Welcome to Short-Term Missions! We are excited to be a part of this call to service you’ve received from the Lord. We pray that this Devotional/Journal will assist you in this spiritual journey to which God has called you.

“I am sending you off to open the eyes of the outsider so they can see the difference between light and darkness, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I am sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in Me.” - Jesus in Acts 26:17-18

INTRODUCTION

So, you’re finally here! We hope your travel was uneventful and your luggage arrived when and where you did! You probably did much to prepare to be here, including get vaccinations, acquire supplies, and make room in your schedule. Perhaps you packed your insect repellant, sunscreen, and Pepto-Bismol. You are physically ready, but why? For what? Adventure? To serve God? To help people? All of the above?

“...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” - Isaiah 58:10-11

Whether you have taken a crash course in language and read every book on short-term missions you can or whether you haven’t had a minute to think about it until you arrived, we encourage you to take time now to focus on the spiritual foundations of this trip and your experiences here. Our hope and prayer for you is that you will be a light to those who don’t yet know Jesus, to those who have not yet received forgiveness of their sins. We also hope and pray that you come away from this experienced changed, that you will sense the Lord guiding you in your pursuit of Him and as you serve for His glory. The Lord is smiling on you as you take this step of faith.

This guide is designed to go with the on-field devotional, as a guide for leading group devotional time during the short-term mission trip. While individual devotion time is of first importance, group devotion time can enrich and further establish what is learned during individual devotions, as well as bind your team together more strongly as a part of the body of Christ. This is an important time for your team members to get into the Word, hear from God, and possibly be called into missions.
Allow sufficient time in the schedule for it, so that your team is not too exhausted to pay attention and to share, and to allow them to be ready to do other things later. Ideally, allow 30 minutes in the morning for personal quiet time, and then 90 minutes for group discussion time in the evening. The 90 min group time could be divided in the following manner:

LESSONS

- What follows is a modified reproduction of the lessons in the devotional. Normal text is taken verbatim from the devotional. Italicized text is supplemental material and suggested discussion questions for group devotion time.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVOTION TIME

- 15-30 min. debriefing on the day: What went well? What could be done better tomorrow? Have one or more group members share their testimonies.
- 30-45 min. discussion based on the devotional.
- 5 min. on what we will do tomorrow.
- 15-30 min. prayer time.

- Encourage team members to use the space provided in the devotional to journal their thoughts. These reasons for journaling:
  - Personal reflection/meditation
  - Listen and hear from God
  - To recall what you sensed/learned to share with friends/supporters when you return.

- Try to find an environment for a quiet discussion time, and that allows everyone to comfortably sit facing each other.
- Try to find an environment for a quiet discussion time, and that allows everyone to comfortably sit facing each other.

- Use the time to debrief and pray for any specific needs or concerns they encountered regarding the tasks assigned.
- Use the time to debrief and pray for any specific needs or concerns they encountered regarding the tasks assigned.

- When ending with prayer, it's a good idea to do a group prayer so that you can pray for one another, concerning the topics just discussed.

- Popcorn prayer:
  - One person starts and another closes, and people can pray out loud during the discussion.

- Start and end with prayer: the time is God's and He is our source of understanding.
- Start and end with prayer: the time is God's and He is our source of understanding.

- When ending with prayer, it's a good idea to do a group prayer so that you can pray for one another, concerning the topics just discussed.

- When ending with prayer, it's a good idea to do a group prayer so that you can pray for one another, concerning the topics just discussed.

- When ending with prayer, it's a good idea to do a group prayer so that you can pray for one another, concerning the topics just discussed.

JOURNAL

- What does God tell you to do without fear, and what will be the needs?

- How do we practically do this?

- What should we cut our weaknesses out of?

Day 1

Facing Your Fears

- What does God tell you to do without fear, and what will be the needs?

- How do we practically do this?

- What should we cut our weaknesses out of?

- When was God's last time you saw him face to face?

- Whose was the more trouble, God's or God's?

- What was the outcome of those fears?
Day 2

SPiritual Warfare

Errors

Error 1: We overemphasize our own needs and desires over the needs of our neighbors. We live in a world where people think only of themselves and their own comfort. This can lead to a lack of compassion and concern for others.

Error 2: We blame others for our problems. We often look for external factors to blame for our failures and challenges, rather than taking responsibility for our own actions.

Error 3: We neglect our own spiritual growth. We may spend time and energy on material pursuits while neglecting our spiritual well-being.

Error 4: We lack discipline in our spiritual practices. We may have good intentions but struggle to follow through with our spiritual disciplines such as prayer, study, and worship.

Error 5: We resist the Holy Spirit’s leading. We may be resistant to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, leading to missed opportunities and spiritual growth.

What can you do about these errors?

- Examine your own heart and seek forgiveness for any mistakes you may have made.
- Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you overcome these errors.
- Seek accountability from a trusted mentor or friend to help you stay on track.
- Engage in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, study, and worship to grow in your faith.
- Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and allow it to guide you in your spiritual journey.

Day 3

Loving Your Neighbor

Prayer

Pray for those who need love and guidance, especially those who are struggling with spiritual warfare.

Pray for those who are struggling with the errors discussed in this lesson.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill your heart and mind with His love and guidance.

Pray for your own spiritual growth and development.

What can you do to love your neighbors?

- Serve others by volunteering at a local church or community organization.
- Help a neighbor who is in need, whether it’s a simple task or a more complex challenge.
- Listen to others and offer support and encouragement.
- Be a good neighbor by being respectful and considerate of your neighbors’ needs.
- Pray for your neighbors and ask God to bless them.

Journal

What did you learn today?

- Reflect on the spiritual warfare errors discussed.
- Consider how you can apply these principles to your own life.
- Pray for guidance on how to overcome these errors.

What can you do to love your neighbors?

- Pray for your neighbors and ask God to bless them.
- Serve others by volunteering at a local church or community organization.
- Help a neighbor who is in need, whether it’s a simple task or a more complex challenge.
- Listen to others and offer support and encouragement.
- Be a good neighbor by being respectful and considerate of your neighbors’ needs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know.
Day 4
A SERVANT’S HEART

Prewor:
Thank God, he came to us as a man. Yield with prayer asking for God's guidance and presence during the discussion time.

It has been said that we want to be a servant heart, but we want to be served like Jesus or do someone’s work.

Read or revere Matthew 20:28-30
According to verse, what was Jesus saying concerning service? What do you think about it? What is your purpose in serving the Lord?

Discuss the answers to the following question as a group:
Just like Jesus made judgments you are doing, what some other ways you can serve those near you? Questions to answer or consider:

- In what way do you prefer to be served rather than to serve?

- How can you break this pattern?

One of the best ways you can serve others is with the humble attitude of a servant. Are you servile in your behavior toward others? How do you need to improve to better serve those around you?


Day 5
TEAM WORK/UNITY

Prewor:
Lord, help me to listen and obey what you speak today. Begin with prayer asking for God's presence and guidance during the discussion time.

Items or verses read the introduction to the verse:
God can overcome sin by the help of the body. If someone becomes like one who is weak, then it is because of sin. The church is God's body, and all members are needed for unity. If you need help from another person, it is because of sin. Let the body of Christ be the help of the body of Christ.

Read or revere verse: Leviticus 19:2

- In your team share how you show love of the people around you? Follow the Lord, share the truth, and be humble. How do you know if someone is weak?

What will the Lord give you if you ask him?

What will we do today?

- Pray for your team, asking God to communicate through their hearts.

Journal

How does Jesus want to be served by you today? Continue the prayer of the previous day, focusing on God's desire or purpose for the day.

Journal

The Lord, help me to listen and obey. Remember that you are the part of a body and the body is of one spirit. The body is not one member, but it is many members. Each member of the body is one of many parts. The body is not one member, but it is many members.
Day 6

CONSIDERATION AND AMAZING THINGS

Prayer:
Keep your eyes on spiritual things and let us, Lord, as you show us through your power praying for God's grace and power during the day and for the day.

Have someone read this devotional:
You are venturing this page from your home! Two years ago, you probably didn't think you would be here today, what you are doing, but it is your journey and it is one you are making for the glory of the kingdom. God is with you in the fight. From this day forward, God becomes more powerful. He becomes more... [similar passage continues]

Journal:
What is the difference between "accomplishment" and "answer/answer"?

Prayer: May you express service to others as well as your service to God. They are both bringing God to do something new.

Day 7

TIME TO RECHARGE!!!

Prayer:
Please speak to our team, Lord, and ask us to prepare ourselves with a purpose for God's guidance and power during the day.

What you are venturing this page from your home! Two years ago, you probably didn't think you would be here today, what you are doing, but it is your journey and it is one you are making for the glory of the kingdom. God is with you in the fight. From this day forward, God becomes more powerful. He becomes more... [similar passage continues]

Journal:
-Read Matthew 12:35-36. How do you live your life?

Pray and ask the Lord for the rest and refreshment you need.

What you are venturing this page from your home! Two years ago, you probably didn't think you would be here today, what you are doing, but it is your journey and it is one you are making for the glory of the kingdom. God is with you in the fight. From this day forward, God becomes more powerful. He becomes more... [similar passage continues]
Day 8
MAN CANNOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE

![Image]

Day 9
FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

![Image]
Day 10

THE GREAT COMMISSION — Making Disciples

For you

Father God, in the name of Jesus, I pray.

Read God's Word from the book today. Begin with prayer asking for God's guidance and direction during the discussion time.

How would you explain the news to the listener?

Do you realize that it was an entirely different time, an era with different values, and the ideas and knowledge of Christ? Can you imagine the atmosphere of the time at that moment? Think about it.

Sidestep some verses from Matthew 28:18-20.

Determine the answer to the following question in a sentence:

Why has harvested palm oil been used for Christ in your life? Share how you share your experience with others.

Who are you now intentionally collecting or investing in for Christ?

Now discuss about some of the people who had the chance to influence people for Christ, through living out the Great Commission.

Share how the Lord has used you to influence a particular person.

Send or share your answer to Matthew 28:20.

Discuss the two ways to do the following questions as groups:

What do you mean by "nurture in children who will be qualified to teach others?"

How do we invest in these next generation?

Day 11

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

For you

Lord, help me to listen and obey your Word today. Begin with prayer asking for God's guidance and direction during the discussion time.

How would you explain the news to the listener?

Have you heard it said, “Life is short, plan hard.” or “Life is short, plan hard.”

The daily goal is simple: know the King of Life, love him, and multiply his Kingdom. Do this in the best ways you know how to do this selflessly.

All that you do with your life is to teach. What are you going to do with that time?

The Bible, which was not written in 100,000 years in 4000 B.C., says “The Lord God who brings is still the same today, as he was in the past.

What are the things we must learn? The things we must learn:

Read or have someone read Matthew 24:23.

Now let us look at the truth of God’s work in your life or in someone else’s life.

Where is your heart? Are you now going where you want to go? Are you in a stage that will last forever? Make a list. (Share people share what they write on their list)

Testament | Realm

Read or have someone read Matthew 24:24. Discuss the truth of this text as you read.

What are the stages we have lived through? (Consider additional verses of Christ, 780)

Discuss the two ways to share your story or an account.

What was the one thing on the trip that helped you realize what is really important to your life?

What would you say in your life that helps you live even for what will be left behind?
Day 12

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Journal

Day 13

CHRIST-LIKE ATTITUDE

Journal
Day 14

END OF THE JOURNEY?

Pray

Please speak to your Lord, and speak to me through Him. Begin with prayer asking for God's presence and provision during the decision time.

Move forward.

Many times after ministering to others, we can become a "spiritual high," often followed by a spiritual low. So pray to God and don't forget what the Lord has been doing in your heart. Ask the Lord to be close to your heart as we say your goodbyes and send you home.

Read or have someone read Proverbs 10:27.

These answers to the question on a group. Have group members share the main lesson you learned from this time.

"What will you take home with you?" Share with the group what the Lord revealed to you that He doesn't want you to leave here since you have been so blessed.

What are you going to do with the money?

Ask the Lord how you can "spend yourself on behalf of the hungry" when you return home (think of the physically and spiritually hungry).

What are some ways God has shown you that you can "spend yourself on behalf of the hungry" when you return home (including both the physically and spiritually hungry)?

Take this time to process and ask the Lord to help you be faithful to continue serving in the same or a new way in the months, years, and decades to come.

This is your time to share what God has shown you through prayer, worship, and reflection. It is to you a gift to be passed on to others.

Miscellaneous

Use for additional journaling, notes, announcements, e-mails, phone numbers, etc.
RETURNING HOME

You have just finished a big adventure in your life and are probably experiencing a wide variety of emotions. There are entire books devoted to the subject of re-entry. The areas you should watch include:

- **Fatigue**: physical, emotional, spiritual, and social fatigue. You may be very tired. Take some time for yourself. Rest and be refreshed, you have just finished a life changing experience!

- **Spiritual High**: If you are on a spiritual high from this trip, ride it and praise the Lord, but be aware that often times after highs can comes lows – Satan wants to steal your joy and excitement, and you may be under attack. Put on the full armor of God listed in Ephesians 6. Stay in prayer and the Word daily!

- **Spiritual Pride**: Don’t let Satan tempt you to feel superior to those with less compassion or vision who have never gone on a mission trip. Stay humble!

- **Frustration**: You may be frustrated at some of the things that happened or didn’t happen on your trip. Pray and give those things to the Lord. You may be frustrated at the injustices and poverty you saw, or any number of other things that are different from where you live. Give those feelings to the Lord and ask Him how He wants to continue to use you to help fight injustice and poverty. Make a list and do it! You may become frustrated and impatient at the lack of interest and compassion of those around you now that you are home. They may not want to hear all of your stories. Ask them about what has happened in their lives over the last two weeks and they will likely be more interested in listening to you. Be patient and continue to share. God has given you this experience and you are now His spokes-person to impart vision in others.