum in the background that finally gets to you – *“NO MORE I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT! MAKE IT STOP!”*
- Finding that your final exam is in a language you can't read and people keep telling you the questions but you can't understand them either. *“HELP!! NO DON'T, JUST BE QUIET AND LEAVE ME ALONE!!”*

B. Four Phases of Culture Stress:

1. Tourist: "I would just love to live here!"
2. Frustration: "How can these people live like this and when do I get back to civilization?"
3. Recovery: "I think it's going to be okay."
4. Acceptance: "Is it really time to leave?"

III. Finding Bridges –Moving from frustration into recovery:

"Experiencing cultural fatigue is not a sign that we shouldn't have come or that we're not 'spiritual' enough to cope with cross cultural ministry. Rather, it is a very natural and normal phenomenon caused by falling into the gaps between our home culture and our new one. The key is to find bridges that will carry us over these gaps of cultural differences." *From the Short Term Mission Workbook*

A. Don't get stuck in negative responses such as:
 Criticizing the host culture
 Rationalizing inappropriate behavior – including ours
 Withdrawing from the culture and/or the team

B. Seek to understand
 Look for the why behind the behavior, rather than seeing things as "wrong"
 See Jesus' method in John 4 when He encountered the Samaritan woman at the well
 How well you understand and can handle a different culture is less important than how well you understand and can handle yourself.

"Expectations can challenge and grow us or disappoint and defeat us"

Disciplining our expectations is a key bridge builder

The quality of our experience in another culture will largely be determined by our expectations and our reasons for being there. Therefore, we must be clear about why we are going as well as clarify our expectations so that they can be realistic and fruitful.

Have you already dealt with some unmet expectations? What and how?

During the Kingdom Journey training what insights has God given you about why He has you walking through this process?

Write two or three things you believe God wants to accomplish in and through you.

Now lay those before God, relinquish any hold that you have on them and trust Him to do what He wants to do and how He wants to do it.

C. Understanding Our Fears:

In what type of situations do you tend to become anxious?

What are some of your biggest fears about this trip?

Ask God to show you any hidden fears.

What do you think will help you overcome your fears?

How can your team help you overcome/walk through the fears?

D. Be instruments of God's grace in cross cultural ministry by building on five dimensions of grace:

GratITUDE,
Refreshment
AccEptance
Compassion
Expectancy

1. Gratitude - When we feel threatened, rejected or thwarted, our natural tendency is to criticize others, complain about our situation and rationalize our behavior.

However, God has not called you into this new culture or into these new relationships to be a critic. Christ did not enter into our world to criticize and complain but to redeem us and establish his kingdom. Similarly, Christ has not called us into our new culture to criticize and complain about the heat, the dirt, the noise, the inconvenience, the corruption or the loneliness. Complaint and criticism create a bottomless pit; while praise and gratitude are the language of God's kingdom. The right to offer suggestions is only gained with time and trust. If you are a short-term visitor, you have not yet gained that right. Therefore, your calling is to find everything you can be thankful for in your new situation with these new people.

Your gratitude and affirmation just might be your most profound and enduring contribution during your cross cultural ministry.

2. Refreshment - It can be very difficult to express the resiliency of grace when we are exhausted and our spiritual reserves are depleted. In order to be gracious with others, we must first receive God's grace & strength for ourselves.

It's important to realize that the things that are most refreshing and relaxing for you will most likely be impossible to experience on your mission trip.

Consider what is most refreshing and relaxing for you:

Do you think it will be possible to do these things on this trip, living in community and being on a tight schedule?

What might be a reasonable alternative?

3. Acceptance - *"Toto we're not in Kansas anymore!"* You are entering a new culture so leave the comparisons behind and embrace the new one God has sent you to. There's no point in constantly fighting it and standing on the outside as a stranger and judge. Christ accepts us and He has sent us to manifest his acceptance of others.

Three factors that enhance our ability to become people of acceptance:

1. Friendship - Seek to develop a friendship with one person within your new culture.
2. Forgiveness - It is easy to forget the central importance of practicing forgiveness. Forgive yourself for your mistakes; forgive your host and their culture for the things that seem wrong to you and pray for understanding. Don't allow resentment to build up.
3. Finding delights - Seek to discover what delights God about the people you are serving and the team you are serving with. God created them, redeemed them and loves them. They are bearers of God's image; therefore, much in their lives will reflect God's character and creativity – if we take the time to look closely.

4. Compassion - Grace flows from compassion and compassion literally means *“to suffer with.”* The prerequisite for compassion is the willingness to enter into others' lives and share their concerns. We need to continually remind ourselves that we are the ones who've entered other people's cultures and homes. We are their guests. Therefore, it is our job to adapt and adjust to them, rather than expecting them to adapt and adjust to us.

Realize that compassion is ultimately a gift from God. Compassion grows as we focus on Jesus Christ and as the Spirit of God touches ours with the love of Christ (Romans 5) The missionaries of Charity, an order founded by Mother Teresa, pray daily: *“Dearest Lord...though you hide yourself behind the unattractive disguise of the irritable, the exacting and the unreasonable, may I still recognize you and say: Jesus...how sweet it is to serve you.”*

5. Finally, let's concentrate on the 5 “L's” as we seek to bridge the gap in our new culture:

Laugh, listen, learn, love, live – laugh at ourselves, listen to God and others, learn from God and others, love everybody – including yourself - live big and keep on laughing!

IV. Learning How to Bridge the Gap by looking at how Jesus Did It:

A. How did Jesus approach His new Culture? We see his approach in Philippians 2:3-8 He humbly served in obedience to the Father's will.

B. What cultural adjustments did Jesus have to make in order to come to us?

- Gave up His rights
- Voluntarily assumed a human body with all it's limitations
- limited Himself
- set aside the right to His power and glory
- became subject to place, time, etc.
- subjected Himself to family issues & conflict
- subjected Himself to temptation
- lowered Himself to dependence & servitude
- left total acceptance to go to rejection & being misunderstood

C. Jesus' Cultural Techniques:

John 2 – Some times He embraced it, such as at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, where He turned water into wine.

John 3 – Other times He challenged their worldview, as He did while attending a Passover feast in Jerusalem. Jesus revealed Himself as the Son of Man who must be lifted up. He challenged Nicodemus' worldview when He said “For God so loved the WORLD,” not only for the Jews.

John 4 – At other times He found the why behind the behavior as He did when speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well

Matthew 9 & John 5 – He challenged their cultural norms by going to the house of a tax collector, speaking of the necessity of new wineskins, and healing a lame man on the Sabbath.

John 11 – And He so beautifully entered the culture and loved the people as He demonstrated at the death of Lazarus. Jesus was deeply moved, He wept, more than once; He was deeply moved – Jesus was personally involved and connected with those to whom He ministered.

It is imperative that we distinguish between Biblical truth and our own culture; if we don't we can easily make our culture the religion. Seek to read through the New Testament without a Western world view.

V. Examples of Preaching Christ in a culturally relevant context:

Acts 2:5-41 for the Hebrews - Peter addresses the God-fearing Jews from every nation, pointing them to the scriptures and how Jesus fulfilled them and was the promised Messiah they were waiting for.

Acts 17:16-34 for the Greeks - we find Paul in Athens greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. V 19 – the Aeropagus was a court or council on a low hill in Athens near the Acropolis. As Paul stood and spoke about the one true God his audience could look down on the city and see the many idols in honor of the many gods they worshipped and sought to appease. He didn't begin his message by recalling Jewish history as he did when speaking to Jews, it would have been totally irrelevant; instead he built a case for the One true God, using examples from Greek culture. He found common ground, emphasizing what they agreed on about God. Vs. 28 Paul recites the 3rd most favorite poem among Greeks! But he didn't stop short of challenging their worldview – he went on to confront them with Jesus' resurrection and its application to our lives. v 32-24 His message received mixed reactions, but some believed, one being an influential member of the council, as well as a woman that the writer of Acts, Luke, makes the effort to name.

RESEARCHING PEOPLES & CULTURE

1. Caleb Project <www.calebproject.org>; From the front page, take a look at "Unreached Peoples," "Nance Profiles" and "Praying Through the Window" for hundreds of unreached people profiles and links to others.
2. Bethany Unreached People Profiles <www.bethany.com/profiles/home.htm>;. A collection of more than 1000 people group profiles including prayer requests, maps and pictures.
3. AD2000 Movement <www.ad2000.org>;. Statistical and contact information for the people groups listed on the Joshua Project List, plus information about how your church can "adopt" a people group successfully.
4. People Group Consultant Research Assistant <www.brigada.org/pgcra/index.htm>;. Use Brigada's PGC to uncover places on the web with information about your people group!
5. Christian Missions Homepage <www.sim.org>;. Among the best features of this SIM site are its up-to-date links to other mission sites on the web and e-mail addresses for mission agencies.
6. Fingertip's Mission Opportunities Database <www.netaccess.on.ca/~sma>;. Find out who might be working in a particular area or ministry in which you have an interest. [I think this has been changed to the EFC Task Force for Global Mission at <http://www.globalmission.org/megamenu.htm> ~N.W.]
7. Lonely Planet Travel Guide <www.lonelyplanet.com>;. Fascinating reports from tourists and advice for travelers going to all corners of the earth, plus pictures, make this website valuable for information gathering.

8. National Geographic Online <www.nationalgeographic.com/media/ngm/>:
Although the website is not very complete, what it is has is quite helpful. Also see if your local school or library has the CD-ROM with National Geographic's complete archives!
9. For headier stuff, try GMI's Mission Research Web Sites List <www.gmi.org/research/websites.htm>; and Create International's Worldview Research Tool-Kit <www.iinet.net.au/~createit/>;.
10. The Ethnologue <www.sil.org/ethnologue/>; catalogs the world's languages including information on alternate names, number of speakers, location, dialects, related languages, and related information.
11. The Global Research Office of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has extensive missions information, including the Integrated Strategic Planning Database, Global Evangelization Model, Status of Global Evangelization, Annual Report, and Strategy Studies at <www.imb.org/missionaries/people_groups.htm>
12. The Jesus Film language list. Find out if this important tool is available in your favorite people's language at <www.jesusfilm.org/>; Check Gospel Recordings, too: <members.aol.com/GloReNet/>
13. Go to the web directly! Type in the name of the people group, country, city, or language into your favorite browser and see where it takes you! The homepage of your online service provider or browser may also include travel, news, or educational links that can help you.

CHECK YOUR LIBRARY FOR PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS:

> Lonely Planet Travel Guides > Audio-Forum language tapes > National Geographic > Asia Week
> Aramco World Magazine > Encyclopedia Britannica > Encyclopedia of World Cultures

The above information was copied from the web site: missionresources.com

AREAS TO CONSIDER WHEN RESEARCHING:

Religion – General beliefs & devotion to it. What might be some creative ways to share Jesus?

Politics – What is the primary political system and how long has it been in place? How is it different than the U.S.? How might this affect our team?

Social Structure – Male, female, family roles, dating, male & female interaction. How will our team need to adjust to honor their structure?

Economics – What is the country's main source of finances – industry, agriculture, tourism, drugs? Average income and standard of living? What might be the living conditions of our team?

Geography – Basic geography and climate? How might this affect our team?

History – How has the country been affected by war and/or past controlling countries? How does this their past affect how they view themselves? How do they feel about the future?

Culture – Cultural celebrations, holidays, arts, drama, music. Is the culture tied to religious beliefs? What re the main celebrations and how are they celebrated?

Statistics and other general info – Population, racial mix, etc.

SPIRITUAL READINESS

Prayer Plan

As you plan for this mission outreach, please remember that you are entering into spiritual warfare. It is just as critical that you pray for this outreach before you leave as while you are there – and it's critical to have a daily quiet time with God. Following are some important prayer points to keep you focused and seeking God's face for this outreach. Begin to journal how God is speaking to you, noting scriptures and impressions He gives you.

1. Team leader(s) _____

2. Your part as a team member. What is God speaking to you about? What challenges are you already having? _____

3. Interpreter(s). They will be your mouth piece, pray for them to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

4. The needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ, be they nationals or other team members. Pray for team unity and pray against distraction, discouragement and fatigue. _____

5. Outreach – all the various aspects of it. _____

6. The religious strongholds of the land _____

7. Team project(s) _____

8. Team travel safety _____

9. Other _____

TEAM UNITY - PSALM 133

One of the most valuable aspects of your experience on a mission outreach is learning what it means to work as a team. The following principles will help make your team work together successfully.

TEAMWORK: Our mission teams are characterized by individuals who combine their efforts to achieve a common goal. We have found several points essential to successful team unity on a mission trip:

To achieve spiritual unity, group prayer is necessary.

We will have team devotions, but we also ask that you continue your personal time with the Lord.

Commit to loving, forgiving, and serving each other.

LEADERSHIP: Please support, respect, and follow your team leaders. Pray for them daily: They will encounter many decisions for which they need your support and prayers.

SERVANTHOOD: Outreaches work well when everyone maintains an attitude of serving. We must “look to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4). Leaders are servants as they encourage, support, and affirm each other. All members should maintain the attitude: “how can I help each one do his or her best?” Initiate help - Don’t wait to be asked.

ADVENTURE: You face a choice: Will I seek to learn and experience as much as possible, or will I be limited by my fears, opinions, and preferences? Let God enlarge your heart and your vision for the world! Experience as much of the native culture as possible. When in a restaurant eat native food instead of ordering American. Sacrifice your comforts so that you can learn, grow, and serve.

PERSONAL GROWTH: If the team is to grow, you must grow first. You must take time for daily prayer and Bible reading. You must be maturing and being stretched by God so you can contribute spiritual perspectives to your team. Let God employ you in ways that you have never been used before. Keeping a daily journal is a good way to record and monitor personal growth.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: We all have an idealized perception of what our personal experience will be like. This means that there may be some level or form of conflict. When we feel conflict arising, if we will humbly submit the issue to God and allow Him to resolve it, we will grow spiritually, the team will be strongly unified and God will be glorified!

RESOLVING CONFLICT – AN ESSENTIAL TO TEAM UNITY

One of the greatest reflections & most powerful witnesses of God's love is a team serving together in unity. **Jesus prayed in John 17 "Father make them one so that the world will know that you have sent me."** We can be direct answers to His prayer when we minister in unity. But being a unified team requires determined effort on the part of each team member. The enemy will attack a team's unity through unresolved conflict so let's take a look at how to deal with it.

INSIGHTS ON CONFLICT & RECONCILIATION:

A. Be aware that conflict will arise on a short term mission trip. But also know that conflict in itself is not a bad thing. Not resolving the conflict is a bad thing. Unresolved conflict will quickly destroy unity and remove God's blessing & anointing from the team. Conflict can be caused by sin, indifference, or simply a variety of personalities trying to get along under stress.

B. Whether it is sin or just differences, we must first stop and realize the enormous amount God has forgiven us. And that He calls us to be reconciled and to forgive others in the same way. *"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us."*

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

C. The word reconcile means "to change mutually, a total change, completion, full restoration, favor, exceeding, beyond measure, mightily, more excellent, to change, make different" It frequently denotes opposition or intensity.

"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation" **Romans 5:10-11**

God will command His blessing when we are in unity. See Psalm 133; Exodus 29:7&21

D. Conflict is not always a bad thing.

Ways that conflict can be useful:

- Helps to raise and address problems.
- Helps people "be real", for example, it motivates them to participate.
- Helps people learn how to recognize and benefit from their differences.
- Helps us to see things more clearly

E. Not resolving conflict is a problem because it can:

- Bring discouragement
- Cause more and continued conflicts
- Cause inappropriate behaviors
- Remove God's blessing on the team
- Destroy the unity of the team

- Destroy the witness of the team: **A real life example:** a Filipino national was asked why she had not come to faith in Christ after spending several summers helping to host short term mission teams and being exposed to the gospel. Her reply is deeply convicting: *“Why would I do that? These people complain, argue, and gossip more than anyone else I know!”*

F. Unresolved Conflict AKA Unforgiveness:

- Creates roots of bitterness that defile many – starting with you.
- Is like drinking a deadly poison and wondering why the person you’re angry with didn’t die.
- Affects our relationship with God. See Matthew 18:21-35
- Is used by Satan to get the better of us. See 2 Corinthians 2:11

E. M. Bounds, in his book Satan, states:

“A lofty spirit, ready and compliant with the spirit of forgiveness, free from all bitterness, revenge or retaliation, has freed itself from the conditions which invite Satan, and has effectually locked and barred his entrance. The readiest way to keep Satan out is to keep the spirit of forgiveness in. The devil is never deeper in hell, nor farther removed from us than when we can pray ‘Father forgive them; they know not what they do.’”

G. Forgiveness:

- May not take away the hurt
- Does not deny the injury
- Is taking the initiative towards reconciliation
- Is the miracle of a new beginning
- Demonstrates Christ’s presence. See John 13:35

Dealing with conflict involves a series of choices. Our natural tendency will be to handle it in the flesh – which is always destructive.

H. Common Ways People Deal With Conflict

1. **Avoid it:** Pretend it is not there or ignore it. This approach tends to worsen the conflict over time.
2. **Accommodate it:** Give in to others, sometimes to the extent that you compromise yourself. This tends to worsen the conflict over time and causes conflict within you.
3. **Compete:** Work to get your way, rather than clarifying and addressing the issue. This approach might make you feel better but in the end you both lose.
4. **Compromise:** A mutual give and take. Can help get past the conflict in a hurry but the issue has still not been dealt with.
5. **Collaborate:** Focus on working together. Cultivates ownership of each person’s part, a commitment to reconcile and solve the problem.

Here’s what Jesus had to say: If there is a conflict – You Go - To the person - In private and discuss the problem - for the purpose of reconciliation. See Matthew 18:15 (Note that when dealing with someone from a different culture a different approach might be needed. Speak with your team leader before going to someone in your host country.)

Ephesians 4:25-27 The Message *“...no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ’s body we are all connected to each other after all. When you lie to others you end up lying to yourself. Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry – but don’t use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don’t stay angry. Don’t go to bed angry. Don’t give the devil that kind of foothold in your life.”*

I. Steps to Resolving Conflict:

1. Reflect Acknowledge the conflict – don't deny it. Reflect first on your part in it. Ask: Why does it hurt? Why am I angry? "Lord, is there something you want to show me? Help me to see it." Take the time to read Matthew 5:23-24; Psalm 51:6, 139:23-24

2. Repent Own your part in it and ask God to forgive and heal you. Ask God to show how to go to the person. To show you what it is you truly desire to happen. What is the best way to approach them? What are the words to say? See Ephesians 4:29, 31

3. Confront Go in love with a humble attitude – don't go in anger. Don't talk to others about it. Go directly to the person to talk about the situation. Listen to them. Own your part in it and don't accuse them. Focus on behaviors or problems not the person. Seek to understand them and how they feel. Read Ephesians 4:25-26; Matthew 18:15 (Note that when dealing with someone from a different culture a different approach might be needed. Speak with your team leader before going to someone in your host country.)

4. Reconcile Be forgiving in your words & actions. Seek mutually accepting solutions for a greater goal. Be flexible but be honest. Focus on similarities rather than differences. Common goals are great unifiers. How many stories have you heard of strangers acting together in times of emergency? When a common goal is made obvious the natural reaction is to put differences aside. Pray together. See Ephesians 4:32, 5:1-2. If it seems the conflict cannot be resolved, now is the time to bring in a leader. It is not the time to stew on it or talk about it with teammates. Go to a leader for counsel.

5. Endure Realize that reconciliation & restoration are not typically quick or easy. They require the rebuilding of trust, which involves both parties. Because we're all different rebuilding will be worked out in different ways. Keep watch over your heart, emotions, & words during the process of reconciliation. Proverbs 18:2; 1 Peter 5:8

A story from the life of Corrie Ten Boom:

It has been said that nothing in this lost world bears the impress of the Son of God as surely as forgiveness. After the Second World War, still suffering physical and emotional scars from Nazi brutality, Corrie Ten Boom felt called to preach forgiveness through Europe, as they dug out of the war's emotional rubble. She had lost most of her family in concentration camps for helping in the rescue of Jews. She was sure she had overcome her own desire for vengeance against the German SS troops who had dehumanized her and her loved ones in those camps. One occasion took her to Munich. Outside a church after the Sunday Service, she found herself looking hard in the face of an old SS guard. He had watched and sneered at frightened women prisoners as they had been forced to take delousing showers in front of him. Suddenly for Corrie the memories were there again - the roomful of mocking men, the pain and shame of it. And now with the war over, the man had come up to Corrie, beaming and bowing politely; "How grateful I am for your message," he said. "To think, as you say, that he has washed my sins away." He put out his hand to her. It was too much for Corrie and she kept her hand frozen at her side. Forgiveness comes hard for anyone, and it seemed to her outrageous to expect it of her at that time, in that situation.

She goes on to tell in her book, *The Hiding Place*, how at that moment, angry and vengeful thoughts boiled through her system and she struggled to raise her hand, but she could not. She felt nothing, no emotion. Not the slightest spark of forgiveness. So she breathed a silent prayer, "Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness." And Corrie was touched in that instant by the One who can forgive everyone everything, because he himself had born the cost of those actions, the cost of forgiveness, on the Cross in his own body. Corrie felt the force of her own forgiveness and the understanding of that forgiveness. In the freedom of being forgiven, she raised her arm and took the hand of the man who had done unforgettable things to her.

Corrie was later to say, "*We never touch the ocean of God's love so much as when we love our enemies. It is a joy to accept forgiveness, but it is almost a greater joy to give forgiveness.*"

That's My Story and I'm Sticking to HIM!

Tips on writing your testimony.

Note that this sample might not fit for the culture you are going to. Be sure to do some research and prepare accordingly. You will be required to submit your written testimony to Luane.

In Acts 26 the Apostle Paul's account of his story (testimony) as given to King Agrippa is recorded for us. Take a moment to read Paul's story, look over the outline and modern day example below, then get started on writing out your own story.

BC—BEFORE CHRIST

1. Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ, and how did that affect you—your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships? (If you became a Christian as a child you can begin with question #2)

"As I grew up, my mom had a lot of fears and insecurities that were passed on to me. As a result, I did not feel like I could trust anyone, including God."

2. What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs?

"When I was in college, my roommate invited me to her church where the minister explained that most people try to find security in other people or things. But he said only God could give us the security that we are looking for."

CONVERSION

3. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

"I had tried boyfriends, getting good grades, and being involved in school activities. But I realized that the minister was right. They were not giving me the security I needed—only God could do that."

4. *Specifically, how did you receive Christ?*

"I prayed and asked Christ to forgive me for all the wrong things that I had done. Then I asked Him to come into my life to lead me, and give me that security I had been looking for."

AD—AFTER CONVERSION

5. *How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ? (If you became a Christian as a child you can answer #5 and #6 by contrasting your life to what it might have been like without Christ.)*

"I did not have the fear and insecurity anymore. I began to feel more confident and at peace because I knew God was in control."

6. *What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian? (Especially think of those benefits that would best relate to the person you are speaking to.)*

"I have much healthier relationships now, and I'm not as afraid of failing as I used to be. Most of all, I now know that I am going to be in Heaven for eternity!"

7. *Unifying theme:* Looking for security.

PRESENTATION TIPS WHEN SHARING CROSS-CULTURALLY

- Write out your testimony. Find a key scripture that summarizes your story, or was influential in your salvation.
- Keep your spoken testimony between 3-5 minutes in length so that with translation time it will be no more than 6-10 minutes.
- In one on one situations your testimony should be from your heart. In a group/worship context - stay close to your notes. If you can deliver your testimony without referring to the notes, great! But if you get distracted by the translator or a commotion in the congregation, you'll wish you had notes to get back on track.
- Consider opening with a greeting in the people's language. Even if your accent is terrible, the people will appreciate your effort to communicate in their language.
- Avoid going into detail about your sins in the past when speaking in public. Emphasize the redemptive work in your life.
- Avoid slang terms and idioms. Think about what you are saying. What do your words mean, literally? How would a "a ball park figure", "Hungry for the Word", "His face fell," "I was raised in the Bible-belt" or "I was so far gone; I was about to fall off the deep end". or some other idiom translate? Avoid theological jargon, religious clichés and "Christian-speak" such as born again, converted, slain in the spirit, hearing God's voice, Jesus came into my heart, etc. Likewise, these things are not translatable.
- Avoid long sentences when speaking through a translator, but do use complete sentences. Try to meet with your translator prior to review and clarify as needed; practice if possible.
- Avoid references to small geographical areas in the US. Your audience's knowledge of US geography will probably be limited to NYC, Miami, or Los Angeles. Rather than saying you came from a state, try saying you grew up in the mid-west, the flatlands, in the mountains, or along the sea.
- Avoid stressing your material success. Many people you will meet will have probably put in 14 hours of hard, manual labor each day and still not have a change of shoes. In other countries, dreams plus hard work don't always equal material success.
- Avoid speaking of the sacrifice you made to get there. Except to say that God loves them to have brought you so far to meet them and share His love with them.
- Avoid using acronyms, acrostics, alliteration, jokes, and poetry. They simply do not translate appropriately. Don't quote from secular songs.
- Remember the particular culture. It may be inappropriate to discuss certain topics or activities. (For example, "I met my husband at a church dance.")
- Avoid making negative comparisons between the host culture and your own.
- Avoid jokes, including inside jokes between you and your teammates. They only confuse the nationals and will not be funny when translated.
- Dress properly for the worship service; ask your hosts or leaders for input.
- "Be ready in season and out of season" – practice! You never know when "you're on!"

Re-entry & Debriefing – *This teaching is for the last part of your journey. Please print and bring with you.*

As our outreach comes to an end we want to be ready to return well. Take the time to ask the Lord if there is someone you need to more clearly share His love with. Ask Him how to do it, to empower and guide you.

Let's explore what some of your experiences were...

The People

1. What did you see in the people that you did not expect to see?
2. Which of their needs are most vivid in your memory?
3. What aspects of their lives impressed you the most?

The Country

1. What things did you see in the country that was different from your expectations?
2. Is there any picture that quickly comes to mind? (Briefly describe it and the reasons it has stayed with you).

What You Learned

1. Ponder what you learned about each of the following:
 - a. The people
 - b. The country
 - c. The church
 - d. The people on your team
 - e. God
 - f. Yourself

FROM CULTURE FATIGUE TO CULTURE GRIEF

Ok, yes, there are some things to look forward to about returning home – you might be excited about fresh fruits & vegetables; the perfect latte or water straight from the faucet – and we'll all love getting back to our own bed & bath! Life in our own country can seem to make more sense, be more certain and more stable than what we've experienced. But that also makes returning home harder than we thought.

Prepare now to communicate then. We want to be ready to creatively, with anointing, share our stories. To tell what our great and wonderful God did in & through us so others can learn and grow too. But most importantly, so that Jesus, the Worthy Lamb will be glorified and His Church built up.

So take a few minutes to ponder these questions: **What person or situation did you encounter that encapsulates your experience?** Describing people or specific situations to others on your return (usually in three or four minutes) is an excellent way to help others enter into your experience. This might stimulate their curiosity about your trip and help them to know what other questions they could ask.

If I could relive a moment it would be _____
 I'll never forget when _____.
 Oh I wish I could talk more with _____.

If I were to describe my experience in three different words they would be:

If I titled my experience, I would call it: _____

DEBRIEFING

Most people don't realize the impact that a short-term mission trip is going to have on their life. To help you understand the aftermath we have what we call "The Last Supper". This is to help you put into words what you have experienced, so you can return home to share with your friends, family and church what God has done.

When you return, don't let the world squeeze you into its own mold. Let God remold your mind from within. It may take days, weeks, months or even years to process what you will have experienced and to apply it to your life. So, when you return home, let God help you love and accept those whom you live with and work with. They may not share your enthusiasm or urgency. Remember, you've been there. They cannot experience what you have encountered. Don't be discouraged by their seemingly lack of interest or unconcern. Ask God to help you share this experience. Let God also direct your lifestyle, values, stewardship, and your future. Let's hope that this trip brings us back with a deep commitment to continue, for the rest of our lives, following Jesus out into the world that needs Him so much.

Begin by remembering the different things you saw on the trip; both the expected and the unexpected.

What did you see in the people that you did not expect to see?

What aspects of their lives impressed you most?

What things did you see in the country that were different from your expectations?

What did you see as this country's greatest prayer need?

The best way to live out what God has taught you is to become active in your church and/or community. Set up an appointment with your pastor or missions director to share about your trip and ideas for missions involvement. Be sure to report back to anyone who supported you prayerfully or financially and share with them the part they played in this mission.

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Attach
Photo

Invading the Darkness
Empowering Leaders through encouragement, exhortation and equipping

PERU TRIP APPLICATION
2010

Please complete the following information and return it to: **Invading the Darkness Attn: Luane Thomson 2324 Mt. Vernon Rd.; Lithia Springs, GA 30122** (or fax: 770-941-9237) along with your \$50 non-refundable application fee.

Please note the following Due Dates:

Application with \$50 fee	Trip Dates	Cost
March 4 th	May 6 th – 15 th	\$1,200 (plus airfare)
April 29 th	July 8 th -17 th	\$1,200 (plus airfare)
September 9 th	November 11 th – 20 th	\$1,200 (plus airfare)

If you prefer to complete this electronically, you may download a copy off the FCFI website; or email or call Luane (678-521-6643 Luane.Thomson@gmail.com) and she will email you a MS Word document of this.

I. Personal Information

Full Name _____ Birthdate (mm/yy) _____
 T-shirt size: Men's size _____ Women's size _____
 Mailing Address _____ Email Address _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 Fax _____

Marital Status _____ If married, Spouse Name _____

Do you have a passport? Yes/No (circle)

If yes, what is your passport number? _____ Expiration Date _____
(Please attach 2 copies of the signature and picture pages of your passport to this application)

If you do not have a passport: it normally takes 4 weeks to secure one so please start the process immediately. See page 3 of the Training Manual for details on getting one or go to the passport website. http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html

If you are under age 18, please complete the following contact information:

Mother's Name _____
Address _____

Father's Name _____
Address _____

Email _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Work Phone _____

II. References (Include the name, email & and phone numbers for three personal references, two must be adults over 18)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

III. Experience & Motivation

Provide a short description of your personal testimony (*how you came to know Jesus and where you are in your relationship with Him now*).

What ministry experience have you had? (*i.e. drama, worship team, children or youth teacher, youth choir, street evangelism or any other type of outreach.*)

What short-term missions experience have you had and with whom? Please include the leader's contact info.

Why do you want to go on this trip? With which segment of the team would you prefer to work? What is your second choice?

1)

2)

TEAM MEMBER AGREEMENT:

I agree to serve under the leadership of FCFI/ITD. I understand that my application cannot be considered complete and I will not be granted active status for the trip until the application form with the \$50 fee, a copy of my passport, and pastoral recommendation are on file with Invading the Darkness. I understand that the application fee is non-refundable; all future funds submitted to Invading the Darkness for the mission trip can be transferred to another trip within one year timeframe. ITD is not liable to refund any monies should I cancel my reservation for any reason. Participation in the mission trip is contingent upon my fulfilling required training, submitting all paperwork, being approved by my pastor or ministry leader and having all funds in as outlined. In addition, if I am under age 18, I understand that a notarized letter signed by both of my parents/guardians giving permission for me to travel in Peru is required.

Signature _____ Date _____

TEAM POLICY STATEMENT

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our trip together. As a member of this team, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working in the homeland of another people. If my hosts are offended by bare arms, or exposed legs, I'll cover them. If they offer me something to eat that I am not sure I want to eat, I'll try it!
2. Remember that we have come to learn, not to teach. I may run across procedures that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about how we do it back home. I'll be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
3. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates. I will refrain from gossip and complaining.
4. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
5. Respect the work that is going on in the country with the particular church, agency, or persons with whom we are working. I realize that our team is here for a short while, but the missionary and local church are here for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights, and instructions.
6. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics.
7. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. I will make every effort to interact with all the team members, not just a few.
8. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national or a team member. I realize certain activities that seem harmless in my country may be inappropriate in others.
9. Respect my team leader(s) and his/her decisions.
10. Humbly follow this team policy, realizing that failure to do so can result in my being sent home at my own expense.

Signature

Date

Team Leader

Date

HEALTH HISTORY & LIABILITY RELEASE

(To be turned in after the member has been approved.)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Home/Cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Health insurance company & policy number: _____

_____ (Please also attach a copy of your card.)

Contact in case of emergency: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Fax (if available): _____

Primary physician: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Known allergies (medications, pollens, foods, other): _____

Describe reaction & treatment needed: _____

Has your reaction ever required emergency room or physician care? _____

Please list any current health problems (including any conditions for which you take medications):

Please list any possible recurrent health problems (i.e. chest pains, kidney stones, migraines, hypoglycemia, etc.):

Are you able to function completely independent of any assistance? _____

If no, explain: _____

Have you been hospitalized during the past 2 years for any reason? If so, please indicate date(s) and explain reason:

Please list any prescription medications you will be taking during the trip:

Name of drug	Dose	Frequency
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Blood type (important – please find out if you don't know): _____

The following release must be signed, notarized and mailed to Luane Thomson at 2324 Mt. Vernon Rd. Lithia Springs, GA 30122.

LIABILITY RELEASE

I agree as follows: In the event of any accident, sudden illness, or medical emergency involving myself in connection with the below named event, I hereby authorize the Invading the Darkness, Inc., team leaders to consent to x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment or care, deemed necessary by a licensed physician. This authorization is limited to the following dates: _____ through _____.

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the ITD project, beginning _____ through _____, I, the undersigned, hereby release, waive, discharge, covenant not to sue, agree to indemnify and hold harmless FCFI and Invading the Darkness, Inc., and its officers, directors, agents, affiliates, employees and assignees ("Releasees") from any and all damages, liability, causes of action, or any other form of liability, past, present or future, and whether caused by the negligence of Releasees or otherwise, arising out of or relating to my presence or participation in the aforementioned ITD/FCFI project and any activities related thereto, or any actions taken by Releasees pursuant to the above medical authorization with respect to myself.

I agree that ITD/FCFI has recommended that I secure international travel insurance in the case of any emergency, including death. Therefore, I further agree that ITD/FCFI is not liable to bring my remains back to the USA.

This Release shall be binding on my heirs, my executors, legal representatives, and myself.

Participant's Signature & Date _____

Participant's Printed Name _____

Notary (Sign, Print & Date) _____

PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION FORM

Dear Pastor/Ministry Leader,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the following recommendation form for one of your members. This person is seeking to participate in a short term mission's project to Peru with Invading the Darkness. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me. Please email or post the form as soon as possible. It is a privilege to advance the Kingdom with you.

Sincerely,

Luane Thomson
Invading the Darkness
2324 Mt. Vernon Rd.; Lithia Springs, GA 30122
678-521-6643
Luane.Thomson@gmail.com

Participant's Name: _____

Pastor/Ministry Leader _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The above believer is, to the best of my knowledge:

	YES	NO
1. Committed to the Lordship of Jesus	_____	_____
2. Actively participating in the ministry of the local fellowship	_____	_____
3. Submitted to spiritual authority	_____	_____
4. Has my recommendation to participate in this short term mission trip.	_____	_____

5. Any areas of weakness about which the team leaders should know: _____

6. Areas of strength and ministry experience: (Please note any leadership positions the person has held.)

I recommend this person to be part of this short term mission outreach. (circle one) Yes No

Pastor's Signature

Date