

Surge Equipping Kit 2009

Vineyard Youth Short Term Team Training

By Jenna Stepp

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This SURGE Equipping Kit is designed to assist you as you train your team for the cross cultural mission experience they are about to embark on. This is only a guide and we welcome you to tweak, add, delete as you see fit for your team.

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Items to order BEFORE your team training meetings begin!

Here is a list of some of the items you might want to purchase or order now to be ready for the next few weeks of training:

- Team Books (You'll be assigning them at the first meeting, so if you plan on handing them out then, they should be ordered at least 2 weeks before your first team training. SEE LIST ON PAGE 7)
- The International Justice Mission: As you go Training Manual (FREE)
- The International Justice Mission: As you go DVD (\$12 donation)
 - LINKS:
 - <https://netcommunity.ijm.org/?pid=773&nccsm=21&nccscid=6&nccsct=Free+Resources&nccspID=913>
 - <https://netcommunity.ijm.org/?pid=773&nccsm=21&nccscid=4&nccsct=DVD+Resources&nccspID=875>
 - (Take just 10 minutes of each of your team meetings to go over the IJM training clip. It will give your team a good overview of the injustice that is going on beneath the surface.)
- FOR TEAM MEETING #2:
 - A Puzzle with at least as many pieces as you have team members. 20 team members= minimum of 20 pieces to the puzzle. (Melissa & Doug have both a world map puzzle and a "Children of the World" with 48 pieces for \$12.99 found at www.melissaanddoug.com)
 - LINKS:
 - http://www.melissaanddoug.com/dyn_prod.php?p=2866&k=87140&name=Children%20of%20the%20World%20Floor%20Puzzle
- Blindfolds
- Team Journals: (can be just notebooks or fancy journals, whatever fits your budget. This is optional but can be a powerful record taking them from the trainings, through the trip and the debriefing...I still have mine from my very first trip! ☺)

Planning Your Team Training Meetings

Specifics about team training meetings: 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP

These meetings should be once a week for 8 weeks prior to your trip. This is the gathering where your team gets to know each other, grows spiritually and is equipped to face the adventure ahead. We encourage these meetings to be mandatory as they are crucial to the gelling of the team.

Are YOU ready for team training meeting?

Did you secure a meeting space? Does the team know the meeting times and locations? (it is best not to assume an email is enough to communicate time/place for the first gathering. If possible, make a phone call to each team member reminding them about the first meeting. This also gives you a chance to create a connection with them prior to the first “official gathering”.

The more prepared and prayed up you can be prior to the meetings, the better it will go.

Ask adult leaders to show up 10 minutes early to be praying and welcoming the team members by name as they enter. You should be ready to connect with parents as well.

(Again, the SURGE EQUIPPING KIT is designed to provide a guide for your team training. Feel free to add your own values, ice breakers, teachings as you feel they are necessary.)

Let's talk about the team training meetings:

Each team training meeting should be about 1-2 hours long. You may choose to have these meeting a few hours before youth group, after a Sunday service or some other time that works for your team. The flow of each meeting is up to you. We have provided content to assist you in training your teams in theology, unity, flexibility, Spiritual Warfare, cultural sensitivity, Spiritual gifting and the specific facts about the country you are planning on visiting on your mission trip

JUSTICE SNAPSHOT: We also recommend you purchase “As You Go” social justice training DVD and workbook put together by the International Justice Mission (used with permission from IJM, cost \$12, see link on the Surge website.) We suggest inserting the 10 minute teaching about seeking justice into each of the team meetings. **Please note that all the issues of social justice mentioned in the video may not be encountered on your specific mission trip, but it is valuable to understand the theology of justice and to have our eyes open to see where God might use us or the local churches we are working with on this journey.

(For further training on God's heart towards injustice, check out [The Justice Mission](#) youth curriculum by youth specialties and IJM)

So, what should the meeting look like?

- **Prayer** (Let Your Kingdom Come!) This may be the most important life tool the youth develop through this experience. Share with them that they will all have a chance to pray during the trainings. Encourage them that this will be a safe environment to practice things that they might end up needing on the field. When the team gets use to sharing prayer needs with each other and praying for each other it fosters a welcoming, accepting environment and helps create a feeling of unity.
 - The first meeting can include an overview of the Vineyard Prayer Model of ask/listen, respond. An entire training is dedicated to it (see Team Training Meeting Seven). Feel free to use it when needed.
- **Details/Announcements/handouts**
- **Justice Snapshot** (see above)
- **Teaching/Training:**

Some of the teachings include PowerPoint, some hands on activities, others media, etc. Again, feel free to add, delete or come up with your own creative ways to communicate the messages.
- **Review Spanish Phrases** (Can be at the beginning or end of meetings)
- **Homework Assignments**
- **Prayer wrap-up**

Key Spanish Phrases: (Can be reviewed at the beginning or end of each meeting, 8 to 10 phrases each time)

Contributed by Jenni Elmer

- Pass these out at the first meeting and encourage your team to learn them. Consider giving a “quiz” or game at Team Meeting 3, 6 and 8 to review.
- Me llamo ____ - My name is _____
- ¿Como te llamas?- What is your name?\
- ¿Dónde esta el baño?- Where is the bathroom?
- ¿Cuántos años tienes?- How old are you?
- Tengo ____ años- I am ____ years old.
- No entiendo- I do not understand.
- Como se dice- how do you say?
- Perdón- excuse me
- Si- yes
- No- no
- ¿Podría hablar más despacio?-Could you speak more slowly?
- ¿Me entiende?- Do you understand me?
- Mucho gusto-It is nice to meet you.
- ¿Habla inglés?-Do you speak English?
- ¿Cómo está?-How are you?
- Estoy bien.-I am fine.
- Gracias-Thank you
- La madre - mother.
- El padre- father
- Hermano- brother
- Hermana-sister
- ¿Qué? -what
- Ven aquí.-Come here.
- Hola -hello
- Adios-good bye
- ¿ Cuanto cuesta?- How much does this cost?
- La iglesia- the church
- ¿Qué hora es?- What time is it?
- Hoy- Today
- Mañana- today

- Cero-zero

- uno, una-One
- dos-Two

- tres-Three
- cuatro-Four
- cinco-Five
- seis-Six
- siete-Seven
- ocho-Eight
- nueve-Nine
- diez-Ten
- Cristo te ama- Jesus loves you
- Buenos Dias- Good Morning
- Buenas Noches- Good Night
- Quires jugar connigo?- would you like to play?

Team Meeting One

Lesson written by Jenna Stepp

This is by far the meeting with the most “details and assignments” so don’t panic if you don’t get through (or even start) the entire Kingdom of God teaching. We have purposely created some teachings to be longer than others so you will have time to catch up during other meetings if you don’t have enough time.

1. Open it up with Prayer

2. **Pass out reading assignments:** At this meeting you should let the team know which book they will be reading and the date you would like the book report turned in (May we suggest a date in June so they have enough time to complete it without feeling overwhelmed with homework, cultural projects and finals)

We have provided a list of potential books that you may want to assign. Clearly, no two youth teams are alike. Some may have more spiritual depth and maturity than others, some may need books that focus more on risk taking, others on being authentic and taking off masks.

Books for teams to read before a trip: (pick one book for your team to read together prior to the trip and have each team member write a review as part of their training- I suggest 1 page, typed including their personal reaction to the book and how it’s content could affect a mission trip.)

BOOK CHOICES:

- Barbarian Way by Erwin McManus-A challenge to the risk-taking adventurous life of faith.
- Posers, Fakers and Wannabes by Brennan Manning –Understanding the masks we wear and learning how to be authentic before God and each other.
- Good News about Injustice by Gary Haugan (Youth Version)-Traces the injustice happening in the world today, God’s heart towards it and our call as Christians to be a part of the solution.
- Voices by Steve Witt- teaches practical ways for learning how to hear the voice of God.
- God’s Relentless Pursuit by Phil Strout- Learning about the Missional God who partners with His missional people to accomplish His ageless purpose-reconciling and restoring broken men and women to Himself.
- Naturally Supernatural by Gary Best-Understanding the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God in our lives to bring healing, restoration and reconciliation.
- The Faith by Charles Colson-Outlines the basic of Christian faith, some of the modern arguments against it and why each Christian MUST know what they believe, why they believe it and why it matters.

3. Assign Cultural Assignments:

Cultural Projects due at Team Meeting 3

Cultural Projects allow the team members to research the destination country on their own. Depending on the size of the team you may want to allow them to work in teams. Allow them to pick the topics if possible. Encourage them to use power points, posters, videos, and other creative media to share their findings with the team.

Some sample topics include: (Don't forget to write down which topic is assigned to whom)

- History
- Current News
- Food
- Cultural Taboos
- Topography (What's the land layout look like?)
- Religious views
- Social Justice issues in this country
 - Human trafficking
 - Slave labor
 - Land stripping
 - Corruption, etc.
- Culture of teens/children
- And many other topics that they might come up with...

4. Go over Team Covenant that all have signed.

5. Team Training: Let the Kingdom Come: Inviting the Kingdom into the cause.

For this teaching, you will need to gauge where your team is at: We have option 1 (includes the PowerPoint and goes over the gospel, making sure everyone has heard the salvation message of the cross and introduces the Kingdom of God theology), Option 2 (Assumes all the team can communicate the gospel and takes the Kingdom of God teaching a lot deeper).

Leaders' introduction by Christian Dunn: To be read by the team leader BEFORE the meeting ☺

(Also, may I (Jenna Stepp) recommend listening to the 3 podcasts of Christian teaching the Kingdom of God at www.christianjdunn.com/podcast/ .)

Primacy of the Kingdom of God Theology in Youth Ministry

My strong conviction is that the kingdom of God theology needs to be the foundation upon which our youth ministries are built. Raising our young people in the kingdom of God will not happen without intentional and strategic action on our part as leaders. A cross-cultural mission trip provides us with the time and opportunity to really invest in this Kingdom of God worldview and expectation.

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

As part of the Vineyard East youth leadership, we would strongly suggest for your consideration that: youth ministry exists to raise up the next generation of Vineyard Christians in the kingdom of God.

Youth ministry, especially those youth that have signed up for a summer mission trip provides us with the opportunity to facilitate for the youth to engage the world with the power of God. Let's give our students a chance to see what it's like to have the healing power of God flow through their hands, the saving message of the Gospel roll off their tongues, the prophetic word proclaimed through their voices, and the voice of God heard in their spirits.

The goal of this trip is to train, equip, and release young people into the adventure of living in the kingdom of God. And it is our pleasure, our delight, to be part of that story with them. As Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:19, "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?" Our joy will be the fruit of lives given whole-heartedly to following Christ!

Teaching for Teens on the Kingdom of God

I believe that all of this can begin with sound teaching on the kingdom of God. I have sat in on more youth teachings than I care to recount where I could not pick out a main point, a main scripture, or a cohesive thesis. I believe teenagers can be challenged. The topics they are talking about with their friends, and thinking about on their own, are the difficult questions of faith. And we owe them honest, carefully planned, and well presented teachings. Many of their questions can be answered through some simple teaching on the kingdom of God. I would encourage you to kick off this training by assisting the Vineyard youth in the understanding of the kingdom of God.

Training/Equipping

The next step is moving from general teaching to specific training and equipping. If our goal is to produce fully-functioning, well-gifted Christians, then we need to give them the tools. There are many ways to do this and we should have our eye open for chances both in our team

meetings, while we are fundraising, in the airports and when we are on the ground in Costa Rica!

The disciples heard many teachings and parables, but what really grabbed their attention was when they were sent out to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. They came back amazed at the power that worked through them, and I believe that should be our aim—for our students to be amazed at the power of God working through them.

Dealing with Mistakes and Moving On

Raising our Vineyard youth in the kingdom of God is an adventure that requires intentionality, courage, and perseverance. There will be mistakes. Young people will do things that as adults, we have learned are not the “best” way. I have found, and firmly believe, that these “messes” are worth the far greater rewards to be reaped later in life.

Recently two of my teens (both 18 years old) headed out to the mission field—one in Europe and one in Africa. While there, they both corresponded with me and expressed their gratitude for my willingness and determination to create space for them to use their gifts as young teens. They let me know that no one else on their teams were prepared, trained, or therefore ready, when asked to preach the Gospel on the mission field. As a result these two each carried their respective teams in preaching. They saw many people saved and physically healed as the kingdom of God moved powerfully through them. Praise God!

In Summary, it is my strong conviction that the kingdom of God theology is not only relevant for youth ministry, but should be foundational. Through teaching, training, equipping, and experience, the youth of the Vineyard can begin to participate in the coming of the kingdom as fully as any adult. As you begin (or continue) your journey in taking young people into the adventure of cross cultural missions, I encourage you to persevere for this goal and “seek first the kingdom of God”.

Teaching: Kingdom Of God Living...

By Jenna Stepp

(Power point available at the www.vineyardyoutheast.org)

Teaching: Kingdom of God. (This teaching is designed to give an overview of the Kingdom of God theology as well as an overview of the gospel. We always start here to make sure all of the team members are on the same page as far as the message of the cross.)

(If this teaching is something that you have already gone over repeatedly with your students and you KNOW that they are all strong in the gospel story, you may want to consider inserting some further depth on Kingdom of God theology and living: found at www.vineyardyoutheast.org and www.christianjdunn.com)

Key Verse: Matthew 6:10 “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Share with the team: So, we are about to launch into this great mission adventure. We are representing Jesus to those on our team and each person we interact with along the way. Let’s pray as Jesus taught His disciples to pray...

“This, then, is how you should pray:
 " 'Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.”

What does it mean to see the Kingdom of God come to earth?

What is the Kingdom of God?

I want to tell you a story. (Show PowerPoint as you go, if you don’t have the ability, print out the pages before the meeting and just hold them up- low tech!)

Slide 1: In the beginning...things were awesome. “God’s original plan was to hang out in the garden with naked vegetarians” Cool. Adam and Eve were created by God to have an open relationship with Him, they could talk to Him, eat all kinds of food, they were naked and felt no shame, life was good. There was no pain, no sickness, no tears.

Slide 2: Stupid Snake! Evil steps into the picture and begins to deceive.

Slide 3: Eve made a choice to disobey God and the human race was separated from God. All of a sudden, they knew they were naked and tried to hide.

Slide 4: Sin entered into the world. This meant a break in that relationship with God. All of a sudden, Adam and Eve had to work...land, labor, shame and stuff.

Slide 5: So what can man do? Well, according to the Bible, the penalty for sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

Slide 6: In Genesis 3:15 we see God step up to the plate and make a pretty intense announcement. The paraphrase version is "I will fix this!" He basically starts busting out the Christmas tree and announces the plan for the coming Savior who's death will be the ultimate sacrifice for death.

Slide 7: God is laying out the plan for the Easter story. The Cross. Jesus' death covers the sin that is in the heart of mankind.

Slide 8: At this point, the winner was declared. Maybe you've seen the movie the passion, remember Satan screaming after Jesus' death. Why?

Jesus died to cover all sickness, to pay for our sin. We win because of the Cross.

Slide 9: BUT, I don't know about you, but I still see pain in the world. I still have sickness. What's up with that? The dynamic tension is that we are not dead yet ☺ We are still on earth...and we are still fighting the effects of the fall.

Slide 10: We live in the tension between this age and the age to come. The Cross made a provision for the Kingdom and perfection of the future age to break into the pain of our lives and those around us.

Slide 11: Satan knows that he has ultimately lost the battle and he HATES it. He is mad and is fighting for our soul. John 10:10 describes Satan as a thief that comes to Steal, Kill and Destroy. Does that sound a little more like the world we are living in?

Slide 12: So we live it out. When we have believed in Jesus and His death on the cross and have given Him our lives, We have won. We have won, yet we fight. Think of it as ALREADY (the Kingdom has come and the victory is won) and NOT YET (we are not living in the fullness of His reign)

Slide 13: So we can live with the confidence that Jesus is victorious and we can have victory in our lives because of the Cross. We can ask the Kingdom and future perfection to break into every situation we face.

So when we pray "let your Kingdom come", we are asking God to break into whatever situation with the power and perfection of the ALREADY.

But again, we still have the not yet...hmm

How does that apply to our mission trip?

John 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

We will be asking God for healings, financial miracles, salvations, relational healings and every other kind of breakthrough that He might want to bless us with. The Kingdom is God's rule or reign with all its awesome benefits-forgiveness, hope, healing, peace and more. When we ask God to break in to our lives and bring "every good and perfect gift" we are inviting "the Kingdom to come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

Everything we do on the mission trip revolves around our belief that the kingdom of God can break in. Every time we are doing construction, a Vacation Bible School, sharing with one of the teens in the

neighborhoods we are visiting, we are asking for the perfection of the future age to break in.

Taking it deeper:

Again, if this teaching is something that you have already gone over repeatedly with your team and you KNOW that they are all strong in the gospel story, you may want to consider inserting some further depth on Kingdom of God theology and living: found at www.vineyardyoutheast.org and www.christianjdunn.com.

There are a few key books that you can read to help you understand the Kingdom of God theology deeper which we highly recommend!

- The Gospel of the Kingdom by George Eldon Ladd
- Breakthrough by Derek Morphey
- Breakthrough: Discovering the Compassion & Power of Jesus by Vicki & Jim Egli (small group guide)
- God's Relentless Pursuit by Phil Strout

Homework Assignment: Fill out spiritual gifts survey available for download at www.vineyardyoutheast.org and bring it to the next meeting.

Team Meeting Two

For the Good of the Whole

Lesson by Jenna Steppⁱ

Show IJM DVD Part 1.

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3**Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”

Team Building Activity: “For the good of the whole” (adapted from “The Giant Jigsaw Puzzle by Jim Cain)

Items Needed- Giant Puzzle, blindfolds, pens and the spiritual gifts test (homework from previous week).

The Goal of activity: To work together to successfully complete the jigsaw puzzle, while blindfolded and to recognize the value of each team member, including the nationals you will be working with.

Instructions: Ask for one or two team members to be the “watchdogs” and remain sighted, but speechless and watch the team’s interaction during the activity. They may want to take notes with the paper and pen provided as they see the events unfold.

Next, all remaining team members should sit in a circle on the floor. Everyone but one member should be blindfolded and handed a piece of the puzzle. The non-blindfolded member may say 2 words; “Yes” or “No”

Leader Say: “I have some stuff I want you to put together. All the necessary pieces are within arm’s reach of where you are right now, so there is no need to move around. You are encouraged to include all the team members during this activity; I will answer any THREE QUESTIONS that you ask as a team.”

Once everyone is blindfolded scatter the remaining pieces of the puzzle within arm’s reach of the team members. Put some pieces in the middle of the circle but also scatter a few behind them and hold one over a team members head. (All pieces should be within arm’s reach, but some can only be found with out of the box thinking.) Once all the pieces are in place, tell the group to “begin”.

(Safety: you should remind the team that these puzzle pieces can hurt if thrown)

Discussion and Debriefing Topics

Once the puzzle is complete or 15 minutes goes by, ask the team to take off their blindfold. Then ask the watchdogs to be the first to share with the group what they noticed. Next allow the team to consider who displayed leadership during the activity? Who first identified that the object was a puzzle? Who created a workable plan? Who included others into the plan? What techniques were helpful? How were ideas from group members being considered?

Breaking it down:

What do you think these puzzle pieces represent?

(Each team member, their strengths, their weaknesses)

Did you notice anyone being encouraging? What did that add to the process?

What happened to the process if someone was adding frustration or negativity to the process?

- **Rule for the Journey:** *From here on out in our team development we will begin the 1-2 rule. “For every one negative thing you say, you must follow it up with 2 positives!”*

What do you bring to this puzzle?

In order for us to have a successful mission trip, we each have a piece of this puzzle. The only way that the picture makes sense is when each member of our team adds their piece. **Highlight:** Each team member has gifts and ideas that will help this team accomplish our goal of loving people and sharing the Good News of the Gospel. God never gives anyone everything. He created us to work together, value each other and need each other.

The Bible speaks of us being “One Body” in which each member has different talents, gifts and such. Read the following 1 Corinthians 12:4-26 and think about how it applies to you and the team...

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. **5** There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. **6** God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. **8** To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice^[b]; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.^[c] **9** The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. **10** He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages,^[d] while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. **11** It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

What Spiritual gifts has God given you?

Give a piece of the puzzle out to each of the members again. Have each one of the team members write their name on the back of their puzzle piece. Have each one then write what they think is a strength that they bring to the team. *(You may want to have their Spiritual gifts test results on hand to give them as a reminder)*

Then read...1 Cor. 12: 14-26

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. **15** If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. **19** How strange a body would be if it had only one part! **20** Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. **21** The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.”

Taking it a bit further...

Did you know that some of our team members are not yet with us? Who is not here right now?
(Allow them time to think)

Think about the puzzle pieces that were behind you or above you. Just like those were still key pieces to the puzzle, there are pastors in the countries we are going, youth from the youth groups in Costa Rica, teachers, and others that we may not meet until we get there that are pieces of this team. God has something valuable for each of them to add.

Back to the puzzle: Ask: “What would have happened if one of the team members had decided that their puzzle piece wasn’t good enough or valuable enough and they just would have kept it out? Would the puzzle be complete? Of course not! In the same way, each of us has been called and anointed by God for the mission ahead. Each of you has a piece to give. Key point: For some of you, the thing that you will bring to this trip is some of the struggles you’ve had. Some of you have walked through some tough stuff and you think that you have been disqualified from really helping. But the truth is, God will use your redemption to bless and encourage others. Ask Him to use your pain to bring healing to others on this team and on this trip!

Read this:

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. **23** And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, **24** while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. **25** This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. **26** If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

Ask:

What do you think these verses mean?

Part of working as a team is taking care of each other in our weaknesses as well as strengths. Some of us may get really sick while we are on the trip. How do we hope to be treated if we are sick? What are some ways you can make sure you are caring for one another on the trip?

In closing: Lets again look at the puzzle: Put each piece back so it is complete.

Think about it: A house divided cannot stand. We are a team and will function as a team. My actions, both good or bad, effect the rest of the team. Review the new rule!

"For every one negative thing you say, you must follow it up with 2 positives!"

Homework Assignment: Cultural Projects due next team meeting (Leaders: have list of assigned topics handy for those that may have forgotten what they picked)

Team Training Meeting Three

Cultural Projects

CULTURAL PROJECTS PRESENTED (which were assigned at Team Meeting 1)

Show IJM Lesson 2 and get feedback.

Team Prayer: This is the time to allow them to practice faith, praying for healing and more. Ask for prayer requests and for praise reports. (It can be a great faith builder for team members to hear how God is bringing in the finances and opening doors for others!)

Cultural Project-Allow each team member to present their subjects – Each Team member shares their project and others can ask questions. Depending on the length of your meeting, you can decide how long each presenter (or presenting team) has to talk. If someone forgets their project, ask them to come 10 minutes early for the next meeting to share it with you.

Team Unity Tip: This team meeting will provide you with countless opportunities to discuss honoring each other by being quiet and paying attention when someone else is sharing. Be sure to ask some questions at the end like “How did you feel when others were talking when you were presenting (if they were of course)? How did it feel when the team was engaged in what you were sharing?”

Leader tip: **No one should get on the plane without completing the project but you will not want to use valuable team time to make this up. Have them schedule a time outside of team meetings to do the project, use this as a gentle lesson to them that they are now functioning as a team and each decision they make (both good and bad) effects the whole. Don't linger too long on this and be sure to be extremely loving in the process and talk about why you are not angry, but that it matters 😊

Team Meeting Four

Cultural Sensitivity

Contributing author: Shawn Stepp

Team Prayer

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in **weakness and fear, and with much trembling**. My message and my preaching were **not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power**, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Key Idea: Our job is to go into the mission trip as learners, asking questions NOT spouting answers! LISTENING, ASKING, LISTENING, SERVING...

Share this story of how it should NOT happen: It's hot. As a matter of fact, you could probably cook an egg on the scrap of metal roof laying beside the dirt road. There's no pool to jump in to cool off, and even if there was, you didn't come for a pool party. The local pastor has instructed you to wait at the dilapidated church you (kind of) slept in last night. He will come by at 8 am to pick you up for a full day of construction on the new community center and helping lead an evening service. It's now 10 am and he hasn't showed. You have been asked to wake up at 6 for showers, a begrudging breakfast of bananas and bread, and preparation and everyone's getting stir crazy. The local pastor finally arrives to state that there's been a change of plans. Someone forgot to order the blocks and the construction will have to wait. Instead he wants your group to do 3 different Vacation Bible Schools in different parts of the city. At this point, you can't take it anymore and you tell your leader that he is sabotaging what God wants to do. Tension reigns for the rest of the day.

Let's break this down. The local pastor really wanted your leader to go with him the first day you arrived to organize; but your team seemed so worn out when you landed (you see, he's never traveled on a airplane) that he dared not ask you (but would have gladly accepted if you had offered). He also felt compelled to attend to your needs and go get the deodorant that one of the team members forgot and the extra 3 mattresses for the extra team members were added at the last minute. He does not know you and sees this as a big strain. He's not sure he can trust you with the details of the construction as a result of the lack of relationship.

Hot Culture vs Cold Culture (think Northern USA)

ASK:

What do you think that means? (let the team brainstorm)

Many cultures are what sociologists call "hot." They are based on relationship and connecting with someone is more important than the task. They love eating together; playing music together, walking together...basically anything that involves relationship.

Though we love relationship as well, it's our job to make sure things run smoothly (or so we often think). And, we have been molded by "cold" northern US society (think moms, jobs, marketplace, appointments, etc.) for many years to be punctual, responsible, and efficient. In US professional culture, the goal is to get the job done. **In truth, our primary job is to pastor: to hear God together, to experience life with them, and make sure they are engaged on a Kingdom of God level spiritually, emotionally, and physically.** Have your eyes, ears, and heart wide open and act. Secondly, it is our mission to serve what God is doing in the culture in which we land. We are not riding in on a white horse to save people; God's been at work there for thousands of years. Once again, have your eyes, ears, and hearts wide open. We are there to serve. And the position of savior is already taken (thank God). We get to participate in His salvation!

Things to know:

1. Being on time in most Hispanic cultures means within 30 minutes. They get to be late, not you!
2. Relationships are more important than task. It is not uncommon for people to want to just sit with you; this is considered a good use of time and more important than accomplishing tasks.
3. The family is of the utmost importance. The family forms the basis of stability. Loyalty to the family comes before any other relationships. The household often include numerous generations.
4. Hospitality is very important so when you visit someone's house they will go out of their way to make you feel at home.
5. Machismo is a part of the Hispanic culture. Machismo is a strong or exaggerated sense of manliness. It manifests itself in numerous ways, one being how men act. Men must always show only strength to others. Men also tend to yell at women, especially gringos' (non-Hispanic women) when they walk by. They will often psssst (which is a sound used to get attention) and then proceed to make flirtatious comments. These interactions should merely be ignored.

Note to leader: *Thankfully, most youth in the US actually value relationship above the task as well and they often have an easier time adjusting than we do (think of what they like about school: their friends). This part of the culture is easy for them.*

What's hard for the youth is that they aren't treated as youth. On most mission trips, they are forced to deal with adult topics. Adolescence in the US is treated as an extension of childhood. In school, food is prepared for the youth, classes are spoon fed, and they come home to a prepared dinner (for those whose mom's no longer cook, this means frozen food or fast food; not that they have to cook). The temperature is always right and the expectations are fairly clear. And complaining and sarcasm are very popular ways of communicating and humor. None of this is true on a mission trip or in many other cultures.

Group Activity:

Ask the group to form a circle inside a second circle. then have the two rings walk around in the opposite direction. When you say "Stop!" they will pair up with the person opposite them. Now have each pair talk about a specific topic: a political controversy, describe their family, their job,

their favorite video game, the weather-you pick the subject. For one full minute they must tell their partner their opinions or details on the given topic- but both must talk simultaneously. The challenge is to listen while you are talking. After calling "Time" you should ask each person to tell their partner what they learned about him or her. Then debrief the group and ask them to share how much information was lost.

The point to this exercise? It shows that when we are talking we can't learn about a person or culture. The key is to listen!

What happens when we walk into another culture sharing all our opinions and forget to ask questions and listen?

An Example: What if we instantly thought all cultures should dress just as we do in the New England states? Maybe we forgot to ask them about the heat, humid or rain season that would explain their native, simple, breathable fabrics.

Or, what if we see a girl in a brothel that is being sold for sex, instead of asking good questions and listening for the deeper issues of injustice we insist on paying \$2000 to "buy her out" of her hell, not realizing our act of supposed kindness has now created another reason for the brothel owner to buy more girls to sell them to well-meaning missionaries. Again, we must take the time to ask good questions and listen before spouting off all our opinions.

Read Key Verse together again:

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 2:1-4

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

How can we apply this to our approach to this mission trip??

Going Deeper:

1 and 2 Corinthians. The books from which all the other missional books get much of their material. Paul is explicit and deep. Get a good commentary (I suggest Gordon Fee's for 1 Corinthians) and dig in.

The Ugly American. An easy-reading, fictional story from a secular perspective that poignantly displays common cultural conflicts.

Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships. By Lingenfelter and Mayers. 120 page book

Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours? By Roland Allen.

Foreign to Familiar: A Guide to Understanding Hot-and Cold-Climate Cultures by Sarah Lanier, (128 pgs., creative, concise and clear cross-cultural preparation) McDougal Publishing Company, 2000.

Homework: Bring list of prayer warriors that are committed to pray for you during this trip to the next team meeting.

Team Meeting Five

(Spiritual Warfare)

Contributing Author: Tina Salisbury

Team prayer

MISSIONS WARFARE

As the team is entering the meetings, have your leaders pass out some sort of piece of armor (plastic sword, wooden knives, toy shields, helmets, etc)

So you've decided to go on the missions trip – **GAME ON!!**

On a more serious note – you have just stepped into the middle of a war that has been raging since time began!

You need to arm yourself with armor and weapons to fight the battle well, Jesus has already won the war. We will be going a little deeper with some of the subject covered in the first team meeting...

Action Point for the team: This would be a great time to have someone up front displaying the pieces of the armor as you explain them and where they protect our body. Demonstrate that our backs are uncovered by having the team stand linking arms facing in and see how exposed they are – powerful symbolism of “I’ve got your back!” or being “stabbed in the back” -- have the same group stand facing out – how protected are they. What if they were not holding hands just standing around...?

A Lesson on Warfare: WHAT IS OUR ARMOR?

Key Verse (s): Eph 6:10-18 The Message version summarizes these verses by saying-

10-12 And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

13-18 Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are

more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

ASK: Who is your enemy? Is your sister your enemy? Your ex-boyfriend? Your parents? The rapist?

NO!!! The New Living Translations states in verse 12: " For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

The first thing we need to be aware of is that **our fight is not against people!** Our friends, those on our team or those we are going to serve are never our enemy – the devil and his hosts are our enemy, or as the Bible puts it, powers and principalities of this age are our enemy. We need to be very careful to not let the devil trick us into gossip, or backstabbing those on our team or those in leadership – this is one of the most common tricks of the devil. A team in disunity cannot be effective; strive for unity and respect, and help others to do the same.

ASK: What could you do when you hear your friend gossiping about another member of the team? (Let them brainstorm possible ways to end gossip.)

May we suggest asking yourself these questions when you hear gossip or feel like you want to say something about someone else...

- Would I be saying this if the person I am talking about were in the room?
- Would I want them to know that I am the one who said this?
- Do I really need to know this?
- Does this concern me or am I getting in the middle of something that has nothing to do with me?
- Do I want to talk about this just to feel important or feel like I'm part of the "in crowd"?
- What could I do to PUT OUT this fire...NOT make it worse?
- How could I show love to the person being talked about?

"Without wood a fire goes out; without **gossip** a quarrel dies down."

[Proverbs 26:20](#)

If you hear any kind of gossip or divisive talk – shut it down. That is a flaming arrow into the enemy's camp!

Here are the pieces of the armor that we've been given and a little about them:

- **Truth is a belt** around our waist – it keeps our pants up! Ever heard of the phrase "caught with your pants down"? Well that's what happens when we don't live in truth. The belt for a soldier is also what some of the other weapons are held on. Living in truth, in what we say, what we believe and how we act is a very powerful defense against the devil.

ASK: What will it look like for you to “live in truth” with this team and on this trip?

- Our **breastplate is righteousness**: righteousness is living by moral standards, purity and integrity in thought and action, we are protected also by the righteousness of Jesus, who through dying for us, gave us His righteousness.

ASK: Can anyone tell me what sort of unrighteous act could destroy our local church witness? What does that mean? How long do you think the local church has to work to undo that damage?

- Our **shoes are the readiness that comes from knowing the gospel** and being prepared to live it out, to walk in obedience to it in all situations.

ASK: What are you doing to make sure you know the gospel?

- **Faith is the shield** that we hold up to quench the fiery darts that the enemy throws at us. Faith is what keeps us from temptation and the negative thoughts thrown at our mind, faith is relying on the unseen hope we have in Christ – this faith is the shield for us against these lies and schemes of our enemy; that is what extinguishes them.
- Our **salvation is the helmet** that protects our mind and soul also from the spiritually deadly attacks of the devil. Our salvation protects us for eternity – though our body may perish our spirit lives forever.
- Our **Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God**. The Bible. Speaking the Word of God is so powerful it was the only weapon that Jesus used against the devil during His time of temptation. The devil knows the truth of the Bible and must obey it. It is the truth that answers error and unbelief. As we begin to understand more of the Bible it becomes a very powerful weapon in our hand. When we are assaulted by doubt, or when the devil speaks error to our mind – it is the power of even a single text of Scripture that can slay it.

Set out the challenge to read all of Matthew before getting on the plane 😊

Lastly the Bible says we need to pray at all times!! This is not because God is hard of hearing, but because He knows that if we are speaking with Him regularly we are staying watchful of His plan and power and weary to the power of the spiritual realm, watchful and persevering in our faith. He listens and answers but like learning a language – we get a lot better at hearing, understanding and speaking when we practice or are immersed in the language. So it is with our relationship with God.

Get the team into the inward focused circle again.

Did you notice that there is no armor for our back? That is why we need each other – someone else has to have our back! Have you got theirs?!

Have everyone turn around...and then pray for the person on their right and then on the left.

The Armor is not something that you simply pray on in the morning and you're good for the day – but a lifestyle that we step into when we wake up and walk in throughout our day.

WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

When you're planning to go:

You have decided to go on the trip – this is the phase you are in now. You have stepped up to the plate and decided you want to head out of your comfort zone to bring some comfort to others. You have the full support of God and His angels – never forget that, but you have also got the attention of the Devil's host and he is never happy when God's people get out of the pews to be His hands and feet to the world.

Pray – try to remember, maybe last thing at night as your head hits the pillow – pray for the preparations for the trip – for provision for yourself and others that want to be on the team – that God would go ahead of the team and prepare the hearts and circumstances in the location that you will be heading to – that the trip will be a success.

Be aware that the devil may try to bring discouragement and fear to you as you prepare for this trip. If you feel discouraged, afraid, have bad dreams or thoughts, speak to a leader or another member of your team and have them pray with you. Find some verses that speak to you about God wanting you to do this and speak them aloud when these thoughts bombard your mind. The devil is a liar and He doesn't want you to go! God will encourage you through reading the Bible and also through your team, family and leaders – don't keep this struggle or any other struggle to yourself.

When you're there – you're doing it!:

While you are away pray for yourself, for your team and family back home. It's a good idea to have a small group of people that you know are faithful prayers to be praying with you. Pray for a hedge of protection around yourself, your family, your team and the mission – God wants to bless everything you put your hand to – don't be afraid to ask Him for it. Also – each day – be asking Him what He wants **you** to do today. You are there on assignment from God – first thing in the morning ask Him the plans for the day – listen – then go do it! When you hear from God or see things while you are

praying or even sleeping – share them with your leaders – God will speak through you if you are listening and you will see amazing things before your eyes if you walk in faith and share them. Don't be afraid! The Bible tells us 365 times to not fear – that's a different verse for every day of the year!

Don't let any division sneak into the team – this is a crucial time to be aware of the power of the tongue and attitudes – do whatever is in your power to keep the peace and unity of the team. The Bible is very clear in Genesis 11:6 at the Tower of Babel the Lord spoke and said "Look! The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!"

There is incredible power in unity – a very effective weapon against the schemes of the enemy.

When you're back!!

Thank God for the experience you had while you were away. Journal your thoughts and impressions while they are fresh in your mind. One of the ways we overcome the devil is through the power of our testimony. The devil cannot snatch away the truth and power of something that actually happened to us. Whether you personally experienced miracles or were part of a team that did, or even if nothing "appeared" to happen – be assured something happened in the heavens! God promises that His Word is never wasted. Whenever we step out in faith and trust in God, when we are obedient to what He commissions us to do – something always happens!! It may be immediately, or it may be years or even never that you fully know what has taken place because of your faithfulness. Never doubt that!

Continue to pray that even while you are home – you will walk with the same watchfulness in the spirit, with the same hunger and passion to be obedient to what God is saying to you in the "mission field" at home!

Team Activity: Have each team member talk about the battles they have felt since signing up for the mission trip. Help them see the spiritual side of it and invite the Kingdom to break into these situation. Allow for prayer/ministry time.

Going deeper suggested reading: Spiritual Warfare by Dean Sherman

Homework Assignment: Write a 3 paragraph testimony next week that shares your faith in Christ and why you believe. Imagine you are trying to communicate it with a teenager from Costa Rica.

Team Meeting Six

Flexibility

Team Prayer

Key Verse:

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.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Quote: "Be ready to preach, pray or die at a moment's notice" Brother Earl F. Tygert
(Spiritual father to Phil Strout)

Group Activity: Begin the meeting by breaking up your group into 4 groups. (If you have less than 4 members on your team, just have each member be their own group)

Privately give each group an assignment from the following list:

- Sharing their testimony in a local church
- Making lunch for the team
- Praying for the sick in a local hospital
- Laying the concrete floor for an orphanage

Ask each group to take 5 minutes to come up with a way to communicate to the other groups what they are doing without using words (like charades)

At the end of the 5 minutes ask each group to take a turn acting out their assigned. Just as they are starting to get into it, stop them and privately say..."There has been a slight change of plan...we are now going to be (fill in with one of the activities that a different group had prepped for)" and then ask them to begin again with only 1 minute to prepare!

Have another group go and do the same thing...

Gather together. How did the change make you feel? How did you feel when someone else was asked to do the topic you had prepared for?

True Story: When I (Jenna) was in my junior year of college at Oral Robert University and I had joined a mission team that was headed to Tibet. We trained each week for about 4 months. We had prayer meetings where we prayed for our trip, for our missionary contacts in Tibet. We had team workout sessions where we prepared for the rugged terrain and elevation of the Chinese Himalayas. We poured over the Tibetan language, cultural taboos, religions, foods and customs.

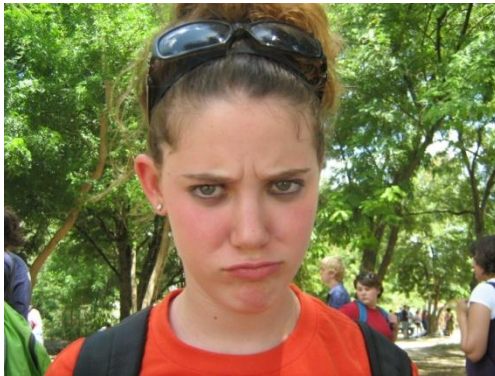
We were on the plane about to land in Tokyo for our layover; we received word that the US had accidentally bombed a Chinese embassy. In a matter of moments our whole plan was changed. The missions departments made arrangements for us to be re-routed to

Singapore. We stayed there for a week (though 9 of our 11 bags kept going to Tibet). So, we bought disposable underwear, shared cloths from the 2 bags that had made it and tried to be as flexible as we could. At first we had the hope that we might still make it to Tibet, but as time passed it became clear that we would not likely be going there. We ended up in Nepal for 3 weeks after Singapore. You can imagine the level of disappointment that the team had to process through. It was hard to understand why things had happened as they did. But, it was also absolutely crucial to the success of our trip that each of us engage in what God was doing all around us. As it turned out, we met the most amazing people in both Singapore and Nepal. Our contact in Nepal ended up being one of the most amazing men of God that I ever had the privilege of serving with. During our trek through the Nepali Himalayas I had the opportunity to share the gospel with our porters (amazing guys who carried our heavy packs in flip flops) and pray over the most precious saints way up in the mountains. We never could have predicted the way things would happen on that trip, but our lessons on flexibility proved to be absolutely crucial!

The reality is, during this mission trip, things will change all the time. One day we might think we are doing a construction project and we end up doing a kids program. Our attitude during this change will determine the success of the trip.

Imagine how difficult it would have been for our team if any one of our team mates would have infused the team with negative talk.

Remember the rule?





Team Dynamics-This is Jennah Austin (Team Dominican 2008) showing the 1,2 rule!

ASK: Did any of you want to say (or did say) something negative when I asked you to change plans?

Consider what Proverbs 16 says...

²³ A wise man's heart guides his mouth,
and his lips promote instruction. [\[b\]](#)

²⁴ Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Have a team member read Ephesians 4:29 out loud. **Ephesians 4:29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31**Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

ASK:

What do you think about that verse?

Why do you think we've brought this up so many times?

Let's practice going around the room and saying 2 things we are thankful for...(Often you will need to be the first to say something you are thankful for to get it going.)

How does that make you feel?

How do you think we'd feel if we all went around saying negative things?



OR



Consider this: Each time you have a conflict on your team, you have the opportunity to pour Water or Gasoline on it. Your words can either make it calm down or make it fire up. Each time you can chose to throw water on it and preserve friendship, unity and allow the power of God to move through you!

This week we are learning about Flexibility...this might be one of the most important lessons we will use while on the mission trip. Why do you think that might be true?

SEAL it in PRAYER: Ask the Lord to give each of you the grace to walk in flexibility.

Homework Assignment: Read over the "25 Ways to have a Successful trip" (available on the next page) and pick your top 3 for next week.

Team Assignment: Pass out “**25 Ways to have a successful trip**” and read it together.¹

1. Be flexible (It’s no longer about being flexible; it’s about being fluid).
2. Be ready and willing to grow.
3. Be ready to be held accountable (without accountability, there is no motivation for change).
4. Be culturally sensitive.
5. Be willing to give 110%.
6. Have personal devotional time daily.
7. Learn the importance of vulnerability with your team.
8. See where God is moving, and join Him in it.
9. Be an encourager
10. Don’t complain (even if it doesn’t taste like chicken).
11. Find random ways to bless your teammates.
12. Take initiative and go the extra mile.
13. Learn to love team meetings.
14. Be unoffendable.
15. Go on a sarcasm fast.
16. Be a learner.
17. Try to speak their language as often as possible.
18. No matter what happens, love the contact-find ways to serve them.
19. Remember, without preparation time you won’t be a success.
20. Be on time.
21. Hug your team leader ☺
22. Don’t be afraid to love people you’ll only see for a short time (this is the good kind of hurt)
23. When frustrated, tune into what God is saying.
24. Don’t even think about dating your teammates (it’s a sure-fire way to miss what God is doing.)
25. Throw your whole-hearted support behind your leadership. (They work hard to help you get everything you can from your trip.)

¹ Oral Roberts University Witness Manual (edited)

Team Meeting Seven:

Reviewing the Prayer Model

Lesson from Vineyard Lewiston 201 training

It is our firm believe that when it comes to ministry, EVERYBODY GETS TO PLAY! Every one of the team members can give and receive ministry! This lesson is designed to equip each team member to be able to pray for others. ☺

John Wimber proposed a five-step Prayer Model based on a study enquiry : “How did Jesus and the first disciples pray?” This model is still used in Vineyard Churches around the world. In his book Power Healing the five-step model is outlined and explained in depth.

For this mission trip we would like to introduce you to a simpler model. **We want you to have a basic ability to pray for someone and leave hungry to learn more.** In Gary Best’s book Naturally Supernatural he provides basic steps for the beginner. He takes the five-step model and reduces it to two!

two-step model for prayer ministry

Ask/Listen

We are asked to listen on two levels: to the people we are praying for and to God’s Spirit.

1. We are to ask the people what they want prayer for. *(It’s also appropriate to ask them their name that way we’re not apt to resort to “brother or sister”, as we’re left to wonder.)*
 - A. This gives us information about the situation that enables us to pray more specifically. *Mark 9:21 Jesus asks the father of the boy w/ seizures “how long has he been like this?”*
 - B. It also helps us to develop “other-focus” We need to get our mind and eyes off of ourselves so that we can access fully the compassion and faith that God wants us to have. *(Gifts don’t flow easily when our eyes are facing inward. Once we get caught up in his flow of mercy it is much easier to be in touch w/ God’s desire for the person we are praying for.)*

2. We invite the Spirit’s presence on the person. We invite God to release his mercy and the power of His kingdom into their situation. *This is not an invitation of passive resignation. The disciple’s prayer: “May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10 is a confident battle cry against Satan’s evil plans, but it does focus on God’s desires and intentions so that we can hear His specific revelation and receive His gifts.*

3. We watch for responses to our prayers. *(We are Naturally Supernatural people, so we don’t have to hesitate to ask, “What is happening or How are we doing?”)*

Obey

All prayer must begin with invitation- asking God to intervene and bring his Kingdom.

1. “God what do you want to say and do?” When we sense the leading of the Spirit we follow it. This is the OBEY part of the prayer.

Jesus and his disciples modeled prayers of faith, such as; “See!” “Lazarus, come out!”, “Get up Tabitha!” These are prayers of faith, of command. When we believe God has shown us how to pray, faith wells up inside of us and we can confidently pray for others.

Risk is always the way for us to grow in faith.

We won’t always know exactly what to pray but as we experience praying for others our ability to listen and obey will grow and improve. We can grow in our ability to discern when God has spoken.

Practicing: Everybody gets to play!

Take Gary’s two-step prayer model and RISK. Keep it simple as you begin to pray for others. You can do this!

For all the mission team members, our desire is that you would take every opportunity to reach out to others. Remember that “Every member can give and receive ministry from every member.” Even when you feel uncomfortable or self conscious about how you are praying, know that God has chosen to touch lives through ordinary people.

Please purpose to pray for anyone God brings across your path.

- Try to focus on the person and not on your doubts and insecurities as you listen to God.

Mission Moment: Last year when our team went to the Dominican republic we felt like God gave us clear instructions that anyone who told us about any sickness we were suppose to pray for them. We were shocked as person after person came up to us and the first thing they would tell us about was their sickness. It helped build our faith and confidence that God was moving! We saw people healed in the hotel lobby, at our VBS outreaches and team members during team meeting! God rocks!

Purpose to catch God’s heart for the person you are praying for.

- Even if you are new at this, don’t let the enemy intimidate you. God’s power flows through Naturally supernatural people like you and me.

Practice it:

Break up into groups of three or four .

1. pray for a physical need represented within the group
2. pray for a relational need represented within the group.

Use the two step model and begin to pray for the person.

Taking it deeper: Read Naturally Supernatural by Gary Best

Feedback

Share your experience with your team

Homework Assignment: any final stuff you have not yet received, next meeting is the last one. Go over any final details, location for next meeting (if different) and such.

Team Training Meeting Eight

Commissioning

Commissioning & final details: May we recommend that you invite parents to join you at this meeting. Maybe have one of the families host this gathering in their home with snacks, etc.

Recap:

- “What to Pack” list
- Team behavior agreement
- Meeting times
- Final money stuff, etc.

Have the team read Luke 4:18-19 outloud

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”^[e]

Start the meeting by having all the team hold hands to create a circle facing out. As they hold hands take a moment to have each one pray for the team member on their left, then for those on their right (give a minute or so for each). Then ask them to begin praying for those they will encounter on the mission trip. (The lost, the local churches, the people in the airport)

Invite the parents to pray over them and commission them and also read Luke 4:18-19 with them!

What to Bring (and How to Pack It!)

First things first: You can't pack until you know how much space you have. So here's the first thing you need to know. **YOU CAN BRING ONLY ONE BAG.** Space will be limited, so the less you bring, the less cramped we'll *all* be on a bus together for hours.

Your bag should be less than 62" (length + width + depth) and weigh less than 50 lbs. Be sure you also only bring what YOU alone can carry. Yes, the guys on our team are nice gentlemen but they will NOT be carrying your bag! ☺

If you have further questions about airline allowances, go to your airline's website!

Wear to the airport:

Wear comfortable clothes within the dress guidelines. We'll be traveling for a long time. Layers are probably your best bet since airports and planes can be chilly, and it'll definitely be warm when we land and start driving.

In your carry-on bag (backpack, etc.):

- At least 2 pairs of underwear.
- One change of clothes
- Your ID (passport, etc.)
- Any medicines you're on (make sure you have a note from your MD if you're on any prescriptions)
- Toiletry essentials (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant that are 3 oz or smaller)
- Your Bible, a journal, a couple of pens
- A book to read on the plane.
- DO NOT PACK any razors or razor blades, aerosol cans (shaving cream, etc.) or anything else prohibited by law.
- Remember all liquids must be less than 3 oz. or they will be confiscated

In your main baggage (to be checked at the airport):

- The rest of your underwear.
- Clothes
 - At least one "church" outfit (see dresscode for questions)
 - 2-3 pairs of "casual" clothes (for traveling, day off, etc.)

- 2 pairs of work clothes (appropriate for lots of labor, can-get-dirty)
 - 1-2 pairs of clothes for things in-between times.
 - Toiletries
 - Razors (NOT in your carry-on)
 - Contact solution
 - (**if you wear contacts, bring a pair of glasses with you just in case one tears or you get dust in your eyes...you want to be able to see!)
-
- Bathing suit and towel
 - Shoes, at least one pair of sneakers.
 - A garbage bag for dirty clothes.
 - Work gloves, if you have a pair.
 - Be sure to attach your ribbon to your luggage handle to make it easy to identify when claiming baggage.

Leave at home:

- CD Players / IPODs, computer etc. (you can live without them for a week)
- Cell phones (they won't work down there anyway)
- Anything you think *might* be outside of the dress guidelines given out previously
- Makeup (it is fine if you bring some, but not a lot)
- Blow dryer
- Anything that could be considered a weapon
- Anything illegal
- Anything you couldn't replace or live without if it got stolen

Dress Code

Here are some simple guidelines for how to dress. The reason we give you a dress code is there are differences in the culture and how they view the way people dress. We don't want to offend anyone so this is a way we can help you be culturally sensitive. Please follow these guidelines they are not very hard. If you have a problem talk to your leader or Jenni.

General

- Clothes should generally be neat and well-kept. Many Hispanics tend to have a higher standard of cleanliness and neatness than we do.
- Bathing suits should only be worn at the beach or when swimming.

Boys

- Pants and a collared shirt (polo or button-down) should be worn to all church services.
- Shorts should be hemmed and approximately knee-length.
- Earrings aren't really considered masculine in this culture. This doesn't mean you shouldn't wear them, but please think about it a bit before you do.

Girls

- Below-the-knee-length skirts, dresses, or pants should be worn to all church services (you can wear jeans with a nice shirt). In most cases, you'll find that dresses or skirts are much cooler than pants. If your skirt needs a slip, wear one.
- Shorts are fine, but they have to be knee length. Capris are acceptable as long as they're not too tight.
- **Excessive** jewelry or makeup isn't really appropriate here.
- Sandals and flip-flops are perfectly acceptable. Sneakers and/or shoes may be a bit safer in some areas.
As far as bathing suits, no bikinis. Tankinis are fine and if you don't have one you can wear a dark tank top over your bikini. If you have any questions ask your leader

BEDDING: You do not need bedding. If you have a pillow or any other bedding you want to bring, fine, but it has to go in your ONE bag.

MONEY: As far as money goes, you do not need a lot. You may have to pay for food on the way to the airport or at the airport. You will not need to, but you could buy snacks and drinks during the day (these are cheap). We will not be spending a lot of time shopping. \$100 should be **MORE** than enough.

Debriefing kit will be available for download May 1, 2009 at www.vineyardyoutheast.org!

Surge Equipping Kit feedback: Thank you for being a part of the Surge pioneer training! If you have any edits, ideas or comments on how this training kit can be improved, please send them to jenna.stepp@vineyardlewiston.com. We are hoping to be able to develop this curriculum into something that can be used by more and more groups across the nation. We value any input you can give!

Here's to the great adventure!

Thanks again,

Jenna Stepp

Vineyard Lewiston

¹ adapted from "The Giant Jigsaw Puzzle by Jim Cain