

# No-Nos with Missionaries

1. Never criticize the missionary, his work, the people, or the culture.
2. Never violate cultural norms. Example: In some cultures, women are very shy and for a woman to be talking alone with a man is a social taboo. Find out from your missionary what behavior is acceptable and stick to it.
3. Never just stand around – get involved! Always look for ways to help and be a blessing to the missionary and their family.
4. Never be lazy – help out with chores, food preparation and cleanup, keep the room you are staying in clean and neat, etc.
5. Never take pictures or video at a worship service without asking permission from the missionary first. You don't want to needlessly offend anyone.
6. Never underestimate the missionary's children. Make friends with them, and even volunteer to baby-sit if it would help the missionary couple
7. Never try to change things on the mission field. Things that make no sense to you may be custom or culture for those people.
8. Never create or get involved in controversy. If someone tries to tell you something negative about the missionary, please don't listen.
9. Never make promises to the people, unless you are absolutely certain that you will be able to fulfill your promise.
10. Never forget to pray for your missionary before, during and after the trip.
11. Never do something to embarrass the missionary or damage the ministry. Remember that while you will be there only for a few days, the missionary must live there for months and years to come.