



Re-entry and Follow-up Packet

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**As Covenant Merge Ministries, it is our desire that your mission trip is not just a good experience or a nice memory, but rather that it would make a radical, lifelong change in each member of your mission team.**

**This packet is designed to help leaders and individuals continue to process how God is working in their lives and to keep the flame of service and missions alive after they return home from the mission trip.**

**MERGE**  
MINISTRIES

## Article by Dale Lusk – Merge Executive Director

Mission trips are often a major part of a discipleship plan in many churches. I think that is great! I'm all for it.

UNFORTUNATELY many pastors and team leaders might be missing out on what probably is the most important spiritual development element of a mission trip.

All of the preparation meetings are important. The team building, ministry preparation, language learning, prayer, cultural sensitivity training, and more, are necessary and make the trip worthwhile for the hosts.

Of course the cross-cultural relationships built during the trip, as well as the serving, the learning, allowing God to utilize your church member's skills, putting others before yourself, etc. all are so important to the encouragement of the local ministries and enhancement of what they are doing in their communities.

And yes, the debriefing times during a trip are important, as trip participants wrestle with all of the input they receive each day during a trip that sometimes blows their minds.

**BUT, then we often return home from a mission trip and quickly move on to the next thing thereby missing an incredible opportunity.** I remember the mission trips I ran when I was young. We spent months preparing for the trip, hours debriefing during the trip, but as soon as we got home all of my energy went into the next things I had planned for my youth group. I totally missed out on a great opportunity.

**Do we really think the people on our trip are truly able to grasp what they learned on a mission trip DURING the mission trip. Wouldn't it make more sense to work through those issues more in depth AFTER the trip?**

Studies by important missiologists have shown that although over 50% of people who have participated on a mission trip say their lives have changed as a result of what God taught them on a mission trip (we have all heard people say "that trip changed my life forever!") the reality is less than 2% of those participants actually change their behavior toward missions, missionaries, ethnic groups, community ministry, prayer or serving as a result of mission trips. If this is true, then mission trips often do little to change the lives of the people of our churches.

Don't we want to have a higher percentage of our team members truly have a life-changing experience through Christ as the result of mission trips?

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**I believe the key to this is follow up.** Pastors, youth pastors and team leaders who have required participants going on mission trips to commit to a lengthy process of follow up have much better success at how their church members respond to what they learn on a mission trip. More people from those groups are developing cross-cultural relationships, participating in community ministries (or even starting them), praying for missionaries and giving financially to their ministries, and sensing a call to the mission field. Many change their behavior in how they respond to the poor, their families and to consumerism.

What can we do as pastors, youth pastors and team leaders to utilize this important time of follow up? Here are some ideas:

1. When someone signs up for a mission trip require them to commit not only to preparation meetings and the trip itself, but also to follow up meetings up to six month after the trip.
2. Have follow up meetings two weeks, four weeks, two months, three months and six months after the trip. These meetings are only for participants who went on the trip.
3. At the first meeting, or even at the end of the mission trip, have team members write down three ways God has called them to change their lives as a result of what they learned on the mission trip.
4. Make the focus of your meetings the following:
  - Reminisce about the trip itself. This is important. No one else understands the feelings and emotions that went on during a mission trip except others who went on the trip. The families and friends who did not go will never be able to comprehend the depth of those feelings. Give team members an opportunity to share with people who “know.” This will help your church member process.
  - Have everyone share about difficulties/dissonance they have felt since returning to their home. After being confronted by what they experience in another culture individuals often struggle with North American cultural values. Give them a chance to talk this through and support them.
  - Have a time to allow trip participants to share how they are following through on their promised behavior changes they committed to at the end of the trip, or at the first meeting. Holding them accountable will make it much more possible for team members to develop new consistent behaviors that are more Christ-like as a result of what they learned on a mission trip. Allow them to tweak commitments that were made at the passion of the moment they wrote them, but still

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challenge them to figure out how God wants them to live differently as a result of their learning on the trip.

- Share about any follow up communication there has been with the hosts (ministry/church) your team went to serve. Any communication is usually very uplifting and encouraging.
- Spend time in prayer for each other and the commitments made, for the hosts and their ministries, and for any frustrations team members feel as they returned to live in their native North American culture.

Make this follow up commitment six months and you will see a much greater life change for Christ in anyone who participated on a mission trip.

-Dale Lusk

# FROM CULTURE FATIGUE TO CULTURE GRIEF

We're excited about returning home, looking forward to lattes and water straight from the faucet. We're glad to sleep in our bed and to enjoy a private bathroom. Life in our own country certainly seems safer, more certain and more stable than what we experienced. But that also makes returning home harder than we thought.

The first thing to remember as you reenter life at home is that what you will experience is common to most people who've had meaningful cross cultural encounters. It is as valuable a part of your experience as the trip itself.

## Four Typical Coping Mechanisms of Re-entry:

### 1. Fun - creative engagement

- *"I can't wait for a hot shower."*
- *"Oh, the delight of sleeping in my own bed."*
- *"I really missed you."*
- *"I never thought a hamburger would taste so good."*

You're glad to be home. It's great looking at pictures of your trip. You feel changed in your life, in your relationship with God and in your vision of the world. You're ready to do things differently.

### 2. Flee - avoidance

- *"No one seems to be interested in my experience. They only ask me 'How was your trip?'"*
- *"Everyone here is so busy: Life seems so fast."*
- *"I hate the freeways."*
- *"I really miss my team."*

You're discouraged by how materialistic, impersonal and busy life at home seems to be. You feel alone and miss the community you experienced with your team. People seem to be preoccupied with petty concerns and easily depressed by silly issues-especially when compared to the faith, joy and community you witnessed on your trip. You wish you could return. Somehow life felt more real, more solid, more significant there than it does here. Because you can't return, you find yourself spending lots of time reliving memories, looking at pictures and trying to make contact with your team members. Even that is difficult because both you and they are being swept up in the pressure and busyness of life here.

### 3. Fight- anger, criticism

- *"People seem to take their faith so much more, seriously over there. . ."*
- *"My church service seems so passionless."*
- *"People are more interested in expanding their savings account than in saving the lost."*
- *"We live as such isolated individuals. God calls us to intimate community."*

You find yourself actually feeling depressed. People here seem indifferent to the real issues in life. Even the church fosters a self-indulgent, self-preoccupied spirituality. Money dominates everything. You're becoming highly critical of life at home, and you speak out against what you see. When you're silent you find yourself feeling spiritually superior, as if your understanding is better than others.

#### **4. Fit in - tolerance of differences; desire for another short-term mission**

- *"I can't live here like people do there. I tried to live differently; but it's impossible."*
- *"The cost of living is so much higher here. I have to accept it."*
- *"I have to return to my normal responsibilities. I can't just drop everything. I've got so much that I have to do."*
- *"I'm losing my friends because they see me as a 'mission fanatic.'"*

**The pressure to fit in:** Now you find yourself simply seeking to fit in. The press of responsibilities has taken hold, and it's simply too hard to keep focused on your experience over there. The memories are beginning to fade, and you haven't been able to find ways to live differently in light of what you've experienced. You promised you'd write the people you visited, but you've barely had time to send a postcard.

**The longing for another short-term mission trip:** You find yourself longing for another short-term mission trip. Maybe that will help you recapture the feeling of significance that you experienced before. Maybe that will stimulate your spiritual growth and draw you back into a sense of community.

**An aborted process:** Unfortunately, many people end the re-entry process here. Their trip becomes a distant memory. They feel a nagging guilt over not being able to live differently in light of what they learned. But other than giving money to mission projects, praying occasionally for the people they met and looking forward to another short-term trip, they don't know what else they can do. But it doesn't have to be that way!

**Integration:** Let's not allow the process to be aborted but press into God, giving Him place to integrate all that we have experienced into our lives. Integration is a balanced blending of the present circumstances with past experiences. It is the ability to sort out what needs to be retained from the mission experience and what needs to be released. It calls for having one foot in a new world set on fire by the mission experience and the other foot in the different, sometimes cold and apathetic old world of family, friends and colleagues.

Integration is facilitated when we can: Accept the reality of transitioning between two cultures. Relate back with the home culture in a way that does not compromise new personal values. Recognize that changes in themselves have occurred through the short-term experience. Continue to learn, while creating a new and different lifestyle incorporating things learned while away from home.

Courageously and joyfully live out our newly acquired values and practices  
A key to proper integration is taking the time to be with God through prayer &

journaling. Our hope is that you now know your Father's love for you; and for others; more deeply than ever before. Our prayers is that the reality of His love has forever changed you to see yourself and all people differently and that you will come back to your writings and allow the Lord to speak further to you. That you will continue to wake up each day saying, *"I love you Father. I love being with you and walking with you out into the world. Who do you want me to touch with your love today? Thank you that you complete what you start!"*

## COMMON FEELINGS AFTER A MISSION TRIP AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

<b>Feelings</b>	<b>Antidote or Solution</b>
<p><b>Feeling Confused?</b> You may feel confused as the values, attitudes and lifestyles you observed in your host country conflict with those at home.</p>	<p>Deep Differences in cultures require time to explore. Take time to evaluate both cultural perspectives and ask God how He wants you to evaluate and learn from these differences.</p>
<p><b>Feeling lonely?</b> Friends and family seem disinterested in hearing about aspects of your experience that you find most meaningful. You also feel as if you've changed and you need to feel as if someone is acknowledging this change.</p>	<p>You may need to realize that people are adjusting to changes in you. Since they have not experienced what you did, they may be having difficulty relating and feel uncertain about the changes in you. Discuss your feelings. Your friends may feel left out or rejected themselves.</p>
<p><b>Feeling critical and judgmental?</b> Your attitudes and opinions are critical about your home community about things like materialism. You're not sure what to do with these negative feelings about your own country and you feel quite isolated.</p>	<p>Be cautious in bringing up controversial subjects. Keep the perspective that as of yet, you may not have a balanced view on this feeling. Share with others who understand the issues you wrestle with.</p>
<p><b>Feeling "a little bit superior"?</b> You have experienced a new culture, people, and a new way of serving. You are taking life more seriously. People at home seem so preoccupied with non-essentials in life.</p>	<p>Humbly thank God for your new outlook. Use your new insights and enthusiasm in the most positive ways. Look for opportunities to engage others in experiences that will help them go down the same road of evaluating life.</p>
<p><b>Feeling anxious, apprehensive?</b> You're not sure what all of this means to your future. How do I put all these new ideas, opinions, and ways I'm growing into the fabric of my life? Who will understand me? What do I do next? Are there changes I need to make in my educational pursuits? My lifestyle? My priorities?</p>	<p>Ask God for insights about integrating your experience into your life. Take advantage of educational opportunities and alternatives by finding ways to study these new subjects. Get involved with other cultures. Seek the advice of counselors and mentors in pursuing a new life course.</p>

*Source: David Mays, ACMC "Trip Stuff" CD*

## PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

*Who am I? What have I learned about myself?*

***I have changed.*** Some of these changes are temporary, necessary adjustments to my short-term mission experience. Others are permanent changes that God wants to weave into the fabric of my life. While on my trip, I faced the issue of my own identity. What gives me a sense of worth and significance?

***I have experienced new forms of conflict.*** Often the stress of a trip leads to significant conflict both with teammates and people in the community. What have I learned about forgiveness and conflict resolution?

***I have experienced myself in new ways.*** What surprised me about myself while on the trip? What strengths and gifts do I see God developing in me?  
*Who is God? How has my understanding of God changed?*

***I may have seen forms of worship that are new to me.*** What is my understanding of spiritual gifts and ministries in other cultures? What is the place of diverse forms of worship in the church?

***My encounter with poverty, injustice and suffering may have raised some questions in my life.*** How do I deal with these in my personal life and community? *Who are we? What I have learned about community?*

***I have experienced new forms of dependency as well as hospitality.*** What have I learned about how to be a part of a welcoming community? How do I want to treat strangers in light of how I was treated?

***I may have experienced tension in interpersonal relationships.*** What have I learned about team work, confrontation, forgiveness and reconciliation?

***I long for the same sense of community I experienced on the trip.*** How do I alter my lifestyle in order to make more room for people? What commitment do I want to make to maintain some of the relationships I built on this trip – through prayer, correspondence and interaction with teammates and cross-cultural friends?

***I find myself critical of life here.*** How can I use the changes in me to build bridges that will draw others into a deeper encounter with Christ and a deeper engagement with God's work in the world? What is the impact of culture on faith? How do I see life and the gospel differently because of what I've experienced?

***I have seen radically different ways of life.*** What I have learned about the impact of culture on faith? What do I see in my understanding of Christian life that has been formed more by living in America than by the gospel?

***I have seen many ways in which cultures are changing.*** How can a culture be encouraged to change in ways that are life giving and consistent with the gospel, rather

than in ways that are destructive? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? What have I learned about discipleship?

***I felt closer to God there than I do here.*** Why? Why was it so much easier to spend time in prayer and bible study there than it is now? Why am I so undisciplined here?

***I encountered people with great joy in circumstances that would utterly depress me.*** Why can people in contexts of poverty and suffering seem to live with such vibrant joy?

***I encountered people with a wholehearted commitment to Christ.*** Why were people there willing to pay a high price for their faith, while in my own country we tend to expect a high benefit from ours? What have I learned that I want to incorporate into my own life as disciple of Christ? What's of value? How do I live here in light of what I've seen there?

***I encountered people whose way of life was radically different from mine.*** What questions have been raised for me regarding our lifestyle as Westerners? What is really necessary for happiness? Why yet we often seem so unhappy? What are five or six central values that I would like God to enable me to live out in my life style?

***I want to live appropriately here in light of what I've seen there.*** How would I feel if someone from there came to spend a week with me here as my guest? How would they feel? What are several simple realistic, doable changes I want to make in my lifestyle? *Where am I going? What is God calling me to be and to do as a result of this experience?*

***I felt a deep sense of significance while on this trip.*** How can my life count for the kingdom of God? I want to make a difference in the world and not just wait for my next short-term mission trip to feel a sense of adventure and significance. If I could dream a big for how God might want to work through me, what would I dream?

***I encountered my gifts and limitations in new ways.*** What has God entrusted me with that I could use in God's service? How do I want to develop and enhance these gifts? Are they currently fully employed for God? Why or why not? What might God be calling me to do differently?

***I feel a deep desire and sense of responsibility to help others learn from what I've experienced.*** What would I say if I had to summarize the impact of this trip on my life and what I think God would have people in my own country do in response to the needs of the people I met? How can I communicate this message to others? How can I encourage others to join me in a regular, cross- cultural prayer?

***What steps do I want to take to explore more fully what God might want to do through me?*** Do I need further training? Do I need to discover what opportunities might be available? With whom do I need to discuss this? What barriers keep me from refocusing my sense of vocation? How can these difficulties be surmounted?

# PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take time to answer these following questions

What goals did I have for myself before or during the mission trip?

How were those goals accomplished?

What goals have I set for myself now that the mission trip is over?

How can I make sure that these goals are accomplished?

After the mission trip, have there been any changes in my attitudes about any or all of the following areas (check all that apply):

prayer

faith

community ministry

family

racism

poverty

finances

priorities

other (explain)

What changes can I make in my lifestyle to reflect these changes in my attitudes?

Do you have someone who can hold you accountable to make sure that you are making these changes?

If you do not currently have someone to hold you accountable, make a list of possible people here:

## REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Read Joshua 4:1-9, where the Israelites put up stones to remember how God let them cross the Jordan, and to tell future generations how He had worked among them.

**1** When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, **2** "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, **3** and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." **4** So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, **5** and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, **6** to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' **7** tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." **8** So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. **9** Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

### Bible study questions:

1. What happens to Israel when they forget the things that God has done for them?  
(This happens a lot in the Bible – give several examples)
2. Why is it important for us to remember the things that God has done in our lives?
3. Why do you think it is so easy for us to forget?
4. What are some ways that we saw God work during our mission trip?
5. What is a way that we as a team can build a "remembrance stone" to remember these things?
6. What is a way that I as an individual can build a "remembrance stone"?

# HOW CAN WE STAY CONNECTED??

## **Merge Website**

Merge has a website – [www.covmerge.org](http://www.covmerge.org). Check it out for the latest pictures and information about your ministry site.

## **Merge Facebook**

Join the Facebook group “Covenant Merge Ministries”. Share your pictures and stories with other people who have participated with Merge and make new friends.

## **Merge Newsletters**

If you missed the opportunity during your trip to sign up to receive your Merge Area Director’s newsletter, or Covenant Merge Ministries’ general newsletter, email your area director at any time and they will add you to the list. You can also write to [info@covmerge.org](mailto:info@covmerge.org). Read the newsletters to stay updated with what is happening in your ministry site!

## **Communication with your host**

Feel free to email letters for your host to your Merge Area Director. We will translate them (if need be) and make sure that they reach their destination.

# IDEAS FOR POST MISSION TRIP REUNIONS

In order for your mission trip to have a long term impact, we believe that follow up meetings with your team are absolutely necessary. We recommend meeting one month, three months, and six months after returning from your mission trip.

## **One Month After**

We have found that many times team members who have gone on a mission trip return home frustrated because they find that they have no one who truly understands the things that they have experienced, and no one seems genuinely interested in listening to their stories. During your first meeting, give team members the chance to tell stories and relive memories with each other. During this meeting it is also important to write down team members' goals (individual as well as team goals), and implement a plan for holding them accountable to reach these goals.

## **Three Months and Six Months After**

Assess your team's goals and accountability. Encourage your team members to continue on in reaching their goals and making life changes. Remind them of the initial fire that they had when they returned from the mission trip. Below are some more ideas to use to make your meetings fun.

## **Share**

If your church allows it, plan a service or a time in the service where people on your mission team can share what they have learned and experienced.

## **Picture night**

Collect everyone's pictures from the mission trip and show a slideshow at the church or in someone's home.

## **Dinner**

Get everyone together for dinner one night. If someone learned a local recipe during the trip, try it out!

## **3 Way Calls with Merge Staff and Pastors**

Talk with your area director to see if organizing a 3 way call with your ministry site is possible.

## **Keep Serving**

Serving doesn't have to stop once the mission trip is over. Get your team together and help out a local organization for the day.

## **Bible Study**

Start a Bible study with members of your mission team.

# 18 MILE MARKERS

## Post-Mission Trip

### Short-Term Missions for the Long Haul

Here are 18 simple ideas to use to inspire and invigorate the team during the six months after returning from the mission field. These meetings and ministries can help to integrate your team members more effectively into the church body and to include them in the great commission on a more personal and meaningful level.

Use all of them or only a few; change the order and customize. Some ideas can simply be added to other meetings that are already scheduled such as Sunday school, youth group or a small group meeting. Let the Lord lead you in this "follow-through" adventure.

#### #1

**Live and Learn – a team meeting (On-Field)** Life and experience have a way of teaching all of us. At the end of your mission trip carve out an evening where the team can meet and share some of the lessons they've learned. Here are some sample questions:

1. What is one thing the Lord has pointed out to you about His heart for the nations?
2. What changes have occurred in your life (physically, socially, or spiritually) on this trip?
3. How has your understanding of people or culture deepened on this trip?
4. What behavior change will you make in your life as a result of what you learned on this trip?
5. What ministry will you get involved in at home as a result of what you learned on this trip?

#### #2

**Hindsight is 20/20 – a team meeting (Post-Field)** As soon as possible upon your return, schedule a debriefing meeting – a time for evaluation and reconciliation. Each team member can share a "high-light" and a "hardest thing" about the mission trip. This is a good time to handout any evaluation forms or other post- ministry assignments.

#### #3

**Live Report – a church service** Showcase the mission during a reporting home service. Tell stories of how God impacted your team and how God used your team to impact others. If possible, show pictures, give a taste of food from the region where you served, teach a song or play a game. A memorable service with a message will inspire others in their Christian journey.

#### #4

**Photo Memories – a team meeting** Some team members will have photos from the mission trip. Show/Display the photos of the mission trip. Let people share stories and memories as they see the photos.

1. What impacts you most as you remember trip in photos? What stands out to you?
2. What are some of the concerns you have regarding the ministry and people you partnered with?

3. As you remember the trip and the commitments you made to God regarding a change in behavior and involvement in mission at home, how are you confirmed? Challenged? Take time to pray specifically for the local church's follow up of the ministry you did in partnership with them. Pray for your own personal follow up and commitments you made on the mission trip.

#### #5

**Names Night – a team meeting** Think about the people from the mission field who made the most impact on you. Ask each team member to write these names on 3x5 cards and, if there is time, have them share about each name. Pray for the specific people written on these cards. As a group create a large poster that you tape these 3 x 5 cards with names. Put it up somewhere in your church and use this as a reminder to pray specifically for those who people.

#### #6

**Potluck With a Flair – a meal time** Arrange for a potluck at the home of someone in the church. Invite the pastor, staff and missions committee. Have the team arrange for food items native to the location where the team served. Plan a special word of thanks to the church leaders for supporting and sending the ministry team.

#### #7

**It's a Small World After All – a cross-cultural idea** No matter the size of your town, there are cross-cultural opportunities within. Lead the team in selecting a cross-cultural option: attend an ethnic church service, volunteer at a local community ministry or social services non-profit, organize a special event in an ethnic community near your church in partnership with a local cross-cultural ministry or church, invite members of an ethnic community to meet with your team and share about their culture, etc.

#### #8

**Time to be Accountable – a one-on-one time** Organize each mission team member to meet one-on-one with another mission team member. Share the following:

1. What have been the greatest frustrations you've faced since you returned from your mission trip?
2. How have you been following up on the one change of behavior you committed to on the trip? What has worked? Not worked? What can you do to move ahead?
3. How have you been following up on the one ministry at home you committed to on the trip? What has worked? Not worked? What can you do to move ahead? Pray for each other

#### #9

**Give 'em a Break – an act of service** The nursery workers and children's Sunday school teachers serve week after week. Have your team coordinate a "Give 'em a Break" Sunday and take over for them in all the classes. This could even be a "Give 'em a Break" month! Be sure to express gratitude to them for their ministry to the church.

## #10

**Just a Call Away – a conference call** Arrange a conference call with your Merge Trip Facilitator and host pastor (if possible). The time of this call may depend on the time difference at the location of your ministry. You will need a speaker phone or utilize a video call if possible. Ask for updates from the field and share life-change stories from the team. Invite the pastor and someone from the mission committee to join you.

## #11

**Fast and Pray – a day-long commitment** You have been away from the mission field and involved in your own daily routine. But, your hosts are still on the mission field doing the same ministry as when you left. How quickly we forget. Set aside one day where you will skip lunch and go somewhere to pray for your host and their ministry. Every time your stomach tells you that you're hungry, use it as a reminder to say a prayer for the field again.

## #12

**Encouraging You – a team meeting with an outcome** Meet together and have everyone take time to write a letter to the host church. Send the letter to the Merge Trip Facilitator to be taken to the hosts and read as an encouragement to them, their faith in Christ and their ministry to the people of their community.

## #13

**Fire Up a Prayer Meeting – an act of service** Host a missions prayer meeting one night. Have the team coordinate the night's theme, agenda and refreshments. Make the meeting memorable and allow for plenty of prayer time. Invite everyone in the church to attend and focus on missionaries that your church supports as well as on the ministry location of your short-term team.

## #14

**"Thank You" Letters – personal acts with an outcome** Write "Thank You" emails to the missionaries and ministries your church supports. Include praise to God for the missionaries and ministry leaders, and for all He has done through their commitment to the Gospel. Include a personal life-change story regarding something you learned through the mission trip you took part in.

## #15

**Giving Back – an offering** Plan a special missions offering or a fund-raiser for missions. This event should be for the whole church and will require publicity and opportunities for involvement. The money raised could be for something specific on the field where your team served, for the Merge staff who served with you or it could be for something in your area. This is a tangible way to demonstrate Christ's love and provision to others.

## #16

**Time to be Accountable Again – a one-on-one time** Organize each mission team member to meet one-on-one with a different mission team member than they met with the first time. Share the following:

1. What have been the greatest frustrations you've faced since you returned from your

mission trip?

2. How have you been following up on the one change of behavior you committed to on the trip? What has worked? Not worked? What can you do to move ahead?
3. How have you been following up on the one ministry at home you committed to on the trip? What has worked? Not worked? What can you do to move ahead? Pray for each other

#### **#17**

**The Power of Together – a team meeting with another team** Find another church that sent out a short-term team. Arrange for a home meeting, a reception or a youth group meeting where you bring the teams together. Each team can share testimonies of what God did and tell about the regions they served. Together, pray for the ministries and for each other.

#### **#18**

**Let's Keep Serving – an act of service** As a mission team volunteer a day in a local ministry one of the mission team members started serving in since the mission trip took place. Do this as an encouragement and validation toward one team member who really put into action their faith as a result of the mission trip.

Adapted from 20 Mile Markers at [www.thenextmile.org](http://www.thenextmile.org). Check out the website!