

Home... Now What?

1. Provide feedback to BMA Missions on what you didn't feel prepared for.

It is the desire for BMA Short-Term Missions to always be improving. The intent of this material as well as meetings you will attend throughout this process is to prepare you for your mission trip. However, we always want to exist as a work in progress. For this reason please do not hesitate to share areas where you did not feel prepared or feel like you could have been trained better. The next team that hits the field could be even more effective through your suggestions.

2. Share your story.

Look for opportunities to share about your trip. Ask a pastor if you can share with the youth group, Sunday School Class or maybe even the entire congregation. Create a slide show and post your pictures to Facebook. If people supported you financially, make a special effort to inform them about your trip.

3. Apply what you did on this mission field to your home mission field.

Chances are you are going to come back from your trip with a fresh insight to the fact that there are many lost people in this world and the message of the gospel is truly powerful to save. So now that your plane has touched down, what do you need to do? Start looking at the schedule of trips for next year? Maybe. But what are you going to do from now until then. The correct answer is to commit to serve on your home mission field. Take your zeal from your trip to a foreign land and apply it to home.

- a. Walk in an awareness of the lost around you.

At your school or work or among your friends there are lost people just like in your mission trip destination. Also, they are in need of the same gospel that you took across the ocean or across the United States. Be strategic. Just as you thought through the best way to reach those people, think strategically about the best way to reach those around you everyday.

- b. Serve your local church.

Chances are on your trip you gave aid to a local church. But your very own local church needs help as well. Go to your church leaders and tell them how excited you are about your trip and that you want to serve in the church like you did on the mission field. This will bless their hearts and bless your local body of believers.

4. Continue to pray and communicate with the missionary.

Your missionary will continue to battle it out in the trenches of the mission field long after you get home. It is a blessed but hard life for them. Take great pains in praying for them and letting them know that you are praying and thinking of them. Send the family frequent Facebook posts, cards or even care packages. The impact that you could continue to have, long after your trip, cannot be overstated.

5. Continue to pray and communicate with your team.

To serve on a mission team together is often a bond that is not easily broken. You can have a huge impact on each other long after the trip is over. As you carried each other through a mission field, continue to carry one another through life. Encourage one another as you move forward after this exciting trip.

6. Ready to go back? Start planning.

Start thinking about your next trip. How can you invite others to accompany you? How can you get more

people involved in your endeavor? You may want to consider returning to the same location. It's good to see the world but it's even better to plant yourself in the heart of one missionary and one people. Think about returning. Also, think about the possibility of returning for a more extended stay. Every short-term missionary should question whether or not God is calling them to take the step to long-term missions.