

# Team Handbook

for Ignite Mission Trips



## Introduction

### **Welcome to the Ignite Mission team!**

We are excited to have you join us! This is going to be an amazing time of ministry, outreach and personal growth. God is going to move through us to reach young people who have never heard the name of Jesus. You will be stretched out of your comfort zone, come face to face with a different world-view and grow closer to God than you've ever imagined. We promise, you will not come back the same.

This book you hold in your hand has been designed to help you prepare both spiritually and mentally for mission in Europe. Within these pages you will find:

- A suggested packing list
- Mission trip rules
- First and last steps
- A series of devotions/lessons to help you prepare for the trip

We recommend that you read through the first 7 pages on your own, to get yourself acquainted with the technical aspects behind the trip. You will go through the devotions/lessons on a regular basis. Please read through it on your own before each meeting. This way the material will be fresh in your mind.

**It would be a good idea to put this handbook in a 3-ring binder, as you will be using it on a regular basis.**

Should you have any questions about the trip or anything in this handbook, do not hesitate to contact one of your team leaders. We are here to help you plan and prepare for this trip, and to help you grow in your relationship with Christ.

Looking forward to serving with you.

**Your Mission Team Leader**

## Trip Rules

As in anything, there are a few rules on an Ignite Mission Trip:

### **Meet all Deadlines**

Make sure you meet all deadlines given to you by your team leader. Deadlines have based on when purchases, reservations, and tickets need to be made. Failure to do so could result in not going on the trip.

### **No Dating**

You are going on this trip to minister to people – not to find your next boyfriend or girlfriend. Overt flirting, dating or match-making is not allowed on this trip.

### **Obey Your Team Leaders**

Make sure you are paying attention to and following any instruction given to you by the team leader. These will be given to you for your safety and information.

### **Stick Together**

Make sure you stick together going through airports, train stations, going into town and during sight-seeing. We don't want anyone getting lost.

### **Be Responsible**

You are solely responsible for your luggage and personal belongings. Do not leave them behind and do not expect someone else to take care of it. If you bring it, you are responsible for it.

### **Be Respectful**

Treat your home openers, church leaders, and everyone else with the utmost respect. You are representing Ignite Student Ministries, Inc and American Believers in general on this trip. Treat each other with respect. Understand people will be tired, irritable and frustrated at times during this trip. Don't add to it by being sarcastic or poking fun.

### **Deal with Conflict**

If you get offended, please talk it through with that person and not talk about them behind their back. If it cannot be resolved between you two, bring it to a Team Leader.

Failure to follow any of these rules can result in you either not going on or being sent home early from the trip. The rules are put in place for your safety and for the cohesiveness of the trip.

## First Steps...

Below, you will find a list of first steps to help insure the trip goes smoothly for yourself:

### **Check when done:**

#### \_\_\_ **Application**

In order to be eligible for the team, you need to have filled out, in full, the team member application. Due to interest, applications will be reviewed to determine if you are on the team.

#### \_\_\_ **Risk/Liability Statements**

These are the last two pages of the application and a notary public signature and seal. You can find a notary public at most banks.

#### \_\_\_ **Passport**

If you do not currently have a passport, you will need to get one. Passports cost about \$100 and can be purchased at your County Clerk's office or in a post office.

In order to get a passport, you will need:

- Passport Pictures: you can get this at any Walgreens photo counter
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Driver's License

**It can take upwards of 3 months to receive your passport after applying for one. Please give yourself enough time to receive your passport.**

#### \_\_\_ **Fundraise**

In our Fundraising Packet, you will find fundraising ideas, sample letters and instructions.

## Final Preparations

Below you will find a few final preparations that need to be made before the trip:

### \_\_\_ **Passport Copies**

Make 3 copies of info pages of your passport. Give one to your parents, one to the team leader, and bring one on the trip with you.

### \_\_\_ **Money**

If you are provided a stipend on this trip, it is recommended that you bring \$100 in cash to exchange, and use a credit card or debit card for the remaining amount, unless your team leader instructs you otherwise.

You will also be required to fill out a Stipend Tracker form, complete with copies of all receipts, and return any unused money to Ignite.

*Make sure you call your bank and let them know you will use your debit card in Europe. Do NOT bring traveler's checks, as they are hard to exchange.*

### \_\_\_ **Notes and Itinerary**

Make sure you print out copies of the trip itinerary and notes for any of your sessions. We may not have access to a printer or the internet for you to get them. It is recommended that you email your notes to your team leader as well.

### \_\_\_ **Contact Info**

Your team leader will provide contact information for the church / organization you will work with. Leave the information with your family. In case of emergency, they will know how to get a hold of you.

### \_\_\_ **Telephones and Internet**

Our mobile phones may not work in Europe. Check first: you might be able to buy international minutes on your phone, or just use an international calling card.

Internet may not be available in many homes. Please don't ask to use their internet, as it can be very expensive.

### \_\_\_ **Skype**

It is recommended to have your parents download Skype on their computer: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com). This is a free messenger program they can use to contact us, or they can make a call to a land line phone in Europe inexpensively.

### \_\_\_ **Landing Card**

When landing in Europe, you may be asked to fill out a landing card. If so, use the address your team leader provided.

## Packing Checklist

The following items are a recommendation only. Please bring anything else you or your team leader feels is necessary, including equipment for the team.

### Suitcase

Please pack as light as possible. It is best to fit everything into one suitcase and one carry on. You may need to carry your luggage far distances, up stairs, onto cramped trains/buses or even over rough terrain. Remember – if you bring it, you carry it.

### Luggage Name Tag

It is best to have some kind of unique identifying marker on your luggage. An odd colored luffa, ribbon, etc will help.

Make sure you also have a name tag on your luggage. On the way to Europe, put the address of the church / organization you'll work with in the name tag holder, so if it gets lost, the airline will deliver it to you.

### Carry On

Each person is allowed one carry-on bag (a back pack is recommended), along with a small purse or laptop case. Anything you don't want getting lost (i.e. computer, camera, iPod, etc) put in your carry-on. It is a good idea to pack the following in your carry on:

- Travel size deodorant (3oz size) – in clear Ziploc bag
- Hand Sanitizer (3oz size) – in clear Ziploc bag
- Toothbrush or Colgate Wisp
- Pair of underwear and socks
- Extra shirt
- Passport and a copy of your passport. *Team leader will also have a copy.*
- Medications: Bring more than you need, just in case you are delayed. Leave them in original containers
- Computer/PDA/Cell/I Pod/Necessary Cords
- Camera/Batteries/Memory Cards: bring plenty of batteries. You may not be able to buy more. Also bring some memory cards. Don't want to run out of memory when taking pictures.
- Insurance Cards
- Itinerary/Contact Info/Maps, etc.
- Cash/Credit/ATM Cards: make sure to call your bank to let them know you will be using your cards in Europe.
- Message notes, church / organization contact information, trip itinerary, and any other important documents for the trip.

### Necessary Items – in Suitcase

- Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brush, mouthwash, lip balm, soap, shampoo, hairspray/gel, make-up, razor, shave cream, nail file and/or clippers, deodorant - whatever you need
- Towel & washcloth: Many hotels in Europe do not provide towels.
- Clothes: remember to respect the country you are going to. Please do not bring extremely short skirts, clothing that advertises alcohol or tobacco.

It may be best to plan on wearing some clothes more than once – like shorts or t-shirts.

- Shoes: bring comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of walking
- Basic First Aid: band-aids, Neosporin, sleep aid, Tylenol, allergy meds, anti-diarrhea, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Laxative, cold remedies, etc
- Umbrella
- Bible, journal, pen
- Books/Magazines
- Converter – you can get a converter at Wal-mart for cheap. You will need it for anything you want to plug in. Europe runs on 220 volts.
- Glasses/Back-up Glasses/Sunglasses
- Garbage bag – for your wet towel
- House openers gift

**Suggested Items**

- Flash Drive – for files and photos
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Febreze – if desired to spray your clothes so you can wear them again
- Tea Bags/Sweetener
- Snacks/Power Bars
- Gum/Mints/Breath Spray or Drops
- Travel Pillow – if you want one
- Hair Dryer/Curling Iron
- Kleenex/Travel Wipes/Hand Sanitizer
- Watch/Jewelry

# **Devotions**

**Spiritual & Personal Preparation**



## Devotion: Expectations

Before you delve any further into the devotions and planning for the trip, it's always best to take a step back and ask yourself two questions:

1. Why am I going on this trip?
2. What do I expect to happen on this trip?

Your expectations play a huge role in the success of this mission trip, and will set the pace for your personal experience. If your expectations are low, you will miss out on what God is trying to do in you and in others; however, if your expectations are extremely high, you may well be disappointed, even if the mission was a huge success.

### **Expect BIG Things!**

In **Ephesians 3:20** Paul is ending his prayer for the believers in Ephesus and tells us that God "...is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." Think about that a minute. If you can ask it or imagine it, you are already thinking too small!

Don't be afraid to expect God to do big and amazing things on this trip, both for you personally and for those you are going to impact. Sometimes it's the smallest actions or words that have the deepest impact — in ways you can't imagine. Just building a friendship with someone could be what breaks them out of depression or low self-esteem. We serve a BIG God and He can transform the lives of people during this trip, so expect BIG things!

### **Be Realistic**

At the same time, it is important to be realistic with your expectations. Expecting to see hundreds give their lives to Christ might not be very realistic. Could God do that? You bet! But Europe is very hard ground and sometimes it takes a lot of seeds planted in people's lives before they decide to follow Him. Don't be afraid to dream big, but understand there is only so much your team can do on short-term mission.

### **Know the Plan**

You also need to know that mission trips can be hard mentally, physically and emotionally. There will be a lot expected from you during your time in Europe. Little sleep. Long days. Lots of walking. Different food. Cultural differences. Language barriers. Cranky team members. The list goes on and on. You will be pouring yourself out like never before, needing to be constantly ready to minister to people you meet. You will definitely have a lot of fun and do some sightseeing, but understand what you are getting in to.

### **Having a Servant's Heart**

Above all, you must go into the trip with a servant's heart. Although America is advanced in many ways, we don't have all the answers and won't be able to fix all their problems. Many believers in Central Europe have made great sacrifices for their faith that we would never have to make in the States: imprisonment, beating, great persecution, especially during the time of Communism. We need to go with a servant's heart and expect to be challenged and encouraged by fellow believers in Europe, too.



## Devotion: Knowing the Cost

As you are well aware by now, there is a cost involved in going on a mission trip like this. From plane tickets and travel expenses to food and lodging, this trip is not cheap. However, you might not know that there are costs involved with this trip that have nothing to do with money.

### **What's My Cost?**

Read **Luke 14:25-35**. In this passage, Jesus tells his disciples that there is a cost to follow him, and the wise person calculates that cost before starting out. You will need to pay a price to come on this trip, whether that's giving up your only 2 weeks off work, or missing an annual family vacation. Maybe you were saving up for the latest new toy. Whatever it may be, at some level you will be paying a personal price to come on this trip.

You'll also encounter personal costs while on the trip. Maybe you aren't comfortable talking in front of large groups, or are uneasy around kids or youth. Your accommodations might not be what you are used to, and maybe there is no coffee in the morning to wake you up. Whatever it may be for you, God is going to ask you very clearly to give something up before or during this trip to prepare you to impact the lives of others.

### **Attacks of all Kinds**

Understand too, that the enemy is not happy you are going on this trip. You will be ministering in a spiritually dark part of the world. Don't be surprised if after you have agreed to come on this trip that it seems all hell breaks loose: you are having a hard time raising money, you end up getting sick, something happens at home and you are unsure about whether you should still go. The enemy knows you will be impacting the lives of others, and that you yourself will be growing closer to God, and he will try to keep you from going...But God!

We serve a mighty God and His purposes will prevail! Don't be surprised if the attacks come; rather, be prepared for them. Cover yourself and your fellow team members in prayer. Ask others to pray for you and for our team. Trust that God will provide the finances, even if it is last minute. Ask yourself what the personal cost is to come on this trip. Know that He has called you on this trip and He will prepare and equip you to face whatever comes.

### **Make it Personal**

Take some time to really search yourself, pray and answer the following questions:

1. What are some of the personal costs for you to come on this trip?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What areas in your life do you think God will work on during this trip?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can you prepare for any attacks against you going on this trip?

## Devotion: Spiritual Preparation

You will spend a lot of time planning the details of this trip. While those things are important to the success of the mission, the MOST important thing you can do is personal prayer and preparation. You will be reaching out to people in one of the most spiritually dark places in the world, so it is vital that you are preparing yourself to be poured out for these people. Here are some ways you need to be preparing for the trip:

### Self Examination

Looking into your own heart and dealing with the issues, baggage and motivations is vital. These people need you to be able to hear God's voice while on this trip. Spend some time and search your heart for:

1. Your motive for going on this trip. Is it to bless the people of Europe, or is it just a vacation?
2. Any conflict or bitterness with someone else. Issues like this can affect you in a way you might not even notice, and you won't want to carry that burden with you during this trip. How can you start resolving those conflicts now?
3. Sin. Are there areas in your life right now where you are in unrepentant sin? That sin can make it difficult for you to hear God's voice while on this trip.
4. Pride. First and foremost, we are going to Europe as servants. You aren't going to show people how great you are or how much you know — you are going as servants to wash the feet of those who need Christ the most. If there are areas of pride in your heart, this mission will be very difficult for you. Ask yourself if and where pride exists in your heart, and begin taking steps to become a more humble person.

### Prayer

The success of our mission relies almost 100% on prayer. Prayer not only causes God's hand to move, but it changes our hearts in regards to the people we will encounter. You need to find time in your own life to be praying regularly for this trip, including:

1. The country. Pray that God will move through the country and shine His light. Pray for the youth culture, that God begins calling them back to Himself. Pray against the depression and hopelessness that hangs over that continent. Pray for the youth groups, churches, organizations, and leaders you will be working with, that they find favor and are relevant to the culture.
2. Your team. Pray for unity, health and safety, finances to come in, logistical concerns, that you are preparing ourselves spiritually for the trip.

### Bible Reading

The best way to develop the heart of God for these people is to be in His Word. You need to fill your mind and heart with the promises of God so you can reflect Him to others. Being in the Word everyday is vital to growing closer to Him so you can pour yourself out. Consider starting a Bible reading plan. You can find some at [IgniteYourCampus.com/Resources/Bible-Reading-Plans](http://IgniteYourCampus.com/Resources/Bible-Reading-Plans) or download the Bible App from YouVersion on your smart phone. They have hundreds of plans.

### Journaling

Even if you aren't someone who likes to write, journaling can help you prepare for our trip. Begin to write down your thoughts, concerns, expectations and prayers concerning this trip. Ask God to show you how He wants to challenge you and shape you on this trip. Especially take time during the trip to



## Devotion: Cultural Sensitivity

During your time in Europe, you will come face to face with some big cultural differences: a much slower pace of life, a seemingly rude or stand-offish approach to unknown people, and different food choices to name a few. While these things are different, that doesn't mean they are wrong. The beauty of mission trips is that you get to encounter different cultures, try new foods, and see how people live in other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, a lot of times missionaries don't only bring the gospel of Christ, but also try to "correct" differences in culture. This is most prominently seen in Africa, where most pastors wear suits, because the first missionaries tried to make them more "civilized." While there may be some inappropriate habits built into the European culture, we must remember that you are there to present the gospel of Jesus, not try to American-ize them. Christ will do the task of redeeming their culture.

In **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**, Paul says: Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Remember that you are guests in Europe and a witness to the lost. Make sure you review the cultural tips handout provided by the team leader or at [igniteyourcampus.com/missions/documents](http://igniteyourcampus.com/missions/documents). During the first few days in Europe, try to get a feel for the culture, before asserting your own cultural personality. Observe the people and try to assimilate yourself into your surroundings. This doesn't mean you need to compromise or change who you are, but be sensitive to your surroundings. European culture has a lot to offer that you might enjoy more than American culture.

Finally, understand that many will have an unrealistic view of America, thinking that everyone in America is rich, happy and have no problems in their lives. Some even despise their own country and would rather be in America. Whenever someone brings this up, be honest – try to give them an appropriate view of America, the good and the bad. We are not trying to convert people to think and act like Americans. Instead, we need to allow people to express their Christianity within their own culture.

### **Make It Personal**

Take some time to really search yourself, pray and answer the following questions:

1. Look over the cultural tips handout provided by the team leader. Which of these aspects of the culture are you excited to encounter?
2. Which do you think will most difficult for you to deal with?
3. What can you start doing now to prepare yourself for these differences?

## Devotion: Team Work

People have many different reactions to working with a team. Some embrace and love the idea of working with others to accomplish a goal. Others have had bad experiences working in a team and think they are better off planning and implementing things on their own. Whatever your thoughts or feelings, the truth is this: the success of our trip depends on the team working together.

There are many different people coming on this trip - all with unique personalities, talents, skills, abilities, strengths and gifts – and each has a special role to play. Some on the team are gifted musically, others in teaching. Some are more outgoing and will attract a lot of attention, while others are more reserved. Some have a bold and loud spirituality, while others have a more quiet and reflective faith. It's these differences that make a strong team. The team doesn't need everyone gifted musically, or all great at preaching. You need each person operating in their unique role on the team, so you can be effective at reaching as many people with the love of Christ as possible. You need to value those differences, and allow each other to operate fully in your personal roles on the team.

In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul says this is what it means to operate as a body. There are many different parts, but each one, no matter how small, is vital to the functioning of the body. Each part is needed, each part is important, just as each person on this team is vital to the success of the mission.

It is important, therefore, to avoid the three dangers to operating as a team:

**Elevation.** This is when someone starts to feel that their talents or personality are better and more important than others. A team leader, or someone who is gifted in speaking, can easily feel they are the most important people on the team. But all this does is break the unity of the team and keeps people from operating in their gifts.

**Projection:** this happens when someone feels others should act the same way and feel the same things they do. Someone who is deeply gifted with compassion and a desire to change people's circumstances might wonder why others on the team don't feel the same way. They may think that everyone should be like them in order to really love others. But we aren't all the same. God may put this type of person on the team to be the one who shows mercy and compassion in that area.

**Rejection:** This happens when someone can't accept the unique role and gifts God has given to them. Someone who isn't outgoing might feel that, because they aren't in the "spotlight" and don't have everyone excited to see them, they aren't contributing as much. But God has given each of you a unique role and purpose on this team.

None of these things will help the team be successful in reaching these people. You need to understand that God designed everyone differently, with unique roles and talents, and placed everyone on this team for a reason. Whether you are up in front all the time, or someone who is more in the background helping set up and tear down for outreaches, understand that you are just as valuable and necessary for the success of the mission than anyone else. Do not be embarrassed by or despise your gifting and role. When you build the team on respect, trust and commitment, then each member will be released into their unique role.





## Devotion: Conflict Resolution

On a trip like this, it is inevitable that conflict will arise. You will be living in close quarters, spending all of your time together, getting up early, staying up late, dealing with cultural differences and personality differences. There will be times of tiredness, frustration, misunderstanding or even spiritual attack. It is important to resolve any and all conflicts as soon as possible so that conflict does not destroy the team and what God wants to do on this mission.

Knowing that the circumstances in Europe could easily give rise to conflict, you need to take steps to avoid stirring up conflict. That means you need to watch what you say and do around each other, respecting each other's time and personal space. Things like constant teasing, sarcasm, poking, interrupting sleep, and forcing fears on each other will chip away at the team and cause hurt and frustration in other team members. You are all adults and need to treat each other with respect.

You also need to realize that an irresponsible attitude can stir up conflict. Things like sleeping late, taking too long in the bathroom, not being ready to leave on time, bringing more than you can carry affect the rest of the team. Make sure you are being responsible for yourself.

Even if the team takes great strides to avoid conflict, there is the possibility it will arise, so you need to be proactive. This means you need to choose your response to the negative and hurtful things that are said or done to you. When you immediately react with anger, frustration or negativity, you are being reactive. Reactive behavior ends up hurting others as well as you.

You can be proactive by choosing your response to what is said or done to you. The first thing to do is to make the choice not to react. Take a breath, leave the situation and ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond properly can help prevent minor frustrations from becoming major battles. This isn't easy, but is needed to keep team unity. You can't choose what happens to you, but you can always choose your response.

Jesus also gave us a model for conflict resolution in Matthew 18:15-20

1. Talk directly to the person who hurt you. The worst thing you can do is talk about the situation behind the person's back. You are all adults on this trip, and need to be open and vulnerable with each other when hurt. Gossip will hurt the team and bring much disunity.
2. Involve a team leader if you are unable to work things out. Don't gang up on the individual or attack them with a list of complaints, and don't take it to another team member. The leaders are on this trip for guidance, direction and spiritual covering – and are able to help mediate conflicts.
3. If this still does not resolve the issue, you will have a team meeting to talk about the issue openly and give a chance for the team to resolve the conflict together. This can be very difficult and something we would like to avoid, as people might become defensive or angry.

The thing to remember is this: the reason for conflict resolution is for everyone to come into agreement and unity again – not to prove who is wrong or right. Conflict can easily destroy a team, but if handled correctly, can actually make the team stronger. Think about your closest relationships: it is usually after you go through some kind of struggle together, that you learn more about each other. Be mature and approach conflict right away, and not let it fester and grow into something that will destroy the team.



## Devotion: Working with Interpreters

During the time in Europe, you will find yourself regularly working with an interpreter to help convey a message to those who don't speak English. Interpreters will play a very vital role in the mission – and will quickly become a part of the team. Their purpose is two-fold: to translate a conversation for the team and the European people, and to provide cultural advice to make the message more effective.

If you've never worked with an interpreter before, you will quickly find out that it takes some adjustment in how you communicate. Below are a few tips to help you prepare for working with an interpreter:

- Speak directly to your audience, not to the interpreter, like you would talk to someone or a group of people here in the States. The interpreter will be close enough to hear you and translate it.
- Your audience will be able to read your body language, so use this as you normally would. Understand though that there are some cultural differences in body language.
- Speak clearly and at a moderate pace using a simple style of speech. Avoid slang, verbal jokes, acronyms, clichés or jargon. Many of those are cultural phrases that cannot be translated (i.e. – raining cats and dogs).
- Create natural breaks in your message or conversation. Communicate in complete sentences or ideas, then pause to allow time for interpretation. As languages are different, you will need to complete your thought before pausing. Also understand interpretation may be longer than the original message because there is often no exact equivalent for what you are saying.
- Make sure that you allow at least 30% of your scheduled speaking time for interpretation. So if you are preparing for a 60-minute session, only prepare 40 minutes' worth of material.
- Check with your interpreter before any messages to make sure any words you are expounding upon in your sermon are actually in their bible translation, and have the similar idea. This can cause a lot of confusion if you expound on one word that isn't even in their translation.
- It is always best to have a few different ways of explaining the same idea, just in case what you plan to say isn't as easily understood or translated. Expect there to be times when your interpreter looks at you and asks you to explain what you mean.
- Always have your interpreter read the scriptures from their bible. It is easier and faster that way.

### **From the Interpreter's point of view**

Since interpreters are so vital to the mission and will be with you usually all day every day, it is easy to get attached to using a specific person for your translating needs. While a bond like this is great, as they can anticipate your moves and flow well with you while you speak, it also means it can be easy for you to over-work them. It is not an easy task to hear what you are saying and within a few seconds translate it into another language. They will need breaks just as you do. Please be respectful of their personal needs for rest and be willing to use a different interpreter if need be.

You also need to allow the interpreters to have time for meals. During meal times, it is best to allow the interpreters to relax and eat, and not have to focus on interpreting what you are saying.

Most interpreters work on a volunteer basis. This means they are sacrificing their time and energy to help on this mission. Make sure to show your gratitude towards them and treat them as an equal part of the team.

As mentioned before, interpreters are a part of the team and many may be ministry leaders or core members themselves. They are ministering with you and should be treated as such. Do NOT treat the interpreters as errand boys and girls.

Make sure to remember to pray for and encourage your interpreter. When you take time to pray for people, it can be easy to overlook your interpreter because they are right alongside you helping you to pray. Always offer to pray for them, too.

Due to the amount of time spent with interpreters, you will probably become very close to them. You will see them right away in the morning and may not say goodbye to them until you leave for your home-openers at night. They will be along side you as you speak, pray for and communicate with others. This means they will quickly know a lot about you and you about them. Value that relationship, as many times they will ask you for personal advice and prayer for themselves. Understand though, there will be many other people who need your time and attention too.

### **Make it Personal...**

Take some time to really search yourself, pray and answer the following questions:

1. What challenges do you think you will face personally in working with an interpreter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What challenges do you think an interpreter might have working with the team?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How can you make it easier to work with an interpreter, based on the challenges you listed above?

## Devotion: Re-entry and Debriefing

One of the hardest parts of any mission trip is the return home. You will have spent time meeting new people, adjusting to a new culture, developing new friendships, ministering to — only to have to leave it all behind and return to your every day life.

The transition home can be very tough. You should expect to experience some form of jet-lag – whether it’s just some tiredness or your sleep schedule is off for a few days - and times of disorientation and possibly confusion. You are going to have experienced a lot in such a short amount of time, so it’s going to take time process your thoughts and feelings and get back “in the swing” of things. Your daily responsibilities, be it a job or chores, may seem insignificant and a waste of your time. You may even feel like you aren’t doing enough for God while at home, not spending enough time deeply impacting people. Those feelings are completely normal.

This is why it is important for you to debrief after the trip. Debriefing is simply a matter of reflecting on your experience and getting help integrating back into your everyday life. Things like:

- Sharing your pictures and experiences with family members and friends
- Asking your pastor if you could share publicly about the trip when we return
- Finding practical stretching opportunities in your own hometown (like volunteering in a soup kitchen, visiting people in the hospital, community clean up projects, etc)
- Getting more involved in the ministries in your church
- Honoring all your on-field commitments you made to people (I will write, call, etc).
- Hosting a “reunion” of sorts a few months after the trip, allowing the team to catch up with each other and share the changes that have happened in your lives since the trip.

These things will allow you to process your feelings and experiences and help you make the changes in your life in response to the trip.

Your team leader may also have a debrief at the end of each day, along with a larger debrief time during your free day(s), to help process the experiences of the day, and share stories of all God has done. Typically, debrief times will involve:

- Sharing thoughts/feeling about the day
- Praying for the people you encountered, along with each other
- Worship
- Any announcements/change of plans
- Discussing what God has done in you personally

It can be very easy to skip a debrief time, whether from busyness, tiredness or wanting to spend more time with people. But these times are very important for you as individuals and as a team. It is typically in these debrief times that you can be ministered to, challenged and encouraged as you continue to pour out into others.

### **Make it Personal...**

Take some time to really search yourself, pray and answer the following question:

1. How can I start preparing now for my return home (ie, setting up family sharing time, sharing at church, etc)?