

(Please give to your Pastor)

How to Make the Most of Short-Term Missions

Suggestions for the Pastor and the Church

The Pastor

1. Show a genuine interest and excitement about the person's plans for short-term missions service.
2. Make an appointment with them and allow them to share the details personally.
3. Put them on your prayer list and inform others about their need for prayer.
4. Suggest one or two people who might be helpful for them to talk to. (People who have been to the destination of the short-term missionary, etc.)
5. Give the short-termer the opportunity to share in a service.
6. Tell other people in the church about the person's plans. (Try doing it in the presence of the short-termer, it lets them know that they are important to you.)
7. From time to time ask them how they are progressing.
8. Share information from articles or books that you feel would be helpful.
9. If it's a young person, tell the parents how pleased you are with their son's or daughter's decision.
10. Help motivate financial support for the short-termer.
11. Inform the people in the church about the benefits of short-term missions.

The Church

1. Positively reinforce the person's decision regarding short-term missionary service.
2. Ask them questions about what they will be doing and how you can help them prepare.
3. Pray for them at prayer meetings and put them on the church prayer list. Have a short-termer give progress reports.
4. Give them insights into the country they will be ministering in, and help them collect information about it.
5. The missions committee should discuss how the church can be financially involved.
6. Invite the short-termer to share at various meetings such as ladies' groups, Bible study groups, men's prayer groups, etc.
7. Let the short-termer know that you are praying for them, and that you will be considering how God wants you to be involved financially.
8. Share missions experiences that you or someone else has had.
9. Keep asking them how they are progressing.
10. Write to them during their missions project.
11. Share Scripture that you feel would be helpful.

12. Be genuine in your concern.
13. Encourage other people to support them through prayer and financial giving.
14. Encourage groups in the church to do special projects to raise money for the short-terminer and then make a presentation in a service. Some examples of groups would be the youth, Sunday school classes, ladies' groups, etc.
15. Encourage a small group of people to meet with the short-terminer regularly for prayer.
16. Have a sign-up sheet for the church people to pray for the short-terminer each day of their trip.
17. Have a 24-hour, around-the-clock, sign-up sheet for people to commit to praying during one specific hour each day of their trip.
18. Have a group from the church go to the airport for the person's departure and arrival.
19. Put progress reports in the church bulletin or newsletter.
20. Have the short-terminer share in a service after they return.
21. Encourage the person who has had this experience to motivate others to be short-term or career missionaries.
22. Encourage the short-term missionary to continue being actively involved in missions.
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

There are other ideas that you may think of, and we would encourage you to add them to the list. If you will put some of these ideas into practice, it will help make the short-term missions experience a positive one for the whole church as well as the missionary. The practical application of these suggestions will draw the church together and help develop a spirit of unity and support. God bless you as you seek to grow through this opportunity.