

Be A Witness

Telling your Story

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
1 Peter 3:16

Every person should be prepared to give a testimony during the mission trip. You should always be prepared to be called upon or asked. This is your opportunity to tell others about a first hand experience you have had. This could possibly be the most revealing and uplifting moment you have on this mission. You may ask, what is a testimony? Very simply it is your opportunity to tell a compelling story about your life, briefly yet concisely. In preparation for this you might find the following helpful for writing your story:

- **What was your life like before becoming a Christian?**
- **How did you come to give your life to Christ?**
- **How has your life changed since becoming a Christian?**

If possible try to make each of the segments above into a story theme. Try not to use Christian Buzz Words or common phrases. Remember this may have to be translated into another language. Keep the words simple.

Once you have completed the drill you may find it contains a theme you do not wish to convey. Instead you might choose to share something more recent in your life. Example: Why you are on a mission trip

Be aware of your audience. A story you might share on a job site may not be the same one you use in a Worship Service.

Be truthful, don't exaggerate the facts. Give credit to God, not yourself. Pray that your words will receive spiritual guidance. Don't be bashful; we are excited about what you have to share.

TIPS

- We are mostly traditional in our Worship services. You may have been attending a contemporary service and may find this a little different. Also services tend to be much longer than you are used to, you will probably experience heat and lack of facilities. It may be good to bring some drinking water along with you.
- If you are being translated, remember to speak slowly and pause frequently, this will enable the translator to keep up and have a chance to speak.
- Use simple phrases. Avoid slang such as “a ball park figure” or “cool as ice” these are often meaningless in another culture.
- Open with a greeting in their language. It will be appreciated. “Buenos Dias”
- Be brief, keep it simple. Remember it takes 6 minutes to translate a 3 minute testimony.
- Remember the culture: Things like “I met my spouse in a club” or “I was separated and waiting for a divorce when” these things may be inappropriate.
- Avoid getting into detail. Remember many people have not gone to High School let alone College. Emphasize the positive in your life.
- Avoid comparisons between the cultures, theirs and yours.
- Communicate your appreciation of the people, the culture, the church and the country.
- Pray before speaking, you do not have to offer a prayer verbally you may just wish to pray silently before you speak. Remember God is in control.

Journals & Records

Journaling

This is writing for yourself. It is personal and private, for your own growth. Choose your own style, your own tools your own lingo. Your journal is unique don't try to be like everyone else, it is yours.

Use your journal as a time to express personal thoughts, questions, and discussions with God. Do not worry about what to say or how to say it this won't be published or used for anything other than your personal growth and reference.

If you are unable to begin here are some ideas:

1. My first impression here is..
2. I saw something today that...
3. When I prayed I....
4. As I look at the people, I feel...
5. My heart hurts when...
6. Today was great because I..

Recording

This is writing for the team. It will be read, discussed and shared. This is a record of what the team did each day. You should have had someone appointed to keep the record, however it can be shared and two people can compile information for the Record.

The following information should be included but you may wish to change the format.

- Date, Place and Recorder
- The daily schedule
- Mission for the day, devotional
- Events that took place
- New people that we met
- Personal insights
- Challenges or barriers

Be creative; enjoy the opportunity to consider the day, people and country in a whole new way.

At the end of your trip the team journal should be made available to all team members. This is always a great tool to be handed out at your team reunion upon your return home.

In the end there is no right or wrong way to record. Have fun, be on the lookout for funny stories and enjoy the mission.