

laying the foundations

Why should we go?

God loves all people and desires none to be lost

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10)

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (Matt 22:36-40)

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 (Matt 25:40)

We are chosen and called to be God's co-workers

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matt 28:18). He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation (Mark 16:15)

He told them, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Luke 10:2)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name (John 15:16)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)

Mission helps us to grow spiritually

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Heb 11:1) ... and without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6)

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? (James 2:14)

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God (Col 1:10)

Why is Spiritual Preparation important?

- You are going as an _____ for Christ, your sending church and sending organisation.
- Your Christian character will be under the spotlight during your mission trip.
- You may experience spiritual _____ during the trip – after all we have an enemy who does not want us to succeed in our mission.

How can we prepare?

We should consider a kind of 'Spiritual WOF' before we leave – the sooner the better!

- Is anything _____ your relationship with Jesus? Confess any sins and receive God's forgiveness. (1 Jn 1:5-9)
- Do you regularly read and apply God's Word to your own life?
- Do you set aside time to pray and listen to Him?
- Have you considered _____ ? It gives us an unhurried and extended period of time to seek God's face. Maybe arrange to do this as a team.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit – we can do _____ useful for God in our own strength. The Christian life is Christ living in us by His Spirit.

Other suggestions

- Ask a small group of people to be _____. Start now!
- Consider keeping a _____, for most of us our memories are limited. Write down your prayers and how they are answered.
 - Record the things God speaks to you about, either directly or through others.
 - Jot down key scriptures.
 - While on the trip write at the end of each day what you have experienced and felt.
 - Hold morning devotions
- Prepare a short personal testimony (ideally have a both 3 minute and 10 minute versions). No one can argue with the power of a changed life!
 - Rehearse with a greeting in the host language and bring a greeting from your church.
 - Thank God for who he is and what he has done in your life.
 - Affirm something about their country, church or culture.
 - Give some information about yourself, how you came to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour and how your life has changed since.
 - End with a Bible verse, and share its personal significance to you.

Authority

The three flags of authority:

- the country you are travelling from
- the country you are travelling to
- the authority of Jesus, which is why we go (2 Cor 5:20)

The authority of the host missionary/leader:

- They have positional authority under God
- They operate under the authority of their sending church and/or organisation
- They have years of experience, living among the indigenous people and building relationships with them
- They understand the differences between your home culture and the host culture

“A short-term missions team member can undo in a matter of minutes what a missionary has struggled to do over several years, by his/her unwillingness to adhere to the counsel or guidelines established by the leadership”

playing as a team

Personality Strengths Survey

(Please complete this exercise on your own)

Fill in the table below by ticking all the words and phrases that you think best describe you.

Then count the total ticks for each of the four main boxes and write it in the space provided.

Lion		Beaver	
Likes authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Takes charge	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Accurate
Confident	<input type="checkbox"/> Determined	<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent	<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled
Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> Enterprising	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserved	<input type="checkbox"/> Predictable
Enjoys challenges	<input type="checkbox"/> Competitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Practical	<input type="checkbox"/> Orderly
Problem solver	<input type="checkbox"/> Productive	<input type="checkbox"/> Factual	<input type="checkbox"/> Conscientious
Bold	<input type="checkbox"/> Purposeful	<input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionist	<input type="checkbox"/> Discerning
Goal driven	<input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed	<input type="checkbox"/> Analytical
Strong willed	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Inquisitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Precise
Self reliant	<input type="checkbox"/> Controlling	<input type="checkbox"/> Persistent	<input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled
Persistent	<input type="checkbox"/> Action oriented	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Deliberate
Total Ticks	_____	Total Ticks	_____

Otter		Golden Retriever	
Enthusiastic	<input type="checkbox"/> Takes risks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive feelings	<input type="checkbox"/> Loyal
Visionary	<input type="checkbox"/> Motivator	<input type="checkbox"/> Calm	<input type="checkbox"/> Even keeled
Energetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Very verbal	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-demanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Gives in
Promoter	<input type="checkbox"/> Friendly	<input type="checkbox"/> Avoids confrontation	<input type="checkbox"/> Indecisive
Mixes easily	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys popularity	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys routine	<input type="checkbox"/> Dislikes change
Fun loving	<input type="checkbox"/> Likes variety	<input type="checkbox"/> Warm & relational	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry humour
Spontaneous	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys change	<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptable	<input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic
Creative/new ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> Group oriented	<input type="checkbox"/> Thoughtful	<input type="checkbox"/> Nurturing
Optimistic	<input type="checkbox"/> Initiator	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient	<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerant
Infectious laughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspirational	<input type="checkbox"/> Good listener	<input type="checkbox"/> Peace maker
Total Ticks	_____	Total Ticks	_____

Which personality type do you think you are?

I am a _____ with aspects of a _____

In our 'bit of fun' personality test (please don't take it too seriously!) there are 4 basic personality types. Who have you got in your team?

Personality Types	Positives	Negatives
Lion	Aggressive, strong, driven, 'Type A' personality	Insensitive, annoying, perfectionist leanings, can get angry if things go badly
Otter	Encouraging, loves people, life of the party, great spokesperson	Not detail oriented, undisciplined, impulsive, has trouble with timeliness
Beaver	Attention to details, creative, exact	Moody, sullen, sometimes angry, thinks their way is the right way
Golden Retriever	Calm, cool, loyal, gets along with everyone, even-keeled	Can be boring or uninspiring

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

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. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free— and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. (NIV)

dealing with conflict

Each member of the body of Christ is important. In order for us to maximise our impact, team members must recognise and use their gifts.

Additionally, it is important to _____ the gifts of other team members.

Together, we can make a difference!

On a mission trip there is always potential for conflict

There will be _____, cultural differences, tiredness and new situations may catapult us out of our comfort zone. This can be quite stressful.

Conflict can destroy the _____ of a team and your mission.

How to cope

Recognise that there isn't a single _____ personality type, all are needed in a good team.

This is the time when someone's personality can wind us up!

Respect one another's gifts.

During stressful situations, ask God what you can learn about _____.

Talk to your team leader, quietly and privately.

Focus on the _____ not the problem. Don't allow yourself to be distracted.

Remember that the ultimate goal is to reach people for Christ, it helps to put the issue into perspective.

Be _____ and go with the flow - remember that God is in control.

Pray for one another, even (especially!) for the person that is annoying you.

Biblical advice for keeping peace in relationships:

- Don't ignore conflict
 - address it
- Don't exaggerate conflict
 - solve it with the least possible publicity and public scrutiny
 - take affected parties discreetly to one side
- Don't abandon conflict
 - pursue it to resolution
- Don't fence yourself in by conflict
 - taking witnesses requires that you are also open to reproof and correction
- Don't recycle conflict
 - once resolved, let it go and get back to your life

"I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord" Philippians 4:2

Summary

The way in which you relate with each other as a team is an important part of your witness.

Many cultures in our world live as tight social units and have plenty of problems with conflict, so they will observe how you live as a _____.

You will have an opportunity to be a powerful witness as you love one another and walk in unity (John 17).

re-entry - prepare before you go!

Looking back

- What were your expectations?
- How were they met?
- What did you do on the trip and how did you feel about it?
- What was one answered prayer that you had?
- Which special story can you share?

Looking forward

- What changes have you noticed about yourself, and how they may affect life at home?
- What priorities need to be rearranged?
- How do you hope to keep your vision for God and the world alive?
- What is your main concern about returning home?

For discussion

- How should you begin to prepare for re-entry?
- What are some ways you can reconnect with friends and family when you return?
- Define your destination
Where do you want to be five, ten, fifteen, twenty years from now?
- How will you get there?
Write a mission statement for your life

Closing thoughts

- Prepare for re-entry
- Don't expect things to be the same
- Prepare for coming home in the same way you prepared to go

Prepare for what God has in mind for you

- Ask Him to help you during the transition
- Prepare for battle (it doesn't only happen overseas!)
- God wants those seeds that were planted to grow
- Satan wants to destroy them!

Remember

- We can all live with a purpose, so we die with no regrets
- We must embrace His grace