

# Short Term Mission Trips: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

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## Things To Consider

- i. Going yourself
- ii. The Blessing of Encouraging Individuals
- iii. The wider impact of a group going together
- iv. The Deeper Impact of Longer-Term Partnership
- v. The breathtaking impact of partnership that results in sending long-term labourers to unreached people groups

## Potential Positive Impact

- i. For those who go
  - Faith strengthened
  - Heart enlarged
  - Understanding deepened
  - Confidence built
  - Better informed
  - Better equipped
- ii. For those who receive
  - Encouragement
  - Raising awareness
  - Growing partnership
- iii. For those who send
  - Enthuses the church
  - Draws more into mission
  - Sharpens understanding

## Potential Pitfalls

Article: 'Why you should consider cancelling your short term mission trips.' *Darren Carlson*

- i. Lack of Cultural Awareness
- ii. Money
  - 'Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)' *Robert L Lupton*
- iii. Dependency
- iv. Power Imbalance
- v. Distraction For The Hosts
- vi. Effective?

## Principles & Priorities

Prioritise...

- i. investment in longer-term workers
- ii. collaboration with those in the host area working in long-term projects (indigenous or cross-cultural missionaries)
- iii. partnership – connect your trips with the development of long-term partnerships
- iv. sending your best – most experience, godly & skilled
- v. development over relief

Consider...

- i. connecting trips with mission at home
- ii. when sending young people, partner them with the most experienced in the field or on the team
- iii. If you're sending people to hold babies, play with kids or do building projects, there are probably better ways to help them.

See: 'The Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission', Mission Excellence

## Practical Steps

1. Begin where God has put you and with those he's entrusted to you
2. Discern your current priorities in mission
3. Clarify your reasons for doing short term mission trips.  
For us...
  - a. Strengthen our long-term partnerships
  - b. Encourage/support the care of our partners
  - c. Raising up long-term labourers
  - d. Drawing every member and ministry into prayer, partnership and participation in mission
4. Gather those beginning to consider God's call
5. If you haven't been, go!

## Reflect

What opportunities is God already giving you?

What might be a good next step?