



# MISSIONS 101 MANUAL



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# INTRODUCTION

As we set out on our pilgrimage, we should realize a great frustration awaits us. That frustration is the deep desire to do: we want to know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. As we begin this journey, we will anxiously wait for the moment when we fulfill our desires by actually doing something. Often we try so hard and focus on what we are going to do that we forget who we are.

When my parents dropped me off at school as a child, the last thing they would do is look me in the eye and say, “Remember who you are,” as if to say “who you are dictates how and why and what you do”. Instead of jumping into work, we were created to first discover our role – before stepping into it. When we jump into doing without understanding our role, we try to define ourselves by what we do. **However, who we are will always define what we do, when we do it, and how we do it.**

Short term mission trips provide a great opportunity to help participants of all ages discover who they are. As one college pastor noted,

*“Short term mission trips are the laboratory in which spiritual gifts are discovered.”*

In reality, many times they are the laboratories in which we not only discover our gifts but also who we are.

*But why?*

We are removed from our normal lives. We’re outside our normal settings, away from our normal friends, out of our normal routing, normal job and our normal classroom. In our normal situations, we are pressured to conform to the image others cast upon us and we try to live up to that image. On mission trips we are able to get away from normal life and focus on walking in the image of Christ, as He is the one who has called us. With so much fewer distractions, we are able to hear His whispers and follow His song.

With our schedule tossed aside, we are no longer living to a destination; rather, we are living in a destination. The fear and timidity of speaking about our faith is far outweighed by the fact that we are actually living our faith. **Our eyes aren’t just looking, they are seeing; the opportunity for discipleship isn’t just available, it is happening.** It happens in the context of community, where life shares life, where we collectively help each other discover ourselves and actively think of ways to stimulate one another towards love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).

In the next few pages, we are going to give you a picture of where our preparation is headed by providing a bird’s eye view of the goal and heart behind this manual and the meetings it helps guide. Then, we will jump into the lessons, which will be great resources in preparing you and your team for your upcoming mission trip. This preparation is a crucial step in discovering who we are, what our role is, and how we will serve in ministry while on the trip.

# HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is simply a guide. It contains information compiled over years of leading and organizing mission trips and is for you to use in preparing yourself and your team. **The importance of preparation cannot be understated.** We have seen too many excited and passionate teams become frustrated and angry because of a lack of preparation. So, for your sake, our sakes, and those we will be ministering to, set aside some time to complete the lessons, activities, and Bible studies.

One of the more significant ways this manual prepares you is by introducing you to the five objectives we want to see happen on every trip. The manual provides you and your team with the opportunity to teach and learn here, so that you can live it on the field.

## THE BENEFITS OF PREPARATION

- Teams develop realistic expectations of the trip.
- Ministry on the field is more productive.
- God is able to use your group in more ways.
- Team unity, community, and identity develop.
- You can identify potential problems early and help attitudes become more Christ-like.
- Learning takes place in a safe setting.

# BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING

## TEAMS

This is a must: You **must** break your group into teams prior to your trip; the magic number is **eight**. If you are going as an individual and joining a group, your team will be broken into ministry groups upon your arrival. In foreign language settings, we plan for one translator for every eight participants, but even on domestic trips eight participants is the perfect number for our ministries, such as vacation Bible school programs, construction work, visiting rehabilitation centers, prison ministry, prayer walks, etc. For example, with eight participants you have enough people to be able to handle any type of construction project, but not so many that you will have people standing around.

Make sure that you split up your teams **prior** to your first meeting. Some people don't take this seriously, viewing the team scenario as completely logistical, and they fail to see the importance of the team dynamic. Splitting up the teams is the first step in using a mission trip as a discipleship tool for your ministry.

Leaders often use different methods in splitting up their teams. Some use this as an opportunity to get different groups and individuals to socialize; some use it to bring a tight group of friends even closer. Others use it as the chance for older participants to disciple and encourage participants. The choice is yours, but it is vital that it happens early and that the teams get to know one another. Then, through the stress and trials of the mission trip, they can forge a lasting bond.

One leader told us years after a trip of how his teams, whose participants previously didn't know one another, now have annual reunions. This has been happening for thirteen years. These are relationships that never would have occurred, except for being formed and forged through a team on a mission trip.

We have also seen the effects of a team leader splitting up groups the day the trip begins. Confusion, inflexibility, and time loss are some of the results, but it also seems that such teams have less respect for one another, are less prepared for their ministries, struggle to form a natural team, and seem less likely to step out of their comfort zones. It is therefore vital that you intentionally break your group into teams.

## PRAYER

Nothing will derail your mission trip faster than lack of prayer. Prayer is a must because we don't just desire to do, we want to be the hands and feet of Christ. Handing a cup of cold water is simply that - a cup of cold water - unless it has been bathed in prayer. Then, it becomes something supernatural, a way for heaven to invade earth.

Building a house is just building a house unless those who are swinging the hammers have spent time on their knees in prayer. **Then, with the Spirit's help, house-building turns into home-building.** Prayer is the center of our ministry partnerships, and it must be the central focus of your group and you, personally, as the leader. Prior to the first meeting and throughout the preparation process, it is imperative you spend time with God in prayer and meditation.

## STUDY

Spend time reading the homework, preparing for the lesson, and making it yours. Look at this not as something you have to do, but as an opportunity to grow as a community and a chance to listen for the King's voice, follow the King's leading, and watch the King bring it to pass.

Spend time making the meetings creative, fun, and interactive. It is important that your team completes the activities included on the video lessons. They should not just be a lecture.

It is also important for your life. As leaders, we are often so concerned with making sure everyone else is connecting with the Lord that we ourselves forget to sit at His feet.

## FLEXIBILITY

From day one, put it on your agenda to begin speaking about flexibility – and continually remind your students to be flexible. The mission field is one place where flexibility is a must. Many foreign countries have a very different sense of time than we do in the United States. But even in some of our domestic settings, the sense of time, schedules, and upholding commitments do not exist in the same way in which we are accustomed. There may also be moments during the trip when a time-sensitive need arises and we have to scrap the plan for the day in order to move where God is leading.

Flexibility isn't just about time. Because AIM is an interdenominational ministry, there will be many different types of churches and ministries we will work alongside. This can be an amazing blessing if we prepare beforehand. There will not just be denominational differences; there may also be every conceivable personality type on your trip.

Therefore, we must also be prepared to be flexible in cooperation. Frequently, the exact personality you have the hardest time working with is the personality who will lead – or at least participate – in your trip. It seems that God uses these situations to mold us, grow us, and show us how He is so much bigger than our personalities. So, be flexible and prepare your team to be flexible.

# BEST PRACTICES

1. Always surround your preparation with prayer. Pray for direction, protection from distractions, and a sense of the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance. Pray for yourself, your team, and the mission.
2. Be creative in training your team. For most lessons, you can find additional information on the CD-ROM. Feel free to add other items you've found effective.
3. As you prepare, remember that ministry teams of five to eight participants, including leaders, will minister together on your trip; plan accordingly. Breaking your group down into these teams early will help them get better acclimated than if teams are formed a week or so before the trip.
4. For projects in foreign countries, consider additional time to practice the language.
5. Mail or e-mail reminders of your meetings to your group.
6. Consider making a preparation timeline to help guide you through the process.
7. Make due dates clear when you are handing out forms.
8. Remind participants there will be mandatory assignments for the next meeting.
9. Develop a plan to involve parents of your students in the trip preparation. Consider involving them as team leaders or meeting helpers and trainers. (More tips on involving parents of students can be found in the Appendix.)
10. Send meeting updates to the team (if there are students on your team, to their parents as well) and church leadership regularly. Good communication will help avoid problems.
11. STM is an interdenominational ministry; this means you may have another group on your trip from a different denomination. The church you'll be serving in the field may also be from a different denomination. It's crucial that you explain this to your group, as they may see others worshipping differently than what they are accustomed to.
12. Create an environment of flexibility surrounding your trip. Each participant should have a flexible approach. AIM staff will plan your trip with as much detail as is reasonably possible, but sometimes sensitivity to the Holy Spirit opens up new ministry opportunities.

# MEETING 1

## Why Go?

*-or-*

## Destination Points

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Lesson overview and activity
- 20 minutes: Ministry team time discussion and prayer

### BEFOREHAND

Read the following passages, and record your thoughts:

- John 10:7-10
- John 9:1-5
- John 4:1-42

# LESSON

So much of our lives are lived to destination points big and small. We set-up large markers (or destination points) along our lives in order to mark our progress. Starting school, getting our driver's licenses, summer break, high school graduation, college, turning 21, getting married, our first real job, becoming a mom or dad, buying a house, retiring – even going on vacation.

We live some of our lives to those major destination points, but because they are so far in advance we have to litter our lives with smaller ones. We look forward to the end of a work day, the weekend, a date, our first cup of coffee, the end of practice, payday, pizza, etc. All these moments are what bring us life; the rest of the time is just existence, waiting and hoping for these moments to come.

Even in our faith, we do the same thing. Our destination points include salvation, baptism, and beginning full-time ministry; or Sundays, Wednesdays, and mid-week Bible studies - moments of life that define an otherwise dull existence. We sprinkle these markers in anticipation, and against the backdrop of "life," we hear Christ saying, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Abundantly? Are we living this way? Is going from one destination point to another one considered abundant life?

When we live looking towards one destination point or another, we miss out on life. One of the things Jesus teaches us is that we often look without looking, we see without seeing. We look at the crop fields and say, like always, "In four more months the harvest will come," because we are living to a destination point. We will engage in this when it is the time to engage. We will become involved in that when it's time, when we've completed \_\_\_\_\_. When we are \_\_\_\_\_.

But Jesus looks at the same field, which he explains in another parable signifies the world, and He sees that our destination isn't some point in the future – the harvest is now. Jesus sees the world and life differently than we do. He calls us to no longer be living to a destination but in the destination. No longer thinking and hearing about abundant life, but actually living life more abundantly. **He wants us to live in each moment, not constantly looking forward to moments.**

To experience life abundantly, it must be given away. To be overflowing with life—true life, not just moment-by-moment enjoyment—we must give our life to others by living with them, by infecting them with the life of Christ that is abundant in us, with a passion for His name that cannot be quenched. But the funny thing about passion is that it cannot be taught; it can only be caught. And to be caught, there must be interaction between two people, not just words and thoughts conveyed, but actual life.

To pass on life, we must be in our destination; to have abundant life, we must pass life on; to be in our destination, we must have our eyes open to see what Jesus sees.

When the men asked, "Who sinned: this man or his parents?" Their eyes were shut. They were living in a destination point in the past, trying to decide why this man was handicapped. But the Son of Life was present in that moment, completely in the destination, and He saw the reality behind the blindness: "Neither, but this man was born blind for the Son to be glorified in this moment." He saw the moment; He saw the opportunity for life to invade death, for light to overcome darkness. So, who was really blind?

Now, you may be asking, "What does this have to do with our mission trip?" We have found mission trips to be a perfect introduction and teaching tool for the lesson of living in the destination. When you are in your location of service, you will learn to present in that moment. No distractions, no cell phones, no iPods, no job, no homework - just you and Christ. You are there in your destination, you clearly understand your mission, and there is little to distract you from it.

As you begin walking in the destination, what were once mundane moments suddenly move into the eternal, and life takes on an entirely new meaning. You get a flat tire and it isn't an inconvenience, but rather an opportunity to share life with the man who stops to help you change the tire. The girl at the counter in the gas station isn't a slow, incompetent employee, but a single mother who is hurting and needs the kindness of God that leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). Soon, our eyes are opened to those around us, and our life is suddenly abundant - abundantly looking towards how God might glorify himself in each moment.

Just as Jesus sent out the apostles and they came back to normal life, mission trips are the same. They introduce us to living in the destination, but to continue is up to us. Once we taste the abundant life and the spring of living water, we must not quench our thirst for the Spirit and His eyes that see not destination points, but destination.

# MINISTRY TEAM TIME

As you enter ministry team time, first allow your team to spend time in quiet, individual reflection. Have them ask themselves the following questions, then join together to discuss their answers.

## INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

1. Are there ministry opportunities I am missing by living to a destination instead of in a destination?
2. What is meant when Christ says He came to bring life more abundantly?
3. What grabs my attention and robs me of abundant life?
4. When was the last time I lived in a destination?
5. Is it possible to continually live in a destination rather than to one?
6. What would have to change in my life to be able to live in my destination?

## TEAM DISCUSSION TIME

Break into ministry teams and discuss the reflection questions, lesson, or passages.

# MEETING 2

## When God Speaks -Or- Am I Even Listening?

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Opening prayer, worship
- 10 minutes: Announcements & review: Why Go?
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 30 minutes: Ministry team time
- 10 minutes: Closing prayer
- Optional team-builder, discussion questions

### BEFOREHAND

Print out the Walk With Jesus exercises for each participant.

Read and reflect on the following passages. Record your thoughts, journal, or note any prayer insights.

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 1 Corinthians 9:26-27
- Proverbs 16:9
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- James 4:7
- Ephesians 6:10-18
- John 10:27
- Psalm 69:13
- Exodus 33:11

Make a list, off the top of your head and from Scripture, all the ways that God speaks. Then compare them to this list:

- Luke 1:26
- Genesis 15:1
- Matthew 2:12-13;
- Acts 21:10-11;
- Jeremiah 18:1-10
- Jonah 3:4
- 1 Kings 19:12
- Exodus 8:20-25
- Exodus 3:2
- Numbers 22:28
- Acts 22:17-18
- Exodus 19:16,19
- 1 Kings 18:37-39
- Judges 6:36-37
- Daniel 5:5
- Hebrews 1:1-4

# LESSON

*“God’s Word brings life! God’s Word never leaves someone or something the same. However, many Christians have lost the sense of awe at receiving a word from God. God’s Word is far too important for us not to take seriously. There is too much at stake for us to be careless with a word from God. The Bible is full of examples of God speaking to people. We should encourage each other to share what we are hearing from God.”*

*Blackaby, Henry & Richard; When God Speaks, p. 11,  
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God speaks at many different times in many different ways. We need to remain open to him.

*“I do two things to be open to anything God wants to say to me. First, I make myself accessible to many opportunities for God to communicate with me. For example, although God uses my quiet times with Him to speak to me, He can and will also use the preaching of His Word at my church, a Bible study, or a Friday morning group prayer time.*

*Second, I cultivate my relationship with Christ. The more I know Him, the easier it is for me to recognize His voice.*

*When God speaks to His people, God reveals His heart. God is on mission to redeem a lost world. God expects people to adjust their lives to Him so that He can work through them to bring others to Himself.*

*We should strive to know God’s voice so intimately that we immediately recognize the other voices as not being from God. We can protect ourselves further by understanding that God will never lead us in a way that contradicts His Word. God is consistent in the way He leads.”*

*Blackaby, Henry and Richard; When God Speaks, pp. 13 - 17 & 22.  
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Three things compete for our attention:

1. Our own voice and desires
2. The voice of the Devil
3. God's Spirit.

By the process of taking every thought captive, you can ask God to silence your thoughts and the Devil's distractions in order to clear your mind to hear God. This will take some practice, but don't make it complicated or weird. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we have been given power to overcome our own flesh and the Devil (2 Peter 1:3). It's actually more difficult not to hear God! It's just that we are so used to not hearing Him that it seems hard. God promises to guide us when we are humble and want to obey; and His Word tells us how we can hear Him more clearly:

1. **Submit to God's Lordship.** Ask Him to silence your thoughts, desires, and opinions (2 Corinthians 10:5, Proverbs 3:5-6).
2. **Resist the Devil.** Ask Jesus to silence the Enemy's voice and distractions in your mind (James 4:7, Ephesians 6:10-18).
3. **Expect an answer from God.** Ask the Father to help you hear Him and He will (John 10:27, Psalm 69:13, Exodus 33:11).

*Further reading:  
Is that Really You God? by Loren Cunningham  
Surprised by the Voice of God by Jack Deere*

It is important develop a biblical view and understanding of how God speaks. On the next page you will find references to how God spoke in the Bible. One thing you will notice is the variety of ways God interacts with us and how faithful He is to continue the conversation with us.

- Angels (Luke 1:26)
- Dreams (Matthew 2:12-13)
- Symbolic actions (Jeremiah 18:1-10)
- Still small voice (1 Kings 19:12)
- Miraculous signs (Exodus 8:20-25)
- Prayer (Acts 22:17-18)
- Fire (1 Kings 18:37-39)
- Writing on wall (Daniel 5:5)
- Visions (Genesis 15:1)
- Prophets (Acts 21:10-11)
- Preaching (Jonah 3:4)
- Burning bush (Exodus 3:2)
- Donkey (Numbers 22:28)
- Trumpet (Exodus 19:16, 19)
- Fleece (Judges 6:36-37)
- Through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Further, the Scriptures provide ways to discern or test things so that we can know they are from God.

1. **Does it exalt Christ?** It's got to be all about Christ, not you! He must be at the center of the leading. (John 14:26; 16:13-14)
2. **Is it Scriptural?** It has to line up with what God reveals to us in His Word. If it doesn't, it's not from God. (Proverbs 30:5-6; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; John 2:2)
3. **Do other Christians confirm it?** Your team is important! Learn to trust other believers who are mature in the faith. Ask them to pray with you. (Proverbs 15:22; 1 Corinthians 14:29)
4. **Does it produce good fruit?** The fruit of the Spirit is about godliness, nothing else! If what you're hearing weighs you down or makes you feel guilty, it's probably not from the Lord. However, God will convict us at times. The difference between guilt and conviction is that conviction comes with hope and forgiveness. Guilt comes with a dead-end and mocking. Test it! (Deuteronomy 18:21-22; John 15:1-16)
5. **Does God bring it to pass?** God means what He says and says what He means. If God tells you something or shows you something, He will make it happen. A word of caution here, however: there is a temptation to want to see God bring it about in our time table, but we must remember it will happen in His perfect timing, not ours. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

At times, God will show you something amazing. Be careful not to run ahead of Him or read into what He says. We're very good at running ahead of God. Take each leading a step at a time, being careful to focus on Christ and nothing else. If He tells you to take one step to the right, take one step to the right, not two. Always test it!

You can use these tests in everyday life. In fact, we are instructed to do so (1 John 4:1). Remember, just because you don't feel God's presence doesn't mean that He's not there.

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

Allow team to go through the Walk With Jesus exercise on the CD-ROM then discuss what happened during this time.

1. How many heard God speak today?
2. How do you know it was God? (Use examples from the group to test it. Suppose a participant wrote down a Scripture passage. Test the fruit of what was learned from the passage. It is important to test this because Satan twists Scripture and its application to deceive. We can tell whether it was God by applying the tests mentioned previously.)
3. What specifically is the Lord saying to you?
4. How will you apply what God has said?

# MEETING 3

## Listen in Prayer

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 20 minutes: Personal reflection and listening prayer

### BEFOREHAND

Read and reflect on the following passages. Record your thoughts, journal, or note any prayer insights.

- Luke 11:1-4
- Ephesians 1:17-19
- Ephesians 3:16-19
- Philippians 1:9-11
- Psalm 27
- Colossians 1:9-12
- Romans 15:5-7
- Romans 15:13
- Acts 4:24-31
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- Revelation 4
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- John 5:19
- John 12:49
- John 14:31
- John 17:20-26
- Mark 1:35-37
- Lamentations 3:48-51

# LESSON

Prayer was central to every aspect of Christ's life and ministry, so much so that at the height of His ministry you see Him escaping for more and more time with the Father. As the crowds grew, His need for prayer increased. At times when you and I would be saying, "Heal them, teach them, do miracles for them, minister to them," Jesus was found praying. He was found removed from others, in fellowship with His King. It was almost as if He was saying, "I can do more for you in prayer than in deed," and perhaps that is what He said to the disciples when He told them it was better for Him to go so that He could send them the Comforter.

The disciples recorded how He woke early, while it was still dark, to pray and also how He stayed up late into the night in prayer, so late that the disciples themselves fell asleep on more than one occasion! So, if prayer was this important, this central to the ministry of Jesus, then how much more is it for ours'?

Here are three key truths to prayer. Remember, there is no secret formula to prayer:

1. **It's important to not only pray, but to live a prayerful life.** Jesus did, and it was reflected in His every action. A prayerful life means that our thoughts and actions are directed toward glorifying God, not ourselves.
2. **Jesus did only what He saw the Father doing and spoke only what and how the Father told Him to speak.** The prayer life of Jesus cultivated such a deep intimacy with the Father that Jesus said we should have the same kind of relationship with Him (John 5:19; John 12:49; John 14:31; John 17:20-26).
3. **Jesus did nothing without hearing from His Father first.** This model of prayer could be called "Listening In Prayer." Prayer should be a two-way communication that is more than just a daily discipline. It should become who we are.

So what does this mean for our trip?

Prayer is going to be the "blood-in-the-veins" of your mission trip. One of the most vital ministries will be prayer walks. Prayer walking is a way to describe mission field intercession. Steve Hawthorne defines prayer walking as "praying on site with insight." It means praying intentionally at a specific area, using your spiritual presence to break strongholds, rather than interceding from home or church. There are four advantages of praying this way:

1. It thaws the ice.
2. It overcomes fear.
3. It deals with evil.
4. It creates people of prayer.

Our eyes affect our hearts. As Jeremiah looks around the city of Jerusalem, he finally sees the destruction he has feared for so long, and out of this pain comes a sublime truth for the ages: "My eyes affect my heart because what I see affects how I feel." This is a truth that cannot be understated, for the Creator has woven it into the fabric of our lives. As we engage in prayer walks, our eyes are opened and focused on Him, and in the destination, our hearts are impacted.

**Do not underestimate the importance of this.**

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

On your trip you will have the opportunity to spend two or three hours prayer walking. This is an opportunity to learn something that you can practice on the field and live when you return home.

## PRAYER TIME

Pray through one of the lesson's Scripture passages as a group. This is an exercise in listening prayer, and it takes a little practice. Encourage your team to walk out and read the passage out loud. As they read, they should listen for God and pray what comes to mind.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (ONLY IF NEEDED)

1. How did prayer affect Jesus' ministry and lifestyle?
2. Why do you think Jesus walked away from the multitudes of people who wanted healing when there was great need?
3. Is prayer a vital part of your life? When do you pray?
4. Have you had an attitude change because of a prayer time? What needs to be changed in your life in order for you to have a more intimate prayer life?

Examples of lifestyle prayer:

- **Early in the morning** (Mark 1:35)
- **Through the night** (Luke 6:12)
- **Before great crises** (Luke 6:12-13; 9:18, 21, 22)
- **After achievements and crises** (Matthew 14:23; John 6:15)
- **When unusually busy** (Luke 5:15-16; Mark 3:13; 6:31, 33, 46)
- **Before temptations** (Matthew 26:36)
- **Without ceasing, in all circumstances and times** (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18)

# MEETING 4

## Being and Inviting

*-Or-*

## Sharing Your Faith

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 20 minutes: Ministry team time discussion and prayer

### BEFOREHAND

Record your story of coming to know Christ:

# LESSON

While memorized outlines, pamphlets, and outreach events can be helpful in evangelism, they're not evangelism. These are things we do or use—tools. Evangelism should be who we are.

*Evangelism is being so passionately in love with Jesus that we invite the Spirit to use us to draw others into a relationship with the Father. When our evangelism comes from our hearts and lives, listening for His voice rather than to our thoughts, wonderful things take place.*

It is not about trying to win a debate or prove that we are right. It is about presenting Jesus as the Christ, presenting Him as the only One that can fix a broken, dying world, the only One that can fill the void and ache in our lives. It is about allowing Him to be seen much, and us to be seen little. It is about the Glory of the King on such display that all things pale in comparison to Him. We become so much less important. However, as we are lost in Him, we become invaluable.

Our words can be powerful tools in showing people their need for a Savior and in showing them the truth of where their life is headed; however, it is the kindness of God that leads men to repentance (Romans 2:4). It is what comes after the words; it is the life we share with them when the talking ceases. It is Christ increasing in us so as to spill over into the lives of others.

Remember what Christ told Peter as the disciples and Jesus gathered together at Caesarea Philippi? They were discussing what others were saying who Jesus was. Some said He was Elijah, others Jeremiah, and still others John the Baptist. Then Jesus looked at Peter and asked him, "Who do you say that I am?" What was Peter's response? "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus responded with a very remarkable answer, "Blessed are you Simon bar Jonas, for flesh and blood hasn't revealed this to you, but it was your Father in Heaven." It wasn't the words of others. It was the work of God. And how does God work? Through us. **We are living examples of God's Word, so let us labor for our King.**

There is, however, a place for our words in all of this. We find that we are told to be ready at any moment to give account of what the Lord has done in our lives. For some, this can be very intimidating. In many of us, there is a feeling of incapability or fear. Both of these can be eliminated by practice, preparation, and honesty.

Sharing your faith doesn't necessarily mean you need to share all the details of the exact moment of your conversion and your life leading up to that moment. No, sharing your faith is much more than that. It includes how Christ conquers your fears and trials today and lives as Victor over the death that encircles you daily.

It is the story of our relationship with our King, and that relationship is lived day-by-day, moment-by-moment. Sometimes we will be called or led to share the story of the initial moment when Christ saved us from our sin and gave us new life. Other times it will be about Him breathing new life into us in this very moment or season. That is the part that covers honesty. Be real about what He has done.

Here are some verses that can help us be prepared. Spend time thinking about these Scriptures until they take on a reality in your life, rather than just being words to recite. Reflect on how these passages have been proven true in your life through your experiences.

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 8:1-2
- John 14:6
- Isaiah 53:5
- 1 Peter 2:24
- John 10:30
- James 1:1-4
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 1 John 1:1-10

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

Now we have the opportunity to practice. Share with someone, one-on-one, your faith story. Whether that is the initial moment of salvation, something you are currently going through, or something you just recently passed through. Don't recite memorized lines, but be real with one another. It's not a sales pitch. You aren't trying to get anyone to purchase your story.

## EVANGELISM PRACTICE: HEAD TO HEAD

Objective: To let God direct your prayers

Have your participants pair up to pray for each other. Instruct them not to share any prayer requests, but to quietly sit in front of the other person and pray only what the Lord prompts them to pray. The Lord may also give them a question to ask or maybe just a word of encouragement.

## DEBRIEF

Ask: "What happened?"

Let the sharing time do the teaching. As the participants share their experiences, when you have enough examples, tell the group that they just experienced the most powerful evangelism tool known to humanity!

The intent of an evangelism outline is to bring someone to God. The purpose of listening prayer evangelism is to ask God how to bring the person to Himself.

This evangelism tool goes straight to the heart! God knows so much more than we do about the people we meet. Listen to Him.

# MEETING 5

## Build a Meaningful Relationship

-Or-

## Stimulating One Another to Love and Good Deeds

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 20 minutes: Ministry team time discussion and prayer

### BEFOREHAND

- Read and reflect on the following passages.
- Record your thoughts, journal, or note any prayer insights.
- Then, answer the questions provided.

#### *2 Kings 4:8-10*

1. How did the relationship begin?
2. How did the relationship continue?
3. What was the result of the relationship?

#### *Luke 19:1-10*

1. How did the relationship begin?
2. Did ministry take place?
3. Was this relationship meaningful? How so?
4. What was the result of the relationship?
5. Was there an eternal impact?
6. How long did it take to form this relationship and get results?

# LESSON

We all desire meaningful relationships. Even though it's a lot of fun, the growth of technology has reduced personal contact between people. But we were created to be relational, to have close face-to-face friendships. It's what God did! If it was necessary 2,000 years ago for God to come in the flesh, then it's necessary in the 21st century for Him to do it again in us.

While you are on your mission trip, you should be trying to build a meaningful relationship with at least one local person.

One trait that makes a relationship meaningful is found in Hebrews 10:24, "[L]et us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." Let us consider, or actively think, how to encourage each other to love and good deeds. Not ourselves, but others.

When is the last time you sat and thought about how to push another person into love and good deeds? How much of your time is devoted to actively thinking of ways to spur your friends toward love and good deeds? But this is a sign of a meaningful relationship.

As we set out on our trip, we will have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the people of the community we are helping. **The opportunity also exists for building relationships with those who are on the trip with us.** We will take time for this aspect in team time.

Part of building a meaningful relationship with those we are ministering to means not having distracting relationships. As we think about godly relationships, now would be a good opportunity to talk about some cultural and relational distractions we need to be aware of.

## DRESS CODE PRINCIPLES—MUST READ, MUST DISCUSS!

In America, we wear what we want and how we want. But it's different when ministering. We have to consider other people more than ourselves (Philippians 2).

We don't want to create rules for the sake of rules. We want everyone to understand the principles of respect and acceptance through Jesus. We can show self-respect, as well as respect for others, in a way that shows respect for God. You can help us achieve this goal by teaching your team that our dress code isn't because we're extremists, but because we love God, wish to honor His creation, and don't want to cause others to stumble.

In decades of mobilizing mission teams, we have witnessed the Lord do amazing things to advance His Kingdom. Unfortunately, we have also witnessed the Enemy use the pettiest things to divide a mission or render it paralyzed.

Pastors on the field have sometimes said that they did not want to work with an American group again because of a poor witness. The dress code boils down to respect for cultural differences. And respect is an important element in building meaningful relationships.

In I Corinthians 9:21-22 Paul said, "...To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some."

Respect can be broken down into three categories that are backed up in Scripture.

1. **Respect for God.** Our outward appearance is an indication of our inward attitude. God tells us throughout Scripture that we should in all things seek to please Him, to give Him our very best. The way we dress is one way that we show that desire to please Him. We are told to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices, acceptable to Him. God sets standards all throughout His word that we have a chance to accept and obey.

2. **Respect for ourselves.** Our bodies are a temple and a dwelling place for God. They are holy (I Corinthians 3:16). We were created, in God's image, unique. If we don't protect that uniqueness, it will be corrupted by the world. We must protect our bodies as the dwelling place of God Himself. The way we dress shows our respect or lack of respect for ourselves.

Sadly, many people haven't been taught this concept. They compare themselves to the world, or even to other Christians, when their standard should be Jesus. They need to understand that they are "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Ephesians 2:10).

3. **Respect for others.** God has also commanded us to consider others more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

What are the differences between men and women that apply here?

Men are visually stimulated. When a woman wears clothing that draws attention to those areas of the body that are to be protected, it very quickly can cause a man to stumble into sin (1 Corinthians 8:13).

Let's put the brother part aside. How does the worldly man look upon a woman drawing attention (consciously or not) to her body? Most young girls are unaware that the way they dress can cause a man to stumble into sin. Are they distracted from the message we bring, or does our modest dress not detract from our message? Which is the more important: the message or the messenger?

For example, if teen girls are not taught their value in Christ Jesus, they tend to be very conscious of their outward appearances to gain acceptance. The world has taught them that if they look good and can turn a guy's head, they will be accepted. Unless told otherwise, they don't understand standards of dress and issues of respect.

There may be other groups along with yours on a mission trip who hold to a stricter standard. They may be deeply offended by immodest dress, an offense we don't want to cause.

Being out of dress code on a trip could mean not participating in ministry or even being sent home. So, please prayerfully and humbly read through the **Dress Code Values**. Be ready to glorify God with your obedience!

The following list describes general concerns regarding dress on the mission field, but your project leader will give you the specifics for your location.

- The way we dress could hurt the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Some people see sleeveless tops, low necklines, and running shorts as immodest.
- Sometimes even Christians value personal choice too highly, claiming the right to dress the way we choose regardless of how it could offend other people.
- It is the missionary's responsibility to conform to the field culture.
- Sexual temptations affect us all – Christian or not. We don't want to attract evil or assault by what we wear. Our clothing should be unquestionably modest.

## DRESS CODE VALUES

- **Modesty** as a first impression (tight clothes reveal shape and skin, loose clothes conceal)
- **Safety** from being sexually assaulted or attracting evil by what we wear
- **Cultural Sensitivity** to meet the local dress standards

## GUYS IN LATIN AND OVERSEAS LOCATIONS

**For ministry:** Khaki pants or jeans any color – without rips, holes, or stains; short-sleeved collared shirt (either button down or polo); shoes (sports ministry teams can wear sneakers)

**For work or camp:** Knee-length shorts. Long basketball shorts are good (waistband stays at the waist), jeans. Boots or shoes for work, sneakers for camp.

**For church:** A pair of khakis and a collared shirt. Shoes, not sneakers.

## LADIES IN LATIN AND OVERSEAS LOCATIONS

**For ministry (including sports):** Knee-length skirt/dress (bike shorts worn underneath work well). T-shirt or blouse with a full sleeve and covering the midriff when hands are stretched high overhead. No rips, holes, or stains. No shorts. Clothing should not be see-through. Shoes or flats are good.

**For work or camp:** Knee-length shorts (long basketball shorts are good), capri pants, jeans. Boots or shoes for work, sneakers for camp. Short sleeve shirts that cover the midriff when hands are stretched high overhead.

**For church:** Knee-length skirt/dress and shirt or blouse that meets above requirements.

**Not Allowed:** cutoff shirts or sleeveless shirts/dresses; low-necked shirts or shirts that don't cover the midriff; sexually suggestive writing or beer/drug advertisements on clothing; writing on the seat of the pants; shorts/pants with holes in them; loose soccer type shorts (When you sit down, you shouldn't be able to see up the leg of the shorts.) Open-toed sandals – all shoes must be close-toed and preferably closed-heel, as well.

Please contact your Project Leader for location-specific dress code requirements.

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

In order to develop meaningful relationships, you will need to know something about the culture in which you will be immersed. Spend your ministry team time learning about the culture of your mission trip location. Many groups experience more culture shock going to Philadelphia than they do going to Mexico.

Be ready for what you will see, smell, and hear. Prepare yourselves so that you will not lose a day of ministry because your group wasn't prepared for what they will encounter.

## EXTRA TEAM TIME

Spend some time thinking of ways to spur the other people in your team onto love and good deeds. This may even last longer than meeting time allows.

# MEETING 6

## MEETING FELT NEEDS

-or-

## ASK THE LORD

### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 1 hour: Ask the Lord
- 20 minutes: Ministry Team Time discussion and prayer

### BEFOREHAND

- Read and reflect on the following passages.
- Record your thoughts, journal, or note any prayer insights.
- Then, answer the questions provided.

*2 Kings 4:1-7*

*John 2:1-11*

*Acts 3:1-10*

1. What needs were met in these passages?
2. How were these needs different from one another?
3. How important were these needs to those involved? Did they seem important to the person filling the need? Why or why not?
4. Did meeting these needs bring glory to man or to God?
5. What are some ways that we can meet the needs of people around us?

*John 5:1-9, 13b*

1. How many people were at the pool?
2. How many needs did Jesus meet?
3. What did Jesus do after He met the need? Why do you think Jesus acted this way? Think back to Meeting 3 to answer this.

# LESSON

We encourage each participant to respond in obedience to God's specific direction to meet a local person's practical needs. This could be on construction projects, or it may be something very specific in response to a prompting of the Holy Spirit.

"Felt needs are real, but they're also temporary. The real need in all of us is a living relationship with the Father. Everything else is temporary, no matter how important it may seem."

On your project you will have scheduled ministry (like construction) and unscheduled opportunities (like while on a prayer walk) to meet people's felt needs. Jesus did it and He asks us to do it, too. This could be helping someone rake leaves, unload boxes from a truck, carry groceries, or even provide food for them. There are limitless ways we can meet a felt need. However, it is our policy not to give money.

When we meet a felt need, like painting a house, we can show the love of Christ and it can be very powerful. In the next week, see if you can meet someone's felt need.

## MINISTRY TIME - ASK THE LORD (ATL)

Ask the Lord to let God direct your outreach. Ask the Lord to fill this time with His intentions. As each person yields to the Lord, invite Him to show what He is doing and where He is going so you may join Him.

- Be sensitive to the Spirit, regarding when to break the silence for feedback.
- Write down any directives or impressions that team members get.
- Remind the group they are stepping out in faith, asking God to take them into His arena to play.
- This will give the participants room to risk without feeling self-conscious.

If there are no clear directives, don't hesitate to go back into prayer. He may direct you to move into prayer teams or to go for five-minute walks individually. It's very important for the leader to be listening for God's direction. As the leader, God will direct the group through your authority. Facilitate, rather than control, the time.

## GO OUT IN MINISTRY

Time spent at the feet of Jesus results in ministry. All authentic ministry comes from overflow – not from the flesh or man’s desire, but from the leading and empowering of the Spirit.

There will be time in your ATL to minister. Keep in mind that ministry can take many shapes. Don’t limit yourself or the team by discounting a prompting of the Spirit. Much significant ministry has taken place by some members staying back and praying.

Divide into teams according to which members have received a common message from God. Each team will then pray for the ministry area God has shown them, seeking clarification and direction.

As the teams move out, the Lord may not immediately reveal what ministry is to be done at a specific site. If so, head in that direction and let the Lord lead you. You can’t steer a ship that’s in the harbor, as they say, so move out in faith.

If you are doing this training by yourself, do not hesitate to allow this activity to strengthen your individual trust in Christ. Pray for what God would have you do and DO IT! You may involve your family and friends in this activity as a part of your ministry towards them.

Set a time to return for debrief and response, and to possibly get new direction for further ministry.

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

Here is the time when the teams meet back up.

What happened? Allow time for stories. Listen carefully and point out the “God things” that took place. For example, if God told a team to go pray at a school and while they were there they prayed with a student. Don’t focus on what they did but on what God did, and rejoice in it!

Remember to test it by going through the five points of discernment:

1. Did what happened bring glory to God?
2. Did other team members confirm it?
3. Was it consistent with the Scriptures?
4. What fruit did it produce?
5. If a direction was given in prayer, did it come to pass?

Check to see if the Lord is giving further direction. Does the team feel they should go back at another time to continue the ministry started today?

Give the challenge to continue seeking God for direction daily!

# MEETING 7

## Debrief and Respond -Or- Obedience in Practice

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### SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

- 20 minutes: Prayer and worship
- 20 minutes: Video Lesson and Overview
- 20 minutes: Team Time discussion and prayer

### BEFOREHAND

- Read and reflect on the following passages.
- Record your thoughts, journal, or note any prayer insights.
- Then, answer the questions provided.

*Acts 9:10-19*

*Exodus 33:15-17*

*Philippians 3:1-17*

1. How do we know that Ananias knew God?
2. How did God respond to Ananias?
3. Was Ananias obedient to what God asked him to do?
4. What do you think would have happened if Ananias had disobeyed God?
5. Because Ananias obeyed, what took place in Saul's life? Was a need met? Was a relationship started?
6. When we are obedient to God, many lives can be changed, including our own. How?

# LESSON

Over the last few lessons you've learned and experienced how God speaks, to listen in prayer, to share your faith, to build meaningful relationships, and to meet felt needs. Now let's pull it all together. **The most important part is how we respond to God.**

All that we've learned will be useless unless we are obedient to what we hear and see God doing. When God speaks and directs us to action, we'd better do it (Jonah). God desires obedience far more than an apology (1 Samuel 5:22). On your trip you will be greatly encouraged to follow obediently no matter how stretching it seems at the time. It will be awesome!

It's very important to appropriately respond to God after seeing what He does or realizing who He is. Times of prayer, worship, and song will help you to properly and rightly respond to the awesome God that loves us.

On your trip, the project leader will usually lead you through this time. So, this would be a good time to discuss the project leader's role for your trip.

## MINISTRY TEAM TIME

Use this time to reflect over what has been learned so far in the manual. This is the end of the formal lessons, but remind your group to keep growing in what they have learned. This might be a good time to debrief how the week went in terms of encouraging one another to love and good deeds.

# APPENDIX

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *WILL THE STUDENTS BE SAFE?*

AIM carefully assesses the safety of every project location. If the risk is too high, the trip is canceled. Each project leader is instructed to keep safety first. This is true at the mission bases as well as during ministry time.

### *WOULD THE MONEY BE BETTER SPENT ON SUPPORTING A MISSIONARY ALREADY AT THE LOCATION?*

We support local ministries by sending many volunteers each year as opposed to just a few missionaries or pastors doing a majority of the work.

Students exposed to missions may decide to commit their lives to the field full-time. Others in your church may be motivated to serve. Keep the big picture in mind, and don't let finances drive your ministry.

### *WILL THERE BE SAFE FOOD AND WATER?*

Yes. If local water is not safe to drink, AIM staff will purchase bottled water.

### *WHAT IS THE COURSE OF ACTION IN CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?*

The following steps will be taken:

- If a nurse or doctor is present, they will seek to stabilize them.
- Depending on the severity of the injury, the injured party will either be transferred to the nearest medical facility to be stabilized, or, if time permits, to a hospital where the care is of a higher caliber. In such instances, the medical release should accompany the person injured so that treatment is expedited.

Team leaders will be able to rely on the AIM project leaders. Project leaders have received training in steps to take in emergency situations. If they are ever stumped, they will contact the home office in Georgia. If the problem can be solved through the immediate transfer of funds, AIM will take such steps.

In some instances (such as discipline cases), it may be necessary to phone your own home church.

# GENERAL PACKING LIST

## CLOTHES

- 5-7 changes of clothes
- For construction projects: Work gloves, bandana, hat, sturdy work shoes, safety glasses
- Church clothes, if you will be at your project location on a Sunday
- Lightweight jacket and/or rain jacket
- Knee length shorts for free time
- Underwear and socks
- Comfortable walking shoes, shower shoes, 1 pair of dress shoes for church (if applicable)

## BEDDING

- Pajamas, flashlight, battery operated alarm clock
- Pillow and sleeping bag or set of twin sheets and light blanket
- Air Mattress, if needed

## TOILETRIES

- Soap, shampoo, razor, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth and towel
- Brush or comb, ponytail holders
- Extra glasses, extra contact lenses, cleaning solution, sun glasses
- Unscented moisturizer, nail clippers, nail file, Q tips, bandages, Kleenex
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Medication

## OTHER

- Bible, student journal, pens
- Backpack
- Water bottle – Nalgene bottles are recommended
- Camera, extra batteries
- Passport and photo identification –Required for overseas trips
- Granola bars, small snacks, drink mixes, etc.
- Extra money for snacks, souvenirs and offering

## THINGS NOT TO PACK

- Hairdryers, curling irons & straighteners
- Electronic devices: CD players, iPods, video games, etc.
- Cell Phones (adult leaders may have cell phones)
- Anything item that supports a focus on appearance or isolates people from participating with the rest of the group

# CLOTHING GUIDELINES

It is important to remember that when you are on the field ministering, you are representing God, Adventures in Missions, and local missionaries. Modesty is the key to all clothing you decide to bring with you. If you are questioning whether or not you should bring it, then leave it at home.

Here are a few guidelines for clothing choices:

1. Bring something modest to sleep in.
2. No short, tight, or clingy clothing is permitted. Wear one size larger in tops to ensure your shirt is not too tight.
3. No sleeveless shirts or tank tops are permitted for girls or guys.
4. If you cannot raise your arms above your head or touch your toes without showing your stomach or lower back, leave it at home.
5. Shorts must come to the top of the knee. Capri and Goucho pants are great options!
6. Skirts and dresses should be below or close to the knee. Depending on location, skirts should be to the ankle.
7. Make sure clothes are not stained and/or torn. You do not have to wear your best clothing but make yourself presentable. It may be offensive to the locals if you look sloppy.
8. Bring clothes for church services. Boys should bring khakis pants and a collared shirt. Girls should bring skirts below the knee and loose blouses.
9. Bring closed toes shoes for ministry opportunities. You may bring flip-flops, sandals or other shoes for recreation time.

Depending on your location and the cultural norms, we may need to adjust the dress code. In some countries it will be necessary for women to be in long skirts all the time. Some cultures view men in shorts as little boys and you will not receive the respect of an adult.

Any tattoos or piercings may need to be covered at times if it is offensive to the cultures or ministries. Your leaders will let you know this when you get in country. You may be asked to cover the tattoo or take the piercings out while involved in ministry.

# FOR YOUTH GROUPS: INVOLVING PARENTS

1. Before asking a parent to participate in meetings, make sure the teen and parent have a good relationship that will not distract from the meetings.
2. Parents are a good source of ideas, resources, and input. They may spot areas that you overlook. They can also help you refine your preparation as they consider their teen's life and development.
3. Parental involvement can help keep teens accountable.
4. Parents get to see, first hand, their teen's spiritual development.
5. Respect their position of authority as parents.
6. The more knowledge parents have, the more comfortable they will feel about their students' participation.
7. Keep parents informed! We will post at least three project updates on our web site for most locations. Make sure that parents know about this. It will help them feel secure about having their teen travel, especially if this is the first time they've been on a mission trip.
8. Have parents coordinate ways the church can support the students and their ministry, even with fund raising.
9. Have one parent as your contact after you have arrived at your project location. Call or e-mail that person who can then contact the rest of the parents.
10. Encourage parents to pray with their teen often prior to the project.
11. Parents could pray together before, during, and after the trip.
12. Ask parents not to schedule events that overlap with mission trip prep meetings and responsibilities.
13. Consider asking parents to have their students pay the registration fee to increase personal investment.
14. Have parents write letters to their students beforehand. Collect them and hand them out daily, or mid week, to encourage the students.

## PROMOTING YOUR MISSION TRIP

1. Research AIM's materials about the location of your mission trip. Learn as much as you can about the ministries, housing, cultural issues, costs, transportation, the role of your project leader, and safety.
2. Obtain the approval of your church leadership to conduct this trip before you approach your group.
3. Set up a meeting with possible participants and if students are involved, invite their parents to attend as well. Students participating on trips outside the USA need both parents to sign their medical releases.
4. Prepare participants from previous trips to share mission testimonies.
5. Design flyers advertising the mission project and the promotional meeting.
6. Determine your absence policy for your training meetings. Include the consequences of missing meetings. Have your church leadership approve and support this policy.
7. Design a church display board that communicates trip details. Maintain this board from the beginning of sign-up until the presentation service after your return.
8. Determine any screening criteria in addition to that required by AIM's STM program, such as personal interviews and participating in discipleship groups.
9. Prepare creative ways to communicate the dress code and explain why it exists.
10. Conduct a question-and-answer time.
11. Explain requirements for obtaining immunizations, passports, birth certificates, and other photo identification.

## THE BENEFITS OF PREPARATION

1. Teams develop realistic expectations of the trip.
2. Ministry on the field is more productive.
3. God is able to use your group in more ways.
4. Team unity, community, and identity develop.
5. You can identify potential problems early and help attitudes become more Christ-like.
6. Learning takes place in a safe setting.

# SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY ON STM TRIPS

The organizational chain of command is fairly simple and follows the typical top-down structure with which most of us are familiar. Spiritual authority, on the other hand, is entirely different. It cannot be delegated and is not yours automatically by virtue of your position as a leader.

God alone possesses spiritual authority because of who He is. It flows from His character into both the spiritual and physical realms. God has the right to establish His laws and standards over His creation, and to delegate authority.

Adventures In Missions is a para-church organization and does not replace the local church. We have been called to come alongside and serve the Church. Each mission trip has been assigned a project leader. This leader could be a full-time staff member or one of our trained and certified volunteer staff. Every project leader has been screened and placed over each mission as the delegated spiritual authority representing STM.

The project leader is the spiritual and organizational head of a mission trip. Most trips will be assigned support staff, and possibly a speaker and worship leader. These staff members report directly to the project leader. Any direction they give on the trip is subject to the project leader's authority.

On most of our missions trips, there are several churches represented. The leader of each group is also under the authority of the project leader. Each leader directly oversees and directs his or her group.

For example, should a question arise about a participant complying with the dress code, the project leader will locate the participant's leader, discuss the issue, and have the leader address the participant. If you, as a leader, encounter a problem with a participant from another group, the appropriate response would be to contact the project leader. He or she will address the issue with the appropriate leader.

Exercising spiritual authority on an STM project may be low-key, seen only by the Father as you intercede for your participants. It may be more visible if situations arise that require you to deal with spiritual or behavioral problems. Remember that your spiritual authority is to be grounded in love, not frustration. Its purpose is to protect, heal, and restore. Treat people the way you would want to be treated.

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