

## **You Want to Do Missions! – Four Guidelines**

**By Bob Young**

You Want to Evangelize!

You Want to Win Souls!

I congratulate you! I am encouraged! I see more and more of God's people who want to be actively involved in winning souls. I see hearts that are set on advancing God's purpose to reach out to the lost world. I see this especially in increased interest in mission trips. I see it in Christians of all ages.

Let me share some things that will help you. Let me help you set some goals. I know that some mission trips will not involve a fully developed version of what I share here, but here are four essential guidelines.

- Mission work is spiritual work. Your primary goal is spiritual. As expanded in point #3, your goal is to develop interest in the things of God. Your goal is to develop in those you contact the desire to know and to understand. You may be involved in a variety of activities, but never forget that the first priority is spiritual. You go to help change minds, change hearts, and change lives. You go to be part of the process of bringing people to Jesus, and of helping other Christians walk more closely with him.
- Mission work must be relational. Mission work is personal. Commit yourself to building relationships with those you meet and contact. Demonstrate a Christian spirit of love and service in all you say and do. Remember that you are being watched 24/7. You do not have the luxury of not being a good example! Be genuinely interested in the well-being of others.
- Mission work should develop interest in unbelievers. Effective mission workers learn how to evaluate hearts. This is sometimes called "evangelistic perception." You are always looking at others as those whom Christ can bless. You are seeking to understand when and where and how to insert the seed of God's saving word into hearts. The word of God is able to make one wise to salvation, to save, to keep one saved, to edify and build up.
- Mission work should be evangelistic. Those who participate in missions should know and understand the gospel. A good preparation is to study or review the gospel message. A good exercise is to present the gospel to another Christian (or to an unbeliever if you have the opportunity). This exercise is more than just reading the Bible. You should read for a purpose, seeking to make certain that you can make God's plan clear.