

FROM TWO DECADES OF EXPERIENCE SERVING IN THE
WORLD'S MOST DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS PLACES

5 STEPS TO PLAN A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TRIP



BY CHUCK AND HELEN TODD

"A MISSION TRIP IS YOUR DATE WITH GOD"
CHUCK TODD

A short-term mission trip is an incredible way for every person to experience the Great Commission and make an eternal impact in the world.

BUT...

it can become a disaster without a plan and necessary information.

These 5 steps will equip you for a safe and successful mission trip.

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**POOR PLANNING AND PREPARATION
ARE**



THE WRONG WAY TO DO MISSIONS

About the authors

Chuck and Helen Todd, founders of World Missions Alliance have been serving in the Great Commission since 1991.

They have:

- successfully shared the Gospel message in the world's most dangerous and difficult places.
- organized over 300 life-changing mission trips.
- have given thousands of Christians an opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission through short-term missions.



INTRODUCTION

You feel the stirring in your spirit that compels you to daydream, search travel sites for cheap airfares and dig out your passport to check the expiration date.

You have been summoned to an adventure with an awe-inspiring companion - Jesus. You have been called on a mission trip.

At World Missions Alliance we call it a date with God.

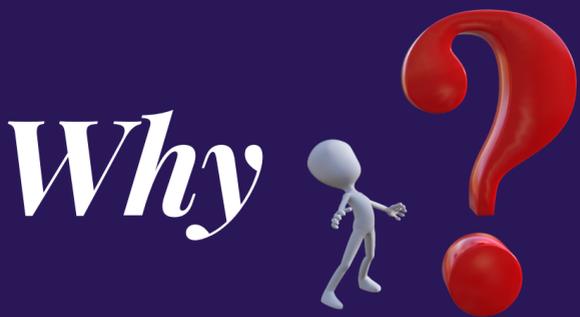
Whether it is your first mission trip or one of many, there are many questions to be answered before you board the plane for a long flight.

How do you know for sure where to go? Are you going to be able to afford this? What should you do to prepare? What will you do when you get there? How do you know if you succeed?

This book covers most of these questions in 5 very practical steps that will help prevent mistakes and ensure the effective and efficient use of your time and money.



STEP 1 The right place and time



One of the most important keys to the success of a mission trip is being at the right place at the right time.

Traveling to a destination determined by you is exciting, going on an assignment from God is life-altering.

World Missions Alliance has 10 to 11 trips per year. It is very common for someone to call our office and ask for a recommendation on which trip they should take.

STEP 1 The right place and time

How 

There are ways to tune to His voice and recognize the clues:

1. Take time to pray. It could be days or weeks or months – don't be in a rush. Remember, the right destination is the key to your success and His timing is always impeccable.
2. Take time to evaluate your life's experience. You may have felt a call to a certain place in the past but have forgotten about it. God does not change His mind.

STEP 1 The right place and time

How



3. There is a challenge attached to the call. This could mean you feel the call when it is a difficult season for travel in your life due to health, finances, time etc. Saying yes will require a new level of faith on your part.

4. It is something that you can't put out of your mind no matter how hard you try.

5. You start seeing sudden confirmations all around you.

If there are any two of these clues present – pay attention - God is talking to you.



STEP 2 Money Matters



The concern of money often is the deciding factor for people.

What is the point of planning a trip or even thinking about it if there is no disposable amount of money in your bank account?

A mission trip will always cost you something - if money is not a problem, it may be your time, your fears, your pride.

God will show you that He is the author and the provider of this joint adventure.

STEP 2 Money Matters

How



1. Evaluate your expenses realistically. In addition to the cost of travel you want to allow a certain amount of money for unexpected expenses and also funds to be a blessing to those in need.

2. Write a short but informative letter. At WMA we provide our missionaries with a sample letter that states clearly where, why, what amount of money is needed, and when.

3. Invite your friends and family to take part. You are not asking for money, you are giving an opportunity to make an awesome investment.

STEP 2 Money Matters

How



4. Partner with an experienced mission group. It will save you money in the long run. Additionally, it gives your fundraising credibility and accountability and a chance for your sponsors to receive a tax deduction on their gift.

5. Have faith. Don't allow fear or doubts talk you out of the blessing God has prepared for you.

At World Missions Alliance we have a saying: "God's will, God's bill" !

STEP 3 Preparation for travel

Why



This is a very important step that determines the success of your mission.

Trusting God with every step of the journey is a must, but you have to do your part as well.

Obtaining the essential information about your destination, along with having the required travel documents and the helpful gear for the trip will keep you safe and healthy.



STEP 3 Preparation for travel

How



1. Secure the necessary documents for international travel: a US Passport, an entry visa (if required by the country of your destination), travel/health insurance, and immunizations (if required).
2. Research your destination for any potential safety hazards, laws, culture, and traditions
3. Learn a few words and phrases in the native language. Examples - “Hello”, “Thank you”, “Jesus loves you”

STEP 3 Preparation for travel

How



4. Purchase some small gifts to give to the new friends you will make at your destination.

5. Invest in good walking shoes and comfortable travel clothes, and do your best to pack light.

Keep in mind, most airlines allow only one free check-in bag under 50 lb and one free carry-on bag. There is a fee for a second piece of luggage. Check the luggage allowance with your airline in advance.

STEP 3 Preparation for travel

How



6. Research in advance:

- a) the weather during your travel dates
- b) the voltage in the country of destination for any electric appliances you bring with you
- c) the procedure for currency exchange

7. Don't forget to pack all your prescription medications along with some pain relief, allergy relief, and antidiarrheal medicine.

8. Investigate the safety of the tap water in the country. Sometimes it is not safe even for brushing your teeth.

STEP 4 Planning the ministry

Why



The big challenge of short term missions is reflected in the term itself. It is short.

What can and should be done in a short period of time in a nation to make a lasting impact?

Another question that is frequently asked – am I qualified to make a difference?

Setting a realistic objective helps to eliminate the initial concerns.

STEP 4 Planning the ministry

How



1. Access your gifts and talents realistically.

God chose you because He has determined that your life experience, your gifts, and your story are going to be useful for this place and time.

Do you lead a Bible study in your church? Do you enjoy playing with children? Do you have a beautiful voice, play instruments, or love to worship?

These natural gifts and affinities will be used during your time in the country.

STEP 4 Planning the ministry

How



2. Your testimony is your most powerful tool.

We all have many experiences in our lives of God's favor, provision, deliverance, rescue – these are our best tools to introduce someone to Jesus.

Pray and seek which story you should share during the trip. You may not know all the people you will encounter on your journey but God does.

He prepares divine appointments for us – if you consult Him in advance, He will help you be prepared.

STEP 4 Planning the ministry

How



3. Choose the right travel companion.

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go” Luke 10:1

Jesus had several practical reasons for sending His disciples in a team - safety, accountability, wise counsel, and the power of multiple witness are among the top few.

Read: 2 Corinthians 13:1; Matthew 18:20; Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 27:9

STEP 5

Measuring Success

Why



Have I accomplished anything?

This is the question that haunts you on the long flight home.

Your mind and body are exhausted. The demands of the “real life” are about to catch up with you. Your family and friends are anxious to hear about the great things you have achieved.

There is a lot of pressure to present a truthful account that will also impress others and make them recognize how significant this journey was.

STEP 5

Measuring Success

How



The truth is God is not under pressure to impress your family and friends.

He works in His own perfect ways that sometimes are not readily visible to us.

Sometimes He chooses to reveal to you the impact of your missions, other times He wants you to trust Him.

He did not call you to this mission because He needed your help. He called you because He wanted a creative partnership with you.

STEP 5

Measuring Success

How



Your obedience and trust brought you on this trip, and this alone is sufficient to mark your journey a smashing success.

But there is more. Your date with God was a pivotal point in your life.

You have stepped outside of your own needs and desires to carry out a mission only to find out that during this mission God was busy taking care of your needs and desires.

This is the beautiful law of the harvest.

In Conclusion

We are praying for your success!

We are here to help!

We are here if you want to join one of World Missions Alliance mission teams!

Just send us an email at rfwma@rfwma.org and we will do our very best to get you to the mission field.

For more in-depth information on planning a successful mission trip loaded with practical tips, links, and advice order our exclusive "Short Term Mission Manual" NOW for just \$9.95.



Your door to the
Great Commission

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