

Short-term Missions Resource Guide



Why should I go on a missions trip?

1. Connect with and support the global church

There is no better way to connect with someone than by actually being with them, this is true whether we're talking about a brother or sister in Christ or someone who doesn't know Him yet. That in person connection can't be substituted or overestimated.

2. Broaden your horizons

Serving others and getting out of our comfort zone shapes us and molds our character in Christ immensely. It challenges us to speak more boldly about His Gospel and serve with abandon.

3. Experience a new worldview, gain a new perspective

One of the most widespread ways that a mission trip can change you, is by shaping and changing your worldview. Realizing that God is the King of the WORLD, not just your home country or your backyard, is an absolutely necessary part of growing spiritually.

4. Meet new people and make friendships

Go and serve alongside a community of believers who will surprise you, help you grow in your faith and who are excited about developing friendships with you and your team!

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

5. Make an impact that lasts

Short-term missions often get's a bad rap that they do more harm than good, because they are a one-week-and-done trip. We work to actively avoid that from happening. We believe in the power of partnering alongside local churches and ministries who are able to continue the work the other 51 weeks of the year. Your role is to help as much as you can while you are on the ground and serve alongside your local leadership, and encourage and support them, so they have a little fuel added to their spiritual flames for the rest of the year.

6. Follow the Great Commission

Jesus commands us to go into all the world. Short-term missions is an excellent way to get a group of people together with a common goal, to make an impact and expand the Kingdom of God!

7. Share the Gospel

And lastly, of course, to share the Gospel with the nations. To tell people - from far and wide - about the saving grace of Christ! Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



How do I choose my missions trip?

1. Pray

God has a plan and wants to speak to you about it. Pray and ask Him about mission trip opportunities. He will guide you. If you feel like He isn't, don't worry, He won't let you go down a wrong path. Those who are seeking God, find Him, just not always in the way they expect. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "never stop praying."

2. Talk to us

If you have questions or want to know more about a specific missions trip, Amy Johnson is more than happy to help you. Reach out to her at amyj@lifechurchnow.org. Also consider reaching out to someone who has been on the same or a similar missions experience. They would be able to guide you through the experience. We can connect you with someone if necessary.

3. Consider your personal giftings

If you are great with children, consider a mission trip with a children's ministry element. If you have a background in construction, a mission trip with a building project may be a great fit for you. If you speak Spanish, you could be very helpful to your team on a trip to a Spanish-speaking country. These are just a few examples, but we have no doubt God will use you wherever you go and whatever you do. He always uses a willing heart. 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, "The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ."

4. Think about cost, schedule and location

Of course some short-term missions experiences are more costly than others. It's not bad to let finances play a part in your decision, but they don't need to be the deciding factor because God always provides when He has called us to something.

Your work and home schedule may also play a factor in your decision. Maybe you have more flexibility in the summer or fall. We strive to make opportunities available at different times of the year for this reason. Perhaps you feel a calling to a particular place or people group. This can be a factor as well.

If you're feeling a pull toward a particular place or type of ministry (be it long-term or short), let Amy know. We are connected with other Assembly of God churches in the midwest so that if one of them has a trip somewhere we do not, we can get you connected with that team.



How can I prepare my heart to go?

1. Pray

Without God at the heart of all we do, there is no power or purpose behind it. Pray for your trip, your team, the local pastors and missionaries, and those you're seeking to reach. [Here](#) is an online pre-missions trip devotions guide. Ask your friends, family, and church to pray for you as well. They will be happy to do so.

2. Read Your Bible

God's word is central to all that we do. If we're not reading it regularly, we will struggle. Try reading the Old Testament book of Isaiah, chapter 6 in preparation for your trip. The YouVersion Bible App also has great reading plans and guides to help you. Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

3. Connect with your team

Pre-trip meetings are an essential component to a successful missions trip, both for the purposes of planning and preparation, but also for fun and bonding as a team. We suggest a minimum of three team meetings before your trip.

4. Prep

Learn about the language and culture of the area you're going into. Ask the missionaries and pastors there what information they feel is relevant for you. www.operationworld.org is a great resource with lots of information and prayer points for every country around the world.