10 Tips for Short-Term Missions Preparations

As many of you prepare for a missions internship or trip next summer, consider these 10 tips for making it a profitable experience.

1. Prepare your heart.
Many details need to be cared for before making a trip, but the most important way you can prepare yourself is spiritually. Remember, the reason you are making the trip is to serve Christ. Pray that you will be teachable and will demonstrate love toward the people you will meet. Finally, plead for your own spiritual development.

2. Communicate!
Communicate, communicate, communicate! Begin communicating with your missionary host as soon as your trip has been arranged. Mention any of your abilities that might be used on the field. Begin asking your host questions about specific assignments, dates, clothing needed, cultural norms, etc.

3. **Use a travel agent.**
For smoother and more enjoyable travel, BMM recommends making arrangements through a travel agent. If your trip needs to be postponed or canceled, you have a better chance to recoup your funds through a travel agency. Also, they are usually aware of any visa needs and can point you in the right direction.

4. **Passport ASAP!**
Be certain to obtain a passport well in advance of making your trip. If you are already a passport holder, make certain that it will not expire during the time you will be on the mission field. If you prefer having someone else handle this paperwork, Travel Document Systems is a great resource. Visit their website at [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com).

5. **Get permission to visit.**
Many countries require that you have a visa in hand prior to arrival. Normally, you must have a travel itinerary and a passport to apply for a visa. Failure to acquire the proper visa may result in your immediate return to the United
States. Overlooking this important detail will certainly ruin your trip! Once again, visit www.traveldocs.com.

6. Got the right health insurance?
It is very important to find out if your current health insurance will cover you while traveling abroad. If not, a number of reasonably priced international short-term insurance policies provide coverage. Also, a good way to avoid illness while on the field is to get the immunizations recommended for the country you will visit.

7. Partner with others.
It is important to begin raising funds and prayer support for your trip well in advance. Begin by carefully crafting a letter or social media post directed to friends and family that outlines your purpose and desire for the trip. Your prayer requests, the amount of money needed, the deadline for receiving funds, and where the money should be sent should all be clearly explained in your appeal.

8. Have an open mind.
Missions requires a sensitivity to the culture. For example, the manner in which church services are conducted in a foreign culture may be quite different than what you are used to. Remember, you are now the foreigner. Be prepared for some lifestyle restrictions or discomforts. As it relates to language, try to learn a few key phrases, especially for friendly introductions, and learn how to give part
of your testimony.

9. **Be a servant.**
Remember the reason you are there is to serve, not to be served. Be available. You may be asked to do some things in your ministry that you have never done before. Give it your all!

10. **Tell your partners about what God did.**
It is very important that you communicate with those who have made it possible for you to make this trip. They need to understand how their investment has made a difference. While on your trip, regularly update your partners. Once you return, be sure to send a note of thanks for giving you this privilege.

Consider doing an internship or mission trip with BMM. We’ll be glad to lead you through the process and be a sounding board for you as you prepare. Let us know if you would like to consider one of our opportunities.
Experience the spiritual and cultural climate of Cambodia this summer. Work alongside BMM missionaries for six weeks as they minister for Christ in a third-world country. The internship can aid you in seeking God's will for your life.

Application deadline is February 14.