

# Getting the Most from Short – Term Missions

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

Short- term missions has now become an accepted part of the missionary endeavor , and many missions agencies now run some sort of the short-term mission program. For those of experience. The following will help you get the most from your outreach:

## Commitment

Excitement and enthusiasm are great motivational tools, but they will only take you so far. Commitment will make your dream a reality. Commitment is work, hard work. Commitment means you will do whatever it takes to see God’s will for your life become a reality . There will be days when you are preparing to go that you will want to give up and quit. **DON’T**. Stay committed. Begin the journey and change the world .

## Preparing For Another Culture

Both domestic and international travel will introduce you to various cultures and people groups. In order to prepare yourself for what you are about to experience, there are several things you need to consider . While many call it “Culture Shock”, what it should more properly be called is “People Shock”. People make up a culture, and what you are shocked at is how they live and how differently they do things from the ways you are accustomed. One of the temptations you will face immediately is the tendency to compare the new culture with your own negative conclusions.

There are a number of things you can do to lessen the effects of culture shock and make the most of your cross cultural experience

**1. Advance Planning and Research.** Find out all you can about the people and culture you will be visiting. Research what you can expect to encounter and things you may want to investigate further . We suggest gathering specific information on your destination from the Internet a local library or encyclopedia .

**2. Talk to people who have been on a short term outreach to the same nation city or people group.** Ask them about their experience .Was it rewarding? If not, why not? How did they handle the different culture? Listen to their comments and learn from their mistakes . Model the attitude that helped them understand a different environment and culture.

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

**4.Pray for the country, city and people to which you will be ministering.** Ask God to give you his heart for the lost people. Ask him to help you minister effectively in a different culture. Make up you mind that you will love people with God's love, and let nothing detour you from that goal .

## Attitude

The attitude that you have before, during and after this outreach will determine the outcome of your experience. A positive attitude is essential if you want God to use your life . It is also a key element in keeping the entire team unified. If every team member possesses a positive faith attitude and a servants heart the team will have tremendous impact for Christ in every place they minister.

**Listed below are some ideas, which will help you, keep a positive attitude:**

- Problems are not obstacles, they are **opportunities** for God to be glorified
- Hurry up and wait whenever you need to be somewhere... **be on time**
- Be **flexible** every minute of every day. "*Blessed are the flexible for they shalt not break.*"
- Create a circle of influence. Our moods whether gloomy or bright **radiate** to those around us .