



Mission Toolkit: Short-Term Mission

How to use this toolkit

Who's this toolkit for?

Intended for short-term mission and study tour leaders, this toolkit offers resources for discerning whether to go, where to go and how to prepare for and guide a group. You will find insightful resources and practical tools to plan, prepare for, lead and participate in short-term, cross-cultural trips with humility and an openness to learn and grow.

Why learn about short-term mission?

It is vital for trip leaders and participants to prepare for and participate in a mission trip with thoughtful intentionality; otherwise, all too often, even our best intentions can cause harm in communities across town or across the world. Discerning the location and the partners with whom you will minister is one important facet, but that's just the beginning. It is just as important to work with mission partners to discern the trip's purpose and to plan the daily schedule.

Why should or shouldn't we engage in short-term mission?

Church leaders should discern whether to go on a trip. Planned and carried out well, in a spirit of true partnership where all participants are equals at God's "table" of grace and of mission, a short-term mission trip can be a way to learn about God, oneself, the world and the world church. A lot has been written in recent years on the benefits and the harm that can be done in the name of short-term mission. Before you decide to go, it is important to ask yourself and your church deeper questions about the reason for a trip and what your time in that place and with those people might look like. Review the document, "To go or not to go," to help you discern whether now is the time for a short-term mission experience.

We hope the resources in this toolkit will help you and your mission partners join together to see one another with new eyes as you cross-cultural and spiritual borders together. When you return home, we hope this toolkit can help you discover ways to continue the growth you experienced on your trip.

What's in a name?

Some prefer to call "short-term mission" something else that captures a different purpose. Is your trip a pilgrimage? A study tour? A delegation? A witness trip? A friendship trip? Whatever you choose to call it, we hope this toolkit will help you plan and prepare for your trip.



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What's in this toolkit?

There are four sections:

LEARN | **WORSHIP** | **CONNECT** | **GO**

From the toolkit homepage, click on one of the puzzle pieces to find practical resources.

LEARN

Just getting started? Learn more about short-term mission trip planning, best practices and trip follow-up.

1. Use discernment tools.
2. Find a sample trip schedule.
3. Read stories from around the world.

WORSHIP

Seeking commissioning liturgies, daily devotions and prayers for your trip? Use resources to prepare and guide the group spiritually.

1. Find prayers to use with participants.
2. Use sample devotional guides for your trip.
3. Read liturgical resources.

CONNECT

Looking for more information? Connect with service sites and partnership facilitators in different areas of the world and with Presbyterian Mission Agency staff who can help you as you plan the trip.

1. Find emails for partnership facilitators who are on the ground.
2. Contact national staff for additional information.
3. Learn more about different sites that host delegations.

GO

Ready to travel? Search for open trip opportunities. Planning or leading the trip? Find useful tools specifically for trip leaders.

1. Find a listing of national and international trips and host sites.
2. Download leader forms.
3. Use the packing checklist to ensure you know what to bring.

