

MULTIPLY YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH SHORT TERM MISSIONS OVERSEAS

You have a big investment in your ministry in time, energy, training, and perhaps financial investment.

You have grown through training and experience.

Overseas or cross-cultural ministry can multiply the value of your ministry:

TO YOU

TO THOSE YOU SERVE HERE

TO THOSE YOU WILL SERVE THERE,

Both American missionaries and nationals,

Both the unevangelized and other servants of God seeking to reach the people of that culture.

MULTIPLIES VALUE TO YOURSELF

Helps you develop and use more fully all the gifts God has given you.

Results in deep level of satisfaction, knowing you are using your gifts to enhance world missions.

MULTIPLIES VALUE TO THOSE YOU SERVE HERE (Your class, congregation, youth group, church)

Offers class the benefits of cross-cultural experience, either actually or vicariously

Broadens & deepens your teaching

Makes you more interesting

Helps you better understand and articulate God's great plan for the world

MULTIPLIES VALUE TO THOSE YOU SERVE THERE

By giving missionaries a much needed and appreciated break, thus refreshing them and making them more effective in ministry

By providing missionaries the time/opportunity to do/experience things that would help them, but that they would otherwise not have the time/resources/training for

By sharing your gifts with the world, thus advancing the progress of the Gospel

“As poor, yet making many rich”

WIN-WIN-WIN—EVERYBODY WINS PROPOSITION

How to go

2 Basic ways to go—

1. As a group, in response to an appeal of a specific organization

The organization arranges most things for you and decides on activities

2. As an individual. More freedom, can be more proactive

You can ask organizations what opportunities they have, what needs you might meet. You can be proactive. Make up a resumé and let them know what you can do. Then they can match you up with needs or opportunities they have.

List specific skills—the more specific the better

For instance, these terms are general—Christian education

Teaching

Music

These terms are more specific—

Puppetry

Flannelgraph

Creating your own songs

Games

These terms are specific enough to be of real use—

- I can guide teachers in making their own large soft headed puppets and learning to use them for memory verse review.
- I can teach teachers to make their own flannel backgrounds.
- I can guide teachers in making up their own songs using tunes well known in their culture.
- I can teach six review games children love that require no special preparation or materials.

Ask if there are specific jobs you can do and suggest some you might like to do (combinations of several jobs are fine). What would be a blessing to them? (Sort of like proactively “selling” yourself in a resumé)

Some ideas:

Organize a library

Home school a missionary’s kid for a special unit or subject or extracurricular activity

Serve as a nanny to give a harried mom a break or to allow her to attend a retreat

Tutor a national staff member in English

Give ideas for redecorating the house or apartment, then carry out the project

Demonstrate new teaching methods/ideas

Solve computer problems

Do personal or family counseling

Write stories about the ministry to use for public relations

Gather material and then or later create a website for the missionary/ministry

Take videos or pictures to use for public relations

Supervise a guest house temporarily while someone takes a break

Prepare some American dishes the family has been craving

Make a scrapbook for their display table

Home painting/home repairs

Give music theory/instrument/voice lessons

Give haircuts or perms
 Build bookcases or furniture
 Do car repairs
 Mending
 Develop a personal training program for individuals
 Prayer walking for problem areas or specific needs
 Prepare visuals for teaching
 Record songs

What useful things do you know how to do?
 What useful things do you like to do?
 What can you do for the missionaries and their children?
 For the churches they serve?
 For specialized departments within the church—children? youth? women? men? teachers?
 musicians?
 For the public or the unevangelized?

Some general Tips

Expect to pay your own way—don't be a drain on the missionary's limited finances
 Be flexible and ready to compromise
 Absolutely no complaining or sour looks or comments or sighs
 Find out what the lifestyle will be like—Go to a place where you can accept the sacrifices
 Bring a special treat for your host family if staying in a home
 Don't take it personally if some missionaries are too busy to receive you

Some ideas for Raising Support

Many people actually volunteer to help short termers
 You are not begging—you are offering them a great opportunity to get in on the blessing
 You need prayer partners as well as financial partners
 Advise seeking some financial partners even if you can afford to do it all on your own

Some ideas for Reporting & Follow-Up

Thank your supporters soon after your trip is over—email or letters
 Maybe during the trip if it is longer than 2 weeks/month
 Don't think of it in purely personal terms
 Think how your report could enhance the continuing ministry of the missionary or mission you helped—financially, in prayer, in material or in-kind donations, in others helping like you did, in creating sustaining partnerships.

You will find that your own ministry is multiplied

Because you have shared it with others in truly needy places & situations
 Because you have grown in so many ways yourself
 Because you now have a wealth of true original stories (not to mention pictures) with which to inspire others

I hope many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to multiply your ministry in this way.