

Preparing to Come Home

We all have shared something very special together. Through the meetings before and the time in-country, we've grown together as friends. God will have worked through us to bless the nationals in-country. Now it is time to look at going home.

There is an adjustment that needs to take place in your life as you return to your family, friends, and job. They did not experience the same things you did but many of your family members and friends made sacrifices so you could go. You need to remember what they have done to contribute to your trip. You also need to guard your attitude so that you don't think of yourself as being better than they are because of what you have done. Every one of us must be obedient to what God has called us to do and everyone was not called to take this mission trip. Remember that they were obedient to do God's will for them and that their lives continued even though you were gone.

“But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me. But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.”

Galatians 2:6-10 NKJV

- Peter recognized Paul's call to the Gentiles, yet he was called to the Jews. Every person has his or her own gift and place.
- We tend to think everyone should go on a mission trip, but listen to them and what God has called them to do. Do not force missions on others.
- Life has continued while you were gone: listen to what they were doing.
- Tell them the good things that happened, not just the bad things.

When you go on a trip, you usually leave someone else in charge of things while you are gone. When you return, you need to be thankful for the help they gave you so that you would be free to go. Think about these things as you return:

1. Don't immediately try to grab all responsibility back. You need to reestablish your position as authority. There may be situations that are not resolved; allow them to complete these things, and don't grab them away.

2. If you left someone else in charge, don't correct them; go with what they decide. You need to stand behind their decisions and live with the results. They do that for you when you are in charge.
3. Take the person responsible out to dinner. Reward them for their efforts and reestablish the relationship.
4. Be sensitive to their needs as you return. You may be tired and need to get rest, but they need you also.



Blessings International offers a nine-day devotional plan for preparing for and returning from a mission trip. Read “Mission Trip Checkup: a Prescription for Spiritual Health” on the Bible app or youversion.com.