



The Missions Toolbox

Helping Missionaries

Mission Teams

A mission team is a short-term effort in which supporters of the missionary travel to the mission field to help in the ministry. Mission teams can be exciting for the participants and very beneficial to the missionary's work. Some of the more common motivations for going on a mission team include obeying Biblical commands to reach the lost (Matthew 28:19, 20) and recognizing that the missionary needs help in some area. Benefits from the team can be life-changing.

1. Most missionaries report that their personal interest in missions or calling to missions began as the result of participating on a team.
2. Team members pray far more than others for the missionary and ministry. Seeing the work burdens the heart.
3. Team members are more likely to give of their finances or provide other practical help to the missionary as a result of the team.
4. Team members learn to trust God for the results of the work, finances, safety in travel, learning a new culture, etc.

The specific tasks of a mission team vary widely depending upon the needs of the missionary and the ability of the team members. Teams commonly participate in evangelistic opportunities, construction projects, medical work, children's work, teaching, computer work, literature ministries, music, and others.

Planning a team requires great effort and much time. The further the team must travel to the field and the longer the stay will influence the time required to plan the team. Planning may require six months to one year. Activities include:

1. Setting team goals by communicating regularly with the missionary.
2. Choosing a competent and spiritually mature leader.
3. Calculating the budget for the team and for each potential member.
4. Recruiting members with a burden for the work.
5. Training the team in the work and for the culture.
6. Praying much for the blessing of God upon the team and the missionary.

Come over... and help us (Acts 16:9)