

Young Life Expeditions:
Adventures in Short-term Missions

Workteams Preparation Packet
2009-10

Introduction to Ideas for Team Spiritual Preparation and Leadership

As mentioned in the "Worktrip Guidelines", we suggest that you as a trip leader take the major responsibility for preparing and guiding your team members through the spiritual journey aspect of the Worktrip experience. After all, in most cases, you are the one(s) who will be with them before, during and after the event! You have most likely made some investment in their lives, either long before the trip or at least in recruiting and/or helping them prepare. We strongly suggest that you try to get to know each person well prior to departure. Get a sense of where they are in their own spiritual journey. Is the gospel still largely a mystery to them? Are they just starting to discover Christ? Have they been following Him a while? Mature enough in their faith to assume some leadership responsibilities? (A short-term missions experience can be the perfect setting to offer them a chance to discover gifts in leadership and discipleship.)

This being said, our staff in your host-country will go out of their way to help you in anyway possible during your trip. They can make suggestions, offer advice, and field your questions. You might also ask for one or more of the local staff or volunteers, either North American or their national counterparts (i.e. Peruvians, Nicaraguans, Ethiopians, etc.), to share personal testimonies at given times. They will be more than willing to accommodate.

Depending on the spiritual composition of your group, you may want to "tailor-make" several preparation studies/meetings designed to meet the spiritual level of your group.

You might then carry these themes or lessons over into your actual time together during the trip; following a particular study in scripture, a book you've been reading together, a combination of both, etc. See the section to follow entitled "Preparation" for ideas and suggestions.

Trip itineraries and schedules will vary from group to group, but you can expect to have approximately 70% of your nights available for singing/worship/fellowship-type gatherings, during which you will have full-control over any kind of meeting agenda. For example, if your trip is 9 days in length (8 nights), you will probably have about 5 or 6 nights during which you can set the agenda. Of course, you can choose to have only a few such times or as many as possible. This we leave up to you, however, we suggest a healthy balance of study/discussion/reflection and free-time. Regardless of trip length, we also recommend giving the group at least one night of complete free-time; no meeting, no study, no scheduled game, just time for them to be together, to play, to talk to each other or the nationals they are interacting with, perhaps to head for bed early if they desire! On longer trips, you may schedule more than one such night. A short-term mission can be an overwhelming, at times exhausting experience. You don't want to wear your group down physically, spiritually and intellectually to the point of saturation. If this happens, they may instinctively "tune out" their surroundings and miss something powerful.

The following is a compilation of suggested ideas that you might use to guide or merely supplement your own.

Preparation

In many ways, preparation can be a vital key to the "success" of your group's mission experience. On the one hand, you want them to feel "ready" and adequately prepared. On the other, you do not want to set up unhealthy or damaging expectations. It's very important to communicate to your folks that life in other cultures, especially those in underdeveloped countries, is anything but predictable. Schedules can change on the hour. Your plane may arrive late meaning an initial modification in itinerary. In-country transportation may not run as smoothly as it does in the States. Bus and taxi drivers don't always arrive on time! Lights don't always come on. Bathing water is often cold. Clothes can't always be thrown into a washing machine for cleaning. (Never expect this on a short-term mission!) Mosquitoes don't always respond to repellent, etc. It's much better for folks to come expecting things to be challenging rather than comfortable. To reiterate from the Worktrip Guidelines, this is **not** a vacation. We call it a "Work-trip" for a

reason... your group should be going with the primary attitude of serving others. Of course, the Lord has a wonderful way of taking this purpose and directing it back onto your group; allowing them to be blessed, served and ministered to by Himself and by the people you are going to serve. It's exciting to see this unfold! Inevitably, Worktrip participants return insisting that they were the ones who "benefited" most from the experience. This is the mystery of the "reverse-blessing" short-term participants always receive.

I suggest attempting to meet as a group, before your trip, at least 3 times, perhaps more. Again, you don't want to "tire" people on the experience before you've actually left the country. However, you do want to impart some understanding and vision as well as build community among your team members.

The following is a brief three-part preparation/study, designed to be divided among three pre-trip meetings, which addresses several key aspects of a Young Life short-term mission. If you choose to use this, I suggest supplementing with several related scriptures and/or other texts and asking questions based on the ideas presented here. You might present one of the three aspects per meeting, always emphasizing the need for **prayer** as you approach your trip. If you plan to have more meetings, you might divide this material further or simply combine with your own plans.

Each lesson/study is organized with a particular theme about your trip, related scriptures and some suggested questions for discussion. Present this material however works best for you. You might have team members read the scriptures, have them comment on the theme, have them discuss the questions in your meetings and, perhaps later, write out expanded thoughts on their own, in a trip journal that can then be taken with them on their mission.

If possible, encourage (perhaps insist) that everyone on your team answer the questions during each meeting. It will be important for all to participate in pre-trip meetings and discussions, in order to build strong intimacy and cohesion on your team. Some answers may be shorter than others. That's fine...but it will be helpful to the individual and the overall team if everyone participates in expressing answers to the discussion questions, at least to some of them.

Of course you may want to add to or modify the suggested questions depending on your specific team make-up and situation. The main idea is to get people processing the journey of preparation, as this will then carry over well to how they absorb, internalize and express what they learn and observe during and after the experience.

Depending on your group size, and in the interest of time, you might consider dividing your group into pairs or groups of three or four for the question sessions.

Look at the information about **Team-Building Exercises** on page 9. You might want to incorporate these suggestions into your meetings as well.

Prayer Partners

You might have folks pair up and commit to praying for each other before, during and even after the trip. Make sure you create pairs that are going to be good for each other. If you set these up before your trip, you can elect to have a time at the conclusion of each pre-trip meeting for these folks to pair up and pray.

Meeting #1

I. The Vision and the Opportunity

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

-Isaiah 6:8

Collectively and individually, your group is answering a similar call. You are stepping out in faith, with courage, to a place and an experience full of mystery and unknowns. Even though you and your team may know very little about where you are going, what exactly you will be doing, what your host-country will be like, etc., you can take comfort in the fact that God *does* know, that He goes before you, with you and remains after you return. A part of the experience is having the adventure of the unknown be revealed by Him in the course of your journey; before you go, while you are there and perhaps for months, even years afterwards. Encourage your team to adopt the mind-set of a spiritual pilgrim; not to be impatient about having all their questions answered upfront, but to enjoy this process of personal revelation.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth."

- Acts 1:8

The purpose of your trip is in large part a response to the Great Mandate which Christ spoke of in Acts 1:8. Your group is playing a vital role in the evangelization of your host-country. The Young Life ministry is built on the sharing of Christ in day to day relationships, mainly between the volunteers and staff in your host-country and the young people involved in the local Young Life work. Communicating non-verbally as well as verbally, these folks labor to share the truths of Christ and introduce young people to the reality of having a relevant and vibrant relationship with the living Savior. During a typical week, this happens in the form of one-on-one relationships, during Young Life meetings, called "clubs", in Bible study small groups, etc. The volunteers and staff engage in what we call "Contact Work", which is really nothing more than the philosophy that we can't remain where we are comfortable, hoping the lost will come to us, but rather, we must boldly go onto their turf, venture into their world and meet them "where they're at." (a grammatically incorrect phrase, coined long ago by the founders of the YL ministry... sorry English purists!)

Your group will be serving the local Young Life ministry in your host-country in one or more specific ways. Our office or our international staff will try to give you detailed information about your service project(s), though we may not be able to do so until closer to your departure date. Depending on what country you are serving in, you might be volunteering on community-based service projects, visiting an orphanage and interacting with children there, working on various development projects at an international Young Life youth camp property, serving as work crew for a camp as the local leadership put on outreach camps for their local youth. etc. Here is the key: whatever your project, the Young Life staff in your host-country have intentionally selected this volunteer effort because in some way it is helping them to either grow, begin or develop their outreach ministry to kids in the community(s) where you are serving. Though it may not be obvious to you, that floor you are pouring, that roof you are repairing, that orphanage you are visiting, the meals you are helping to prepare and serve, the concrete you are mixing, the nails you are hammering....all are in some way helping Young Life gain or maintain a foothold in the community, build trust between the local Young Life leaders and the kids they are reaching out to, all in an ultimate effort to build bridges between the local youth and Christ, that they might know Him and begin a vibrant, life-changing, indeed eternal relationship with Him.

In this way, we believe your folks are playing a direct role in meeting the mandate expressed in the book of Acts. You are in fact answering the call of **Isaiah 6:8**: *Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'*

Many in your group will not speak the national language of the country where you are serving. Our staff don't expect this. Of course if some team members do speak the native language, wonderful! But most participants in our short-term missions program do not and this is not a hindrance to the individual or team experience. In fact, this dynamic often allows for some of the greatest lessons that can be learned

in the course of a short-term mission. You will be challenged and stretched to practice loving those you go to serve in a non-verbal manner. As explained above, you will be “loving” with your servant hands and hearts. This in itself is a huge testimony to those you serve, other members of your team, your leaders, etc. It was **Francis of Assisi** who said, “Preach Christ at all times and, if necessary, use words.” The clear implication being that as active followers of Christ we are able to “share” the message and nature of the Gospel without always using words, in a non-verbal as well as verbal manner. This is important for your team members to reflect on prior to their trip. Adopting this mind-set will help them consider ways they can “preach Christ” even if they cannot speak or understand the language native to the people whom they are serving. Your team will also want to remember that the local Young Life staff and volunteers are engaged in the verbal proclamation of the Gospel on a daily basis with the people in that country throughout the year. Again, as explained above, your short-term service trip is helping directly to support and enhance the on-going relational ministry. Your service project, whatever it is, is helping in a strategic way to equip and “set-up” the long-term ministry to reach the local youth with the message of Christ’s love and redemption. What a blessing your trip is for this reason!

Questions for discussion

- 1) Have you sensed God “calling” you to participate in this mission? How? Through friends? Through the Holy Spirit? Through scriptures you have been studying or meditating on? In your prayer life?
- 2) What are your expectations, if any, of the trip? (they don’t have to be spiritual, necessarily...just be honest!)
- 3) Do you have any fears, hesitations, anxiety about what the experience will be like?
- 4) What do you think about when you hear the words “short-term mission”?
- 5) Have you been on a short-term mission experience before? If so, perhaps you might share a bit of your story with your team.
- 6) What are some ways you and your team can share the message of the Gospel in a non-verbal manner?
- 7)

Pass out Hand-outs:

- 1) “Stereotypes and Cultural Sensitivities”
- 2) “Representing Christ; Representing Country”

Both of these are included at the end of this packet. Pass these out and read aloud as a team, encouraging them to review these ideas many times before the trip so that they might assume a mind-set conducive to being the best possible ambassadors for Christ and country.

Fundraising Check-up

Ask folks how they are doing with their fundraising. Everyone does not need to share, but the idea is for you to get a feel for where folks stand. Stress that the fundraising is a group goal, not just an individual one. If you know of or get the sense that some in particular are struggling, encourage them one on one, separate from the group meeting.

Maybe someone has a neat, God-touched fundraising praise to share? This can be a great encouragement to others. Maybe different people have ideas and thoughts to share that can help others in their own fundraising?

Prayer Partners meet

Meeting #2

II. The purpose of Serving

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

- Matthew 25: 35-40

It is clear from this scripture that when we serve and care for others, especially those who the world considers "the least of these", we are in fact loving and serving Christ. I believe it was Mother Theresa who said that she saw Jesus in every little child that she cared for.

Your team members are going to become tired during the course of their trip. Inevitably they are going to be tempted to complain some, to look for the easy way, to "cut corners", more so as the week progresses. It's crucial for them to understand that their motivations for serving should ultimately be founded on the fact that they are indeed serving Christ. Yes, they are specifically addressing some needs of the young people in their host-country, primarily the opportunity to hear about Christ through the Young Life ministry, but beneath this they are serving Jesus. This can prove a strong motivator when bodies begin to get sore and minds begin to tire. And it happens to be true!

Encourage them to see that they are serving in a multitude of ways; with their hands, with their smiles, with their energy, with their actions, etc. Even the smallest of acts, something they might consider trivial like washing a dish or helping to set a table, is an act of service. For those who speak little or no Spanish, this can be a great encouragement. The following is a quote from one of our faith's legends that rings loud and true for an experience such as yours. (This was mentioned in the notes for Meeting #1, and expounded upon here)

"Preach Christ at all times, and, if necessary, use words."

-Saint Francis of Assisi

In the course of your trip, your folks may truly have an opportunity to meet some of the needs mentioned specifically in Matthew 25. A portion of the costs of their mission will help pay for meals for any of the local indigenous staff, leaders or contracted workers who will be working with you at either the camp or on a community-based work project. Your trip is in fact helping feed these nationals and their families, many of whom are poor, even by local standards. For many of the local day laborers, hired to work on the specific project your group is serving with, work is infrequent and sporadic. The wages they make during their time working with your group is literally helping them feed, clothe and care for their family. Our international staff try to hire many of the same temporary laborers whenever we have mission teams in the country and we need these local skilled workers. For many, helping with our short-term mission teams is their most reliable source of income. In this way, you are helping in a direct manner to answer the mandate of Matthew 25.

In addition, your team members will have the opportunity, at the end of their mission and at their own choosing, to donate clothes, shoes, towels, work gloves, etc. to the people of your host-country. In many underdeveloped countries, a pair of shoes or blue jeans might cost the equivalent of two weeks' wages based on the local economy.

In many ways, you are helping the local economy, which, in most places where Young Life Expeditions sends teams, is struggling and suffering at best.

The food our staff buy to feed your team, the materials purchased for your project(s), the ground transportation used, the lodging costs...all mean more money to a Third World or depressed economy. These costs add up over the course of a year, as many short-term teams serve, and greatly aid the local communities where our staff pay for these services. Again, in a larger, collective sense, by your willingness to raise or pay money in covering your mission trip expenses, you are answering the mandate of Matthew 25.

Of course your team will find themselves the recipients of countless blessings in the local people they meet. Your team may return feeling far more blessed and served than what they feel they "gave." This is often the experience of short-term missionaries. However, Young Life and your host-country staff, volunteers and youth want your group to know how much their efforts are deeply appreciated. Please communicate to your team how what they are doing is a tremendous blessing to the ministry they are serving. Hopefully, they will get this same sense of appreciation from our folks while they are actually serving. A short-term missionary's energy and effort can never be minimized!

Questions for discussion

- 1) Have you ever thought much about this passage in Matthew before? How have you interpreted it?
- 2) What do you think about Assisi's quote? Is it really possible to "preach Christ at all times?"
- 3) Do you have a story about a time when you felt like maybe God was using you to answer one of these mandates expressed in Matthew 25?
- 4) What comes to mind when you think of "the poor"? What images, ideas, convictions, etc., do you associate with this word?
- 5) Many say that short-term missionaries are both "Givers" and "Receivers". What might this mean?

Review hand-outs "Stereotypes and Cultural Sensitivities" & "Representing Christ; Representing Country"

Fundraising Check-up

Ask folks how they are doing with their fundraising. Everyone does not need to share, but the idea is for you to get a feel for where folks stand. Stress that the fundraising is a group goal, not just an individual one. If you know of or get the sense that some in particular are struggling, encourage them one on one, separate from the group meeting.

Maybe someone has a neat, God-touched fundraising praise to share? This can be a great encouragement to others. Maybe different people have ideas and thoughts to share that can help others in their own fundraising?

Prayer Partners meet?

Meeting # 3

III. Serving out of Community

A big key to your mission is coming together as the Body of Christ.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ"

-1 Corinthians 12:12

"But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the part that lacked it (not greater than others, but instead He has affirmed those that often go unappreciated), so that there should be no divisions in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

-1 Corinthians 12:24-25

Much like the people of the early church in the time following Christ's ascension, your group will have the unique opportunity to experience what it's like to live and work in close community. The scriptures above can be key in setting the stage for this kind of dynamic. You might have the group read this passage together, discuss what it means and take a look at the whole idea of Christians being the Body of Christ. You might ask folks to consider what gifts, talents and abilities they bring to the group. Though people may stumble to come up with answers, everyone brings **something**. Go out of your way to have the group recognize the positive traits in each team member. This will encourage them and build confidence among your folks!

Stress to your group how much they will **need** each other during the trip. Folks are going to get tired, sore, etc. A part of being the Body of Christ means supporting one another, suffering together, rejoicing together, cooperating not condemning, building each other up not tearing one another down. Remember there should be **"no divisions in the body."** The last thing you want is for disharmony to exist among your group. This will only work against your common mission and purpose.

Much of your "witness" to the people or your host-country, and to the Young Life staff and volunteers will be modeled in how you care for and treat one another.

"A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 13:35

Encourage your group to go with the commitment to love one another, to serve one another, to place the well-being of one another above that of yourselves. As a result of living as a Body of believers, scripture shows us that many are often brought to Christ.

"And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, breaking bread from house to house, and they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God; and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

-Acts 2:44-47

Did you catch that? The main form of "evangelism" expressed here was simply how they cared for each other. That in itself attracted others, non-believers, to their fold. Others were attracted to what they saw in the ways in which the Body of Christ took care of its members; sharing their resources when those among them had needs, having one mind, one purpose, one united cause, sharing meals together,

praising God together. Your team will have many opportunities to be a team, to care for one another. And those around you, especially the locals you will be serving, will be watching and observing. They know you are coming in Christ's name and will be curious to see what that means. This is yet another way to "preach Christ at all times" despite the language barrier. (Remember the quote from Francis of Assisi) The way you act as a Body of Believers will be testimony to them of Christ in and among you. This shouldn't make your team feel pressure, but rather present them with an awesome opportunity for the Kingdom! Encourage them to capitalize on this. What a "witness" they can be together!

Questions for discussion

- 1) In your words, what does it mean to be a member of the Body of Christ?
- 2) Write down and share (if you feel comfortable) what you would identify as personal gifts, talents and abilities that God has given you. You might also ask others to identify these in you...others are often the best judge of our true gifts!
- 3) What are some ways that you anticipate your team will "need" each other during the course of your trip?
- 4) What are your thoughts on the passage from Acts? Compare this with the church of today. Do you know any modern churches that model this kind of community?
- 5) What are some specific ways that your team can care for each other that might be a witness to others of what it means to be the Body of Christ?

Review hand-outs "Stereotypes and Cultural Sensitivities" & "Representing Christ; Representing Country"

Fundraising Check-up

Ask folks how they are doing with their fundraising. Everyone does not need to share, but the idea is for you to get a feel for where folks stand. Stress that the fundraising is a group goal, not just an individual one. If you know of or get the sense that some in particular are struggling, encourage them one on one, separate from the group meeting.

Maybe someone has a neat, God-touched fundraising praise to share? This can be a great encouragement to others. Maybe different people have ideas and thoughts to share that can help others in their own fundraising?

Prayer Partners meet?

Team-building Exercises

You might desire to engage in some team-building exercises before and during your trip. This is a great way to help team members get to know each other and to build a sense of community.

Here are several ideas.

1) Dr. Jones/Dr. Deaux Activity (The last three pages of this packet.)

2) Scavenger Hunt

This is a great way to get folks working together. You've probably done these before. They are fairly simple. Just split your group in teams and give them a list of items they have to find, or things they have to do. You might send them out for a set period of time, like an hour, after which time they must report back with as many of these items as possible. They get points for finishing first and for getting the most items. **DO NOT** stress competition ... this isn't the point or the goal. Rather, that they would learn how to work together, how to solve problems, how to be efficient with their time.

3) Trust-fall

Find a place outdoors with some type of elevated platform where folks can stand upright. You might use a suspended log, a porch, the side of a concrete stairwell, etc. The platform should be about 6-7 feet off the ground, **NO HIGHER**. One person stands with their back to the drop-off side of the platform, feet about shoulder width apart. Below them position at least six people (eight is best), standing in pairs face to face about three feet apart. These folks should lock arms with the person facing them to create a sort of human catch-net that the person on the platform will fall back into. Make sure the "catchers" are ready and their arms are locked steady and solid. Then, when the person on the platform is ready, they simply cross their arms and drop back off the platform, landing in the arms of the others. Best way to do this is with chin-tucked in slightly.

The idea of the "trust-fall" is for folks to learn how to trust their team members. There may be many situations during your trip when this will be necessary; in the course of a day's work on a project, when faced with an unfamiliar scenario, when given instructions by a team leader, etc.

This exercise can be very meaningful and also very fun!

You might begin by reading a scripture that illustrates trust and or faith.

Additional Ideas....

Prayer Partners

You might have folks pair up and commit to praying for each other before, during and even after the trip. Make sure you create pairs that are going to be good for each other. If you set these up before your trip, you can elect to have a time at the conclusion of each pre-trip meeting for these folks to pair up and pray.

Letter from Parents

Before you leave, have parents write a letter of encouragement to their son or daughter. (If your folks are older, maybe a spouse, friend or colleague writes this letter.) Have the letters **mailed to you**. This is a secret to the person receiving the letter. Then, once you are on the trip, maybe toward the middle of your time, pass these out to your team members. What a great surprise! This may be just the encouragement they need to finish strong!

During The Trip

Leader-Host Meeting(s)

The day you arrive or early the following morning (if your group arrives in the evening), make a point of meeting with your main trip leaders and your main *trip hosts*. (Our staff who live in the country you are visiting who are “taking the point” with hosting your group) Your trip hosts will be anticipating this time with you. At that time, you will want to go over the trip itinerary and agenda with your hosts. You might also have had opportunity to communicate with them prior to your trip via email, but you will want to sit down, together with your other trip leaders, and go over certain aspects of the trip at the very beginning of the experience. Some of the things you will want to discuss (again, it is likely you will have communicated about these beforehand):

- your group’s service projects or work crew responsibilities
- any dietary needs in your group
- any allergies or special medical needs of team members
- your plans for morning devotions (see section on this below)
- plans for having some of the North American and national (indigenous) staff and leaders share their “stories” with your group during your trip, highlighting their spiritual journey, their history with Young Life, etc.
- your plans for how you will handle evening worship/sharing/discussion times (always a good idea, where possible, to invite your local hosts to attend some or all of these meetings...if and when appropriate) See section on this below.

- any safety concerns you have
 - making sure fresh/purified water is available at all times
 - leadership responsibilities among your team leaders
 - anything else that is important for you to discuss early on
- Then make sure and PRAY!

Note: You may want to have periodic meetings throughout the trip with both your country hosts as well as your other designated trip leaders. You may want to have some meetings with the hosts and some just among your other trip leaders. Whatever works best for you. The idea is to make sure the lines of communication are open throughout the trip so that the needs and issues of both your group as well as the hosting ministry can be evaluated and addressed as need be. This will ensure a greater possibility of sensitivity and success!

Devotions

We suggest beginning each day with a short time of solitude and devotion. This is a great thing to delegate to your other team leaders and/or some of your team members. Typically you will have an opportunity to do this either just before or immediately following breakfast. Your in-country trip host can tell you the best time to hold your devotions.

I suggest having someone deliver a short passage of scripture and perhaps a question or thought or two to guide this time. This is a great time for your folks to engage in some journaling. Please avoid having folks get into long testimonies or stories. Have them keep the devotional “set-up” to five minutes or less. Then you should have about 30 minutes for individual quiet time. Again, check with your host on this.

Worship/Fellowship Times

Again, we leave this largely up to you, but your hosts will be happy to help in any way possible. However, please do not expect them to plan this time for you.

You may want to further explore some of the ideas suggested in the "Preparation" section of this material, organize several independent studies or follow one theme throughout your trip.

This is also a great time to have other trip leaders or even some of your team members take some leadership. Maybe you ask several other leaders to prepare a 15-20 minute sharing and discussion time. This might pertain directly to the Worktrip experience, or address something entirely different. Testimonies can be powerful during this time, life stories, short-talks about an individual's personal journey with the Lord, etc. Feel free to ask your host if some of the Young Life staff and/or volunteers would be willing to share during this time. A translator can always be provided if the person sharing does not speak English.

You might also incorporate some small-group discussion into this time. Perhaps you offer a question or two for each group to consider. (you might use some of the same questions from the meeting outlines above...it will be interesting to see how answers change or stay the same once people are actually living out the experience)

Please feel free to make your times fun, humorous and entertaining! You may want to combine serious discussion and study with humor and or games. There's an old saying in Young Life, "It's a sin to bore a kid with the gospel." While we certainly didn't lift that idea from scripture, you probably get the point. Make this time enjoyable for your folks.

Music/Worship

Please come prepared to have one or more persons in your group lead music and worship. If you have someone who plays guitar, please have him or her bring their own guitar! If for some reason this is not possible, let us know ahead of time and we will try to arrange having one provided for you.

You should also prepare some songsheets for your group. Please make copies **before** you arrive in your host country.

Debrief Time

Towards the end of your trip, typically on the final night, it's a good idea to have what we call a time of "debriefing." This is a time of reflection *and "closure" that will* help your folks begin to process and understand the overall meaning of your trip.

You might sit in a circle somewhere removed from distracting noise and ask each person to share one or more thoughts from the trip. Perhaps they can give one image from the trip that they will not soon forget, and one thing they've learned that can be applied to life back home. This might be the one time when you insist that everybody shares. It's good for folks to wrestle with verbalizing what they've experienced or learned.

It's important for people to see their trip as a beginning or continuation of the Lord's work in their lives, not as a one-time deal. You might ask questions about how this experience will affect their lives back home. What are some ways they can care for the less fortunate back in their own city or community? What things can they share? In what ways can they serve others?

I often quote an equation that a mentor of mine wrote an entire book about.

Resources + Relationships = Regeneration

Your group provided both resources (the cost of the trip) and the relationships (themselves!), to compliment the relationships represented by the Young Life volunteers and staff in the host-country to help bring regeneration to the lives of the local youth. Even though your folks might not be able to see the immediate impact of their service, they can be encouraged to know that for years to come, literally thousands of young people will have a chance to hear the gospel as a result of their work and their willingness to give of their time, their energy, their fundraising, their very lives!

Finally, we strongly suggest that you continue to process this experience with your group after you return home. In addition to gathering for future study, reflection and discussion, you might organize a picture-swapping party, one-on-one times with each team member and a group work-project for the needy in your local community. Maybe you do this on a regular basis. Encourage them to be life-changers, not mere spectators!

You might read aloud the following page entitled "if the world were a village..." It gives folks a great perspective on what it means to be a North American in the world at large. The facts might challenge them to broaden their thinking in relation to the rest of the world.

If the world were a village...

"If the world were a global village of 100 people, one-third of them would be rich or of moderate income, two-thirds would be poor. Of the 100 residents, 47 would be unable to read, and only one would have a college education. About 35 would be suffering from hunger and malnutrition; at least half would be homeless or living in sub-standard housing. If the world were a global village of 100 people, 6 of them would be Americans. These 6 would have over a third of the village's entire income, and the other 94 would subsist on the other two-thirds. How could the wealthy 6 live in peace with their neighbors? Surely they would be driven to arm themselves against the other 94, perhaps even to spend, as Americans do, about twice as much per person on military defense as the total income of the two-thirds of the villagers."

-Joan Bodner

"How can you see the world as Christ sees the world, until you've seen the world that Christ sees?"

-HL

Team-Building Exercise

Dr. D. Jones / Dr. J. Breaux Activity

1. Divide the team into two groups- A Dr. Jones group and a Dr. Deaux group. Give each person a corresponding sheet for their group.
2. Give each group 10-15 minutes to read through the dilemma and then develop a plan to complete the assignment at the bottom of the page when they sit down face to face with the other team.
3. Unbeknownst to the teams: 1 team only needs the orange peel. Usually both teams will come up with a plan as to why they should get the oranges before asking the other team what they need.

Point? We still see our mission trip efforts, as good as our intentions are, from our own perspective. We are quick to think of we can do but not so quick to ask those we go to serve, "What do you need?"

Luke 10:20

The disciples were excited, after returning from their own "mission trip", about all they had done. Jesus told them the more important thing is that they were redeemed by God- not what they could do for God. In light of that humbling fact, we are more likely to ask, "What do you need."

Dr. D Jones

You are Dr. Jones. You work as a medical researcher for a pharmaceutical firm. You have been contracted by the medical association to develop a cure for a rare virus that is affecting children at epidemic proportions in the U.S. It is speculated that thousands of children will die from this disease this year

Recently, you and your colleagues have found a serum that will cure children with this rare disease. The serum is made from a compound extracted from the pulp of the Big Red Orange, a very rare fruit. The development and distribution of this compound will save the lives with no side effects of the children inflicted with this disease. Unfortunately, only 3,000 of these oranges were produced this season.

You've been informed that a Mr. Carlos Angel, fruit exporter in South America, is in possession of the 3,000 oranges. 2,000 oranges would be sufficient to develop enough serum to save the children inflicted by this disease if developed and distributed efficiently.

In addition, you have been informed that Dr. J. Deaux is also seeking purchase of the oranges and is aware of Mr. Angel's possession of the 3,000 available oranges. Dr. Deaux works for a firm with which your firm is highly competitive.

You have been authorized by your firm to approach Mr. Angel to purchase 2,000 oranges. You have been told he will sell them to the highest bidder. Your firm has authorized you to bid as high as \$250,000 for the oranges.

Before approaching Mr. Angel, you will have a chance to talk to Dr. Deaux. You hope to influence Dr. Deaux so that you will be able to purchase the oranges.

Your Assignment

Your goals are to, first save lives and, second, save money. To reach your goals, you will have a chance to negotiate an agreement with Dr. Deaux. If you can reach an agreement no bidding will be necessary.

You may tell Dr. Deaux anything you feel would help you achieve your goal. However, you may not show or read this assignment to Dr. Deaux.

Dr. J. Deaux

You are Dr. Deaux. You work as a medical researcher for a pharmaceutical firm. You have been contracted by the United Nations medical bureau to develop a cure for a rare virus that is effecting the entire population of people off a small island in the Caribbean. This virus is of epidemic proportions and is expected to kill thousands of people on that island this year.

Recently, you and your colleagues have found a serum that will cure children with this rare disease. The serum is made from a compound extracted from the rind of the Big Red Orange, a very rare fruit. The development and distribution of this compound will save the lives with no side effects of the children inflicted with this disease. Unfortunately, only 3,000 of these oranges were produced this season.

You've been informed that a Mr. Carlos Angel, fruit exporter in South America, is in possession of the 3,000 oranges. 2,000 oranges would be sufficient to develop enough serum to save the children inflicted by this disease if developed and distributed efficiently.

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Stereotypes of North Americans and Stereotypes of the Developing World

Going on an international short-term service trip will be a great learning experience as we live and work in another culture. It is very important that we first learn and accept the commonly held traits of our own cultural identity. As we begin to understand our culture and how people see North Americans, it will help us relate to a new culture. We will also begin to realize how some of these North American traits have affected our values and our world view. It is enlightening to understand how much of the world sees us, and to be honest about how we often see them. Of course these stereotypes are not exactly the same in every foreign culture and do change with time, but by and large, this is an accurate perspective of how much of the international community views North America.

How they often see us:

Positive Traits

Outgoing, friendly
Informal
Hardworking
Generous
Lacking in class consciousness
Reliable
Confident
Free of superstition
Educated
Secured better lives

Negative Traits

Loud and rude
Disrespectful of authority
Arrogant
Wealthy and materialistic
Ignorant of other cultures
Always in a hurry
Boastful and immature
Racially prejudiced
Extravagant, wasteful
Dominating, corrupt
Promiscuous (women)

We also need to realize that just as other cultures have preconceived notions about North Americans, we may have similar ideas about people outside of our culture, especially citizens of Third World, “poor” or “developing” nations. When we deplane in a foreign country, we quickly become aware of differences in the people around us. If we truly desire to build bridges of friendship in the name of Christ, we have to deal with accepting our own traits and with the stereotypes we often, if unknowingly, associate with those we intend to serve. Openness and acceptance towards people of the host country are great goals that will help our experience be positive and profound for both parties. As we seek to understand people of a different culture, we will simultaneously recognize how destructive it is to hang on to these negative stereotypes.

How we often see them:

Positive Traits

Content
Living in harmony with life
Servant attitude
Very spiritually minded
Interdependent with family

Negative Traits

Lazy, slow
Poor, uneducated, needing our help
Inefficient
Indifferent
Corrupt
Controlled by customs, traditions

**Representing Christ; Representing Country:
How To Be A Good “Guest” In A Foreign Land**

1. Show respect for your host(s) with proper greetings, especially to the eldest in the group. Address these people with the country’s customary titles.
2. Dress modestly and respectfully to show honor to the culture, regardless of how the current generation of youth might dress.

3. Ask your host(s) about their family. In most cultures, people live in community/extended family units. Always ask your new friend(s) about their family and feel free to talk about yours. Bring pictures of your family.
4. Don't talk too much, but rather focus on being a good listener and observer, asking polite and appropriate questions. Your host(s) will understand that there are some things you don't understand about their culture and are simply being curious. Don't be shy about asking....but do be wise!
5. Act very discreetly with the opposite sex in all situations. Do not flirt with anyone in your host country, even if seemingly innocent. Intentions are often interpreted incorrectly. Avoid being seen alone or talking at great length alone with the opposite sex. Wait until you return home to pursue any new relationships with members of your own team.
6. Always show gratitude for your accommodations and food, whatever they may be. It is most likely the best they have to offer or are able to afford. Don't boast about what Americans have.
7. Be sure to get permission before taking a picture of someone. Don't offend by taking photos of what they consider their private space. If you plan to take pictures of "poverty", do so discreetly and at moments when this will not appear as exploitative to your hosts.
8. Be flexible with your time. Be ready for schedules and daily itineraries to change at a moment's notice. Take with you an attitude and a spirit of teachability. Let your hosts and your surroundings teach *you*. At times, your host will want to serve and bless you. Allow them this privilege! Be a "receiver" as much if not more than a "giver".
9. Show empathy for poverty you witness, but not disgust. Remember, this is where your new friends live.
10. Keep in mind at all times that approximately 75% of the world lives like your hosts and only about 6% live like we do in North America.