

## Preparing for Future Short-term Missions Trips

Countless short-term missions trips have been canceled or postponed recently. But this unforeseen break in trips has some benefits. Now, you have an opportunity to prepare.

Use the following three steps to prepare for your next short-term missions trip.

### 1. Build a Passion for Missions

Focus on building a passion for missions—in your heart and in the hearts of those you lead—by teaching on missions and having missionaries share impactful stories.

Find and tell others about missions opportunities locally and nationally. The simple act of serving with a local ministry can eliminate the lowest barrier to experiencing how God can use you in greater ways.

### 2. Prepare Spiritually, Culturally, and Mentally

To be spiritually prepared for ministry we must focus on being humble, submissive servants, who share the gospel and live for Christ. The missionary journeys of Paul in Acts are a great biblical study for this.

Cultural and mental preparation is about focusing on understanding how to live and serve well within the target culture. Learn whatever is possible to provide the team with foundational knowledge, such as customs, food, and foundational phrases in their language. A list of recommended books for you to go through as a group includes:

- *Serving with Eyes Wide Open* by David Livermore
- *Cultural Intelligence* by David Livermore
- *Cross-Cultural Connections* by Duane Elmer
- *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* by Duane Elmer
- *Foreign to Familiar* by Sarah Lanier
- *Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

### 3. Plan Ahead

Work with your host partner or organization to plan out the ministry, logistics, and itineraries as far in advance as possible. Recruit the team based off the ministry need. Research transportation, housing, and resource options to formulate a plan.

**If you don't have a solid partner or are unsure of missions opportunities, let Launch Point help. Visit us at [launchpointmissions.org](https://launchpointmissions.org) or send an email to [info@launchpointmissions.org](mailto:info@launchpointmissions.org).**

Make the most of your current down time from short-term missions to prepare your people to return to the field. The time invested now will pay dividends later in the fruit you bear on the field and in the hearts of your people.

