

Handbook for Willing To Go, Inc. Thailand

SHORT TERM MISSIONS

“We tend to get a burden for people we’ve walked among, lived with and laughed with.”

It’s hard to catch God’s heart for the world if you’ve known nothing but your own hometown. Short-term missions are an effective strategy for mobilizing people and expose them to what God is doing around the globe. Short-term missions can offer each participant enormous benefits, as they are stretched out of their comfort zones, and they may experience significant spiritual growth. It can build relationships within the group and cross-culturally, expanding our world vision and strengthening the worldwide body of Christ. The communities we work in are blessed. Team members also have the opportunity to develop significant relationships with these individuals. The communities benefit from the additional love and attention they receive from the team, leaving them with more joy in their hearts. Short-term mission groups can be of any size, but typically consist of 5 - 10 people who do a trip for about 1 to 2 weeks.

Such teams can engage in a variety of activities, including but not limited to one or more of the following:

- Construction of new facilities at places like The School of Promise
 - Ministry, evangelism, sports, crafts, and other activities
 - Medical/Dental missions, such as mobile clinics in communities (promoting health and hygiene), surgical intervention, etc...(ability or extent to do medical and dental missions may be limited due to Thai laws on bringing medical equipment and medications into the country. Even getting medication in country can be a challenge. If you are interested in Medical or Dental missions check out our trips to Nicaragua.
 - Source of light in the way of solar/battery operated led lights.
 - Working and ministering in children’s homes and orphanages
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Working with local churches to maximize Kingdom impact
- *Check Ministry Opportunities at www.willingtogo.com for the complete list.

“Lack of preparation results in greater burdens for the staff in the host country and gives rise to difficulties, which could be avoided.”

Proper preparation builds relationships between team members prior to working together in the field. Preparation is also important in helping team members anticipate what it will be like during the trip. It will help develop a better understanding of the people of Thailand and ways in which to effectively minister to them. It also helps develop cross-cultural sensitivities, brings a deeper understanding of the local history and culture, identifies what would be appropriate or inappropriate conduct (both in Chiang Mai and in the mountains) and helps plan the logistics of the trip.

History of Missions in Thailand

Ann Hesseltine Judson (the wife of Adoniram Judson) was the first Protestant missionary to work among the Thai. From 1813 to 1826 she evangelized Siamese war captives in Burma. In 1828 the first Protestant missionaries from the West came to work in Thailand. The churches that were planted by Baptist and Presbyterians were growing very slowly. There were less than ten Protestant churches by 1855 and the first ethnic Thai woman to be baptized didn't happen until 1860.

Daniel McGilvary is known as the first missionary to Northern Thailand. He started mission work in Northern Thailand as an American Presbyterian missionary and 1867 was when the first baptism took place in Northern Thailand. The church in the north took off by the 1880's with more than 7,000 members. Church growth decreased significantly around 1914. At some point around this time the focus shifted from evangelism and church planting to building schools and hospitals. Many believe this shift in focus hurt church growth. There were also other Missions coming in such as: British Churches of Christ, who saw some fruit among Chinese in Nakhon Pathom, the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA), and the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA), which focused on Isaan (Northeast Thailand).

The Thai Church started to experience official persecution during World War II. Christians were forced to go back to Buddhism. Churches were shut down and missionary activity had to cease. Some say that around 40% of Christians during this time didn't stand firm in their faith and reverted back to Buddhism. The Laos Church founded a church in Chiang Mai in 1868 but in 1869 the Laos Church experienced persecution with two of its members being martyred and the rest

being scattered. In 1878 Daniel McGilvary played a major role in obtaining the so-called “Proclamation of Religious Toleration” from the Thai central government. This gave certain civil rights to northern Thai converts.

Northern Thais have been Buddhists for over 1000 years. For over 150 years now Protestant missionaries have worked with the Northern Thai. Missionaries have made very slow progress with the Northern Thai people while mission work with tribal peoples (including the Hill Tribes) has grown rapidly. There are presently about 2,000 foreign missionaries and their families living in Chiang Mai which has become a hub for foreign missions in Southeast Asia. What’s interesting is that most of these missionaries work out of Chiang Mai and focus their work on people groups in surrounding countries like Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, China and Cambodia. And most who work in Thailand focus their work on the Hill Tribes. This makes for a strange situation in which all of the missionaries living out of Chiang Mai may actually outnumber the number of ethnic Thai Christians in Chiang Mai. This also means that very little attention is being given to the Northern Thai people group.

The Joshua Project lists this people group as a 1.2 meaning they are among the least reached people groups on the planet. 96.40% are Buddhists while only .40% are Christian and only .20% are Evangelical. The Joshua Project classifies this group as an unreached people group because the number of evangelicals is greater than 0.01% but less than 2% and the number of professing Christians is less than 5%. The population of the Northern Thai people is around six and a half million. In view of our mandate to by Jesus to “Go and make disciples of all nations...” I believe it’s our responsibility to have a focus on the Northern Thai people. They are right under the noses of 2,000 missionaries whose focus is on other people groups. We know that after some time when the cultural barrier is jumped the gospel can spread rapidly. This is a people group numbering more than 6 million people. I believe we should focus on this people group now so we can see a church planting movement take place and see the Northern Thai people group be used of God to take the Gospel to other unreached people groups in Thailand and all of Southeast Asia.

Thailand Climate

The Thailand climate is controlled by tropical monsoons and the weather in Thailand is generally hot and humid across most of the country throughout most of the year. While Thailand’s seasons are generally divided into the hot season, cool season, and rainy season, in reality it’s relatively hot most of the year. The weather in central, northern, and northeastern Thailand (the landlocked provinces) is determined by three seasons, whereas the southern, coastal regions of Thailand feature only two, making the weather in Thailand quite easy to understand and plan a trip around. In Thailand’s inland provinces the seasons are clearly defined: Between November and May the weather is mostly dry and

the cool season and hot season occur from November to February and March to May respectively. The other inland season, the rainy season, lasts from May to November and is dominated by the southwest monsoon, during which time rainfall in most of Thailand is at its heaviest.

Transportation and Communication

Transport in Thailand is varied and chaotic, with no one dominant means of transport. Bus transport dominates in long distances and Bangkok, with motorbikes dominating in rural areas for short trips, supplanting bicycles. Road transportation is the primary form of freight transport across the country. Slow rail travel has long been a rural long distance transport mechanism, though plans are underway to expand services with high speed rail lines extending to several major regions of Thailand. Domestic air transport, which until recently had been dominated by a select few air carriers, has recently seen a surge in popularity due in large part to the expanding services of low cost carriers. In Bangkok, Pattaya, and other large cities, public motorbike taxis take people door to door.

An overwhelming number of taxis can also be found in Bangkok. Since the country's first rapid rail transit line opened in 1999 in Bangkok, daily ridership on Bangkok's various transit lines has risen to over 800,000, with multiple additional lines either under construction or being proposed. Private automobiles, whose rapid growth contributed to Bangkok's notorious traffic congestion over the past two decades, have risen in popularity, especially among tourists, expats, upper class and a growing middle class. A motorway network across Thailand has been gradually implemented, with motorways completed in Bangkok and most of central Thailand. Areas with navigable waterways often have boats or boat service, and many innovative means of transport exist such as [tuk-tuk](#), [vanpool](#), [songthaew](#), and even elephants in rural areas.

Education

Education in Thailand is provided mainly by the Thai government through the Ministry of Education from pre-school to senior high school. A free basic education of twelve years is guaranteed by the constitution, and a minimum of nine years' school attendance is mandatory.

Formal education consists of at least twelve years of basic education, and higher education. Basic education is divided into six years of primary education and six years of secondary education, the latter being further divided into three years of lower- and upper-secondary levels. Kindergarten levels of pre-primary education, also part of the basic education level, span 2–3 years depending on the locale, and are variably provided

Thailand at a Glance:

Head of state:	His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej
Prime minister:	Yingluck Shinawatra
Minister of Foreign Affairs:	Surapong Towijakchaikul
Minister of Interior:	Yongyuth Wichaidit
Minister of Finance:	Kittirat na Ranong
Population:	63.87 million (31 December 2010)
Capital:	Bangkok
Area:	513,115 sq km (198,115 sq miles)
Major language:	Thai
Major religion:	Buddhism
Life expectancy:	72.94 years (men) 77.21 years (women) ²
Monetary unit:	1 baht = 0.0317 USD. 1 USD = 31.543 Baht. (rates as of 20 January 2012)
Main exports:	Food, agricultural commodities, live animals, office equipment, textiles, rubber

Money

In Thailand the currency is called Baht, and 1 Baht = around 1 USD. Since rates always fluctuate, you may want to check the current trading prices. It is easiest to deal with U.S. dollars in small denominations. We recommend bringing \$10 and \$20 bills that are not ripped, worn and have no markings on them. When changing to Baht, PLEASE change only a small amount at a time. We do not recommend travelers checks.

Toilets

When you use indoor plumbing, you need to remember that the water pressure and plumbing systems can be weak in some places. Unless directed otherwise, you will be expected to *put your used toilet paper in the garbage*, NOT in the toilet. In remote areas you will be using a squatty potty! And in town you may get the “opportunity” to use a squatty potty also! Here’s a website to help you get an idea of how to use a squatty potty. <http://www.wikihow.com/Use-a-Squat-Toilet>

You’ll for sure want to bring some wet wipes or toilet paper if that’s what you’re used to using.

Water

Contaminated water is the main source of illness and disease in many countries. We encourage these precautions:

- Avoid ALL tap water for ice, drinking, or brushing teeth. It’s fine for bathing as long as it isn’t swallowed. Many people are careful all day long and then absent-mindedly brush their teeth with tap water or rinse their mouth out in the shower.
- Bring and use a personal WATER BOTTLE. We will be purchasing purified water and it will always be available for your use.
- IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU DRINK LOTS OF WATER THROUGHOUT THE DAY! Dehydration is a common occurrence. You will spend many hours working hard in hot conditions, so be wise. There will be ample opportunities to buy other drinks as well. Just about all restaurants in Thailand serve purified water. And if the ice is in a cylinder form you know it’s purified.

Food

For most of our meals we will be eating out. Thai food is super delicious! Just remember that it can also be spicy. Another word of caution is that a lot of Thai food is cooked with MSG. So if you don’t want MSG in your meal be sure and tell the team leader or translator so they can ask the cook to prepare your food without MSG. The street food is probably safer to eat than the foods at the western style restaurants. The Thai people take hygiene pretty serious so you can rest assured that the dishes you are eating from have been cleaned.

If you will be going to rural areas, you might expect your diet to consist of mainly chicken, soups, bread, vegetables, rice and a lot of fruit, but the village food could get a bit interesting so you might want to bring a few bags of almonds, trail mix, beef jerky or power bars to help get you through.

Health Care

There is access to medical attention in the cities (hospitals). It is inexpensive and quality.

Health Insurance

International Medical Insurance is covered in your trip cost.

Medications

In regards to medications and shots, we highly recommend you go to www.cdc.gov and see what they recommend for your trip. The most useful thing that most of our people have done to protect against mosquitos in remote areas has been to wear long sleeves, pants (that zip off at the knee) and insect repellent. To reduce your chances of getting traveler's diarrhea or "gripe" (flu), we recommend taking Pepto-Bismol. Pepto-Bismol actually eliminates harmful bacteria from the stomach and has a minimal chance of causing an allergic or toxic reaction that may be caused by antibiotics. It is recommended that you take Pepto-Bismol just before a meal to avoid an unsettled stomach. Check with your doctor about the use of Pepto-Bismol, if you are taking medication for any chronic medical condition. If you are currently taking prescriptions or over the counter medications for a physical or mental condition, you should be sure to take an extra supply to allow for unforeseen extensions of your trip. Although optional, you might consider carrying an extra written prescription (both generic/trade name) from your doctor. Pack any medications you will require in your carry-on luggage in case your baggage goes astray. The team medical person needs to be informed what medications you are taking, preferably in writing.

Check to make sure that any medications you require are legal in a foreign country. If traveling with syringes for medical purposes, such as diabetes, it is essential that they are accompanied by a medical certificate. The certificate should be in the language of the country you are traveling to (as well as English) and clearly state that the syringes are in fact for medical purposes. Contact lens wear may be uncomfortable due the high humidity and dust typically encountered. Eyeglasses are recommended. Packing an extra pair of glasses would be a wise precaution.

Finances

The cost of your trip will be from \$500 to \$600. The exact amount will depend on the size of team, number of translators needed, etc...The amount will include accommodations, meals, water, translators, transportation, etc... You will only need to take money along for purchases you may wish to make, such as gifts, extra food & drink, etc. The trip cost does NOT include any costs for doctor exams, vaccinations, passports, food in transit (i.e. airports), personal shopping. You can use debit or credit card in Chiang Mai. Make sure none of your money is torn or marked. Torn or marked currency is considered suspicious and may not be accepted.

Flying to Thailand

Your place of departure will depend on where you are from in the U.S. but we have found that flying Korean Air from Dallas or Atlanta is the most convenient and direct route. When taking this route there is only one international flight change. The flights look like this:

1. Your hometown airport to Atlanta or Dallas
2. Atlanta or Dallas to Soeul, South Korea
3. Soeul to Chiang Mai, Thailand

We prefer to let you purchase your own airfare. But we are willing to help you with that in any way we can. We have found that round trip tickets can cost anywhere from \$1,400 to \$2,500 per person. It usually depends on what time of the year you are flying and how far in advance you purchase the tickets. The closer you wait until the trip to purchase airfare usually the more you will pay.

Luggage

Please check with your airlines as to how many bags they allow.

Most airlines allow TWO (2) check-in bags, which can weigh up to 50 lbs. each; the size is limited to 62 inches (that being the sum of the volume). Hockey bags are OK. ONE carry-on piece of luggage is allowed, measuring 20cm x 40cm x 50cm, in addition to a small day pack style bag/pouch. (Luggage restrictions should be confirmed with the airlines beforehand).

WE HOPE TO USE AS MUCH OF THE CHECK-IN BAGS AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE PROJECT MATERIALS. PACK AS MUCH OF YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AS POSSIBLE IN A CARRY-ON (some clothing, toiletries, medications, etc.). All essentials should be in the carry-on anyway, in case your luggage is delayed or misplaced. Certain items previously permitted in carry-on luggage will have to be checked, if they fail to meet current restrictions. We will request and provide updated information from travel personnel.

Documentation

Buy a money belt, neck pouch or some other kind of storage for all your important documents. **KEEP THEM WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!** These documents include your passport, visitor's visa, charge cards, other forms of picture ID and your plane tickets. Please **DO NOT** take any unnecessary pieces of ID such as your birth certificate or driver's license. Make **THREE** copies of all your important documents you are taking (leave one in your suitcase, one in your carry-on and one at home).

Documents Needed:

- **PASSPORT** – best accepted evidence of citizenship. It will be needed for all custom and immigration inspections and for any number of legal transactions. **YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT YOUR PASSPORT IS VALID FOR 6 MONTHS AFTER YOUR RETURN DATE!** Make **TWO** copies of the identification page of your passport (one to be left with your group leader and one for you to keep in your luggage).
- **EXTRA PHOTO ID** – only one is needed in case of a lost document.
- **PERSONAL HEALTH RECORDS** – take only **COPIES** of your necessary health records, cardiograms, test results and list of current medications. Make two (2) copies of your vaccination record (one for team medical personnel).
- **DOCUMENTS FOR MINORS** – children under the age of 18 traveling on their own or with one parent are required to have notarized permission to travel. While in the country we will collect (and keep in a safe place) your ticket, passport, important papers/cards and excess money, making them available when needed. Whether walking about or traveling by vehicle, never carry all of your important documents (i.e., passport, travel ticket identification, insurance cards, credit cards, etc.) together at the same time. Whether lost or stolen, being left without identification or funds should be avoided.

Airports

You are required to arrive 2 to 3 hours before international flights and 1 to 2 hours before domestic flights. Never make any jokes about guns, hijacking, bombs etc. This is a federal offense and you can be detained, fined or even banned from flying with the airlines. At all airports, you will pass through a series of customs or inspection stations. Try to be relaxed and be prepared by having all your important documentation ready. On our flight to Nicaragua you will be given a custom form to fill out. Your group leader will inform you of the needed information for the form. On your return you can expect to go through customs and immigration. You will have to declare how much you've spent while overseas.

Photography

If you are using a camera that requires film, we suggest one roll of film for every 2 days (this averages out to 18 pictures per day). If you are using a digital camera, we recommend bringing a minimum of 256MB memory card. Be sure that if you are bringing a 256MB memory card, you know your camera very well so you don't accidentally erase all photos. It may be advisable to pack an extra memory card in case one gets lost or damaged. Bring extra batteries for your camera and your camera battery charger.

DO NOT TAKE PICTURES AT THE AIRPORT OR OF ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR INSIDE BUDDHIST TEMPLES, UNLESS PERMISSION IS GRANTED.

A GOOD RULE OF THUMB IS: WHEN IN DOUBT – ASK!

Be respectful of people's privacy and try to avoid having other people in the background of your photos. If you wish to take pictures of locals, always ask permission. You should also try to think of what story you want a picture to tell people. Let your picture help you to tell that story. We strongly recommend that you keep a journal each day, as it's difficult to remember names, events and places. This journal will also be helpful in case you forget where a picture was taken or who a person was.

What to Bring

- Bible
- Journal/notebook/pen
- Clothing - Shirts, blouses, conservative T-shirts, skirt, shorts, cover up, modest bathing suit, sun dresses, under garments, socks, hat with brim, light sweater/sweatshirt, one only). If coming around December bring a hoodie or light rain jacket.
- Shoes - Tennis shoes (one pair), work boots (optional), sandals/slides, shower shoes
- Bedding – Should not be necessary. If spending time in remote villages you will want to ask your team leader what the sleeping situation will be and what the plan is.
- Toiletries - General toiletries (unscented please, scent attracts bugs and can aggravate allergies), soap/detergent, shampoo, small beach towel and 2 face cloths, SUN BLOCK (SPF 30+), INSECT REPELLANT (needs to have a high percentage of deet to be effective), wet naps (a must), hand sanitizer, hair elastics, barrettes.
- Miscellaneous
 - Headlamp or flash light
 - Small personal music devices (for on the plane or to drown out noise while sleeping)
 - Reading material

- WATER BOTTLE (a must!)
- Camera/film/memory card/extra batteries/charger
- Batteries for any electronic devices (e.g. 9v, AA, AAA)
- Waist pouch/small day pack/back pack
- Phrase book/language dictionary
- Prescription medication/glasses/sunglasses
- Passport/important documents
- Earplugs/travel clock/small mirror
- Breakfast bars/granola bars, dried fruit, crackers, juice crystals, candy, cookies

Language Learning

Here are some tips that we hope will help you overcome some of the language barriers that you will encounter:

- Buy a pocket dictionary for the intended country (electronic dictionaries are more convenient)
- Learn some of the more common words or phrases (a phrase book would be useful in this case)
- Use the language as often as you can, the locals will greatly appreciate your effort to learn their language
- Practice your language skills with children, they love to listen and help you learn
- Listen to the locals speaking, in particular, watch for body language, intonation and pronunciation
- Compliment people on their ability to speak English, they will really appreciate the encouragement
- NEVER assume that you are surrounded by people that do not understand English
- There are also some great language learning apps available for handheld and tablet devices. Be sure to search for them and check them out.

Emergency Communication

There will be opportunities for you to contact family while you are here (phone and computer).

AN EMERGENCY LIST, WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AND IS TO BE LEFT WITH YOUR FAMILY THAT INCLUDES CONTACT NUMBERS BOTH AT HOME AND IN NICARAGUA.

The Willing To Go, Inc. phone number in Thailand is: (66) + 091-705-8601

Anticipating Your Return Home

You've been away from home – living in an exotic land, eating strange foods, meeting wonderful people. More importantly, you've also been experiencing the joy of serving, not only people in need but also Jesus Christ. But now it is almost time to return home, to return to the life you temporarily left behind – work, school or other responsibilities you may have. The transition from your cross-cultural experience back to home life is not always easy. To help you deal with the reverse culture shock you may likely experience, here are some antidotes to consider:

REFLECT: Spend time reflecting on where you are and what you're doing. Notice the obvious in your circumstances, feelings and questions. Then probe for deeper insight. Read over the journal entries you have made during your trip. Show God you are paying attention to the lessons He's teaching you. As your heart turns homeward, your journal will become a rich storehouse of insight for you.

REEVALUATE:

Ask yourself questions about your changing attitudes. How am I growing and why? How have my values changed? How are my expectations different from when I first arrived? How will the changes I've made affect my situations at home? Is my self-image different? What's the biggest challenge I face going home?

RECOMMIT: Resolve to be active in world concerns – wherever you are. Decide now to continue studying and learning about the need of the world. Ask the Lord to keep you sensitive to cross-cultural ministry.

REHEARSE: Project yourself back into the future at home. Realize that many people won't be aware of where you've been. The inner changes you will likely feel won't show on the outside. Be as realistic as you can about what it means to "go back home".

DEBRIEFING

Before you leave to return home, your group leader will lead you in a time of debriefing. Jesus knew the value of recapping events when He sat down with the seventy disciples, who had just returned from a short-term assignment. He listened to their stories, recounted the highlights, explained some principles of what they had learned and led them in prayer- praising the Father for all they had experienced. Debriefing is important. It allows for the opportunity to capture

stories, underline lessons, apply experiences to daily life, and surrender everything to the Lord. Here are three signs of health to plan for:

1. **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS:** Your reentry will go smoother if you have a plan to reestablish the key relationships in your life. Plan ways to communicate with your family once you arrive. Look for creative ways to relate. If your family is not your primary spiritual support, get together right away with people who can help you deal with the changes, questions and conflicts you face.

2. **HEALTHY HABITS:** Most of us are creatures of habit. The sooner you reestablish routines and patterns at home, the sooner you will regain your emotional and spiritual balance. Plan and pray for your schedule as you return home. Trust God to equip and strength you for every task. Pray that He will grant you His perspective on people, circumstances, and the future.

3. **HEALTHY CHECK UPS:** Plan to give your self a spiritual check up at regular intervals. Ask yourself if you sense the Lord's presence. Ask what things have made your love for the Lord grow. Ask yourself how you are demonstrating your commitment to world evangelism. Write down clear goals for spiritual growth and ways to measure your progress.

BACK AT HOME

Returning home doesn't mean life "as usual" – the way it used to be. Your short term trip can change your life. Evaluating your cross-cultural/mission experience and accepting it as a lasting part of your life will help you move back into your own culture with more ease. Here are some phases of a healthy reentry as you arrive home.

1. **ROMANCE PHASE:** Going home looks easy at first. You're eager to see your family and friends. You feel you can handle anything. This is the time for glowing reports of your trip and detailed sharing about your experience abroad.

2. **REACTIONARY PHASE:** Gradually, reality sets in. This time is often characterized by chaotic feelings like grief, ambiguity, personal aimlessness, exaggeration of problems. You wonder when you'll feel settled again.

3. **READJUSTMENT PHASE:** You begin to settle back into your home culture. This requires the same skills of observation you used abroad. Find a mentor who can listen, answer questions and give advice.

4. **REENGAGEMENT PHASE:** Now you regain a healthy sense of who you are. You become involved in life around you. You realize it is not wrong to enjoy your present settings. You work on relationships and commit yourself to service right

where you are.

Sharing Your Story

Unlike most experiences, your short-term trip isn't over when it's over. It's important to prepare to tell the story many times without losing its meaning. Here are ten tips to point you in the right direction.

1. BECOME A STORY TELLER. Learn to tell short stories that capture your audience. Paint verbal pictures of the most intriguing sights, people and events of your trip. Edit out tight sayings and phrases too common to missionary reports.

2. REFER BACK TO YOUR JOURNAL. Create ways to share the feelings, thoughts and details you recorded on your trip. Go over one entry a day and ask the Lord to teach you something that can be communicated with others.

3. CAPITALIZE ON THE IMMEDIATE. Work on a communication strategy before you get off the plane. People will be most interested in your story in the first days and weeks after your return. Decide which people you want to reach right away. Take the initiative to arrange settings in which you can share your experiences with them.

4. PREPARE A THIRTY-SECOND RESPONSE. Think of a few sentences to capture your overall feelings and impressions. "It was a life changing two weeks", "I'd love to tell you about it when you have time", "How about it", "It was both exciting and stressful", "It changed my perspective on my church, my country and myself", "I'd love to tell you about it, if you'd like to hear".

5. PREPARE A THREE-MINUTE RESPONSE. This should be an extended version of your "thirty second" response. You'll want to open with a crisp sentence or two. Add a brief illustration or image. Then sum it up by inviting people to hear more.

6. PREPARE A FIFTEEN-MINUTE RESPONSE. Work on this the way you would a term paper with a theme, transitions, stories and illustrations. Your goal is to inform others about missions and to inspire them to participate. Tell stories about the people you met and worked with. Minimize the usual comments about travel, weather, food and insects. Be yourself and use humor whenever possible.

7. REPORT BACK TO THE CONGREGATION THAT SUPPORTED YOU. It may be impossible to thank all your supporters individually; therefore a formal time is best if the entire congregation was involved in sending you on your short term trip. Work with your group leader in perhaps organizing a time where your

entire group can be involved in a presentation to your church or community.

8. SEND A FINAL PRAYER LETTER. If you sent out a letter for prayer and financial support (or even if you didn't), send an actual letter to the many people who knew you were going on this trip. In your letter describe events of your trip and how God has been working in your life. Include your best stories and pictures.

9. WRITE A LETTER FOR PUBLICATION. Your church/community newsletter, denominational magazine or local paper may be willing to feature a local person crossing cultural barriers. Describe your eye-opening experiences and the different customs you encountered. Include at least one clear black and white photograph.

10. BE WILLING TO SHARE ANYWHERE. With preparation and experiences, you can share your story anywhere, in front of your church, at a local school, before a civic group. Remember the work and the glory belongs to the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage and the words to say.