

# ADVENTURES IN MISSIONS

## Table of Contents

Letter From the Director	5
Introduction	7
Preparation Meetings Overview	9
Missions 101 Manual Overview	11
Why Prepare?	15
First Meeting..... <i>Why Go?</i>	17
Second Meeting..... <i>When God Speaks</i>	25
Third Meeting..... <i>Listening Prayer</i>	35
Fourth Meeting..... <i>Sharing Your Faith</i>	41
Fifth Meeting..... <i>Meaningful Relationships</i>	51
Sixth Meeting..... <i>Meeting Felt Needs</i>	67
Seventh Meeting.... <i>Our Response to God</i>	75

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## Additional Information & Resources

General Packing List	84
Timely Reminders	86
Involving Parents	88
Promoting Your Mission	89
Secondary Training Topics	91
Frequently Asked Questions	92
Who To Contact At AIM	93

### CD Rom Index:



Forms



Teaching  
Tools



Cultural  
Info. Dress

## ***Welcome to Adventures In Missions!***

Wherever we look, it seems the Church is back on its heels - on defense. When we examine our courts, the media and our schools, we're shocked by what we see. But these are not the battlefields Jesus chose! Knowing His superior firepower, Jesus engaged the enemy in open warfare. Today, He's calling us to follow His leading, promising that He'll be with us as we reach our world.

Jesus doesn't call us to a passive faith. He calls us to aggressively engage the enemy! We've been given "divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4). We do this by offering hope to the poor and oppressed in a Kenyan slum or aggressively praying for the lost on a dusty Juarez street or hugging an AIDS-afflicted addict in Philadelphia.

God wants us to understand where He's working and to join Him. A short-term mission experience with AIM will pull your team out of their comfort zones and train them to follow God's lead. AIM staff will equip them to recognize the Lord's voice and obey. With this combination, they can be powerful tools in His hands!

In awakening a generation of believers to their calling as ambassadors of the Gospel, we serve notice to an arrogant enemy that the return of Jesus is near. We mobilize the Church for its great commission: to make disciples in all the world! God wants you to follow Him, to reach our world.

Seth Barnes, Executive Director  
Adventures In Missions





## **The Arena**

**We live in a world packed with things to do.** The emphasis is on “doing”. This is where most of us find our identity. It’s based on what we do – soccer player, band member, skater, right?

**However, in God’s economy, it’s different.** The emphasis in the Scriptures is on “being” with God – “doing” is only an outgrowth of sitting at the feet of Jesus and knowing Him (Luke 10:38-42; Mark 3:13; Matthew 7:21-23). For centuries God has longed to have his people, who are called by His Name, humbly listen and follow Him obediently.

**Short-term mission trips provide** a terrific opportunity for you to experience missions, strengthen your faith, see God at work, and become the person God desires you to be. **You are entering the Lord’s arena, His soccer stadium, if you will.** So, if it’s God’s “playground”, it’s important to know what it looks like to “put the ball in the net” to score!

**On an AIM trip**, you may be involved in construction projects, vacation Bible school, visiting a nursing home, prayer walking, feeding the homeless, street evangelism, drama, music ministry, or prayer ministry. Yet, doing any of these is **NOT** putting the ball in the net; they are not the goal! So, what is? Glad you asked!

**AIM has five objectives for all its trips:**

- 1. LISTENING PRAYER**
- 2. Share Your Faith**
- 3. Build a Meaningful Relationship**
- 4. Meet Felt Needs**
- 5. Debrief and Respond**

If you participate in the construction projects, vacation Bible school, visiting a nursing home, prayer walking, or feeding the homeless, but miss the objectives—especially learning to **listen to the Lord and following in obedience**,—you will have missed it all!

**Every ministry that's set up** is merely an arena for you to “put the ball in the net” by meeting the objectives, and above all else, **listening to the Lord in prayer**.

**The following prep meetings** are designed to guide you toward these goals. Take the training seriously and be motivated. The meetings will help you prepare to have the right mindset as well as the right heart.

**Why is this an arena? Because life is a classroom!** There's so much the Lord wishes to teach us about ourselves and Himself that He will use every opportunity to teach us. We have to listen. This mission is not the end; it's a means to a greater end. That end is for the Father to see Christ formed in each of us (Galatians 4:19). The greatest joy the Father can have is for His children to look like His Son (Ephesians 5:1).

Additionally, if you're able to take what you learn on this mission back home to your world, then not only will you “put the ball in the net”, but you'll win the game! So keep in mind the bigger picture and how significant this trip can be for you and those you meet!

You will be stretched, challenged, empowered and equipped over the next few months. We're excited to have you partner with us as we seek to:

***Follow God...Reach Your World***

## **The Prep Meetings**

This training manual is intended to give you a starting point for preparing your team. You know the members of your team best, so feel free to add to these meetings as you see fit. But do not take away from them. The following material is essential to proper preparation. The content has been carefully thought through and prayed about during the 14 years AIM has been participating in short-term missions. We've styled the meetings to be used within your often-tight schedule.

Look through all of the materials first to get an overview.

**Remember the seven P's! Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Pitifully Poor Performance.** The stuff in this manual is important! Once you get to your mission site, things will move quickly. There won't be much time to backtrack. Taking this material seriously now will help you and your team move smoothly into the mission week. We suggest using this manual as a journal as you train. Write down significant things the Lord shows you and take this journal with you to every meeting.

Note before each scheduled meeting:

- **The time requirement.** Although you can adjust this, we've distilled the time to maximize the minutes, with the exception of Meeting 6 which is a bit more than two hours. Only one meeting includes time for VBS preparation, so plan for this as well.



- **The Beforehand section.** Each section lists what your team needs to complete prior to the meeting. If your team does not complete this homework section in the Student Missions 101 manual, the meetings will be less effective and possibly go much longer than intended.



**The Scripture in each section** plays two roles. Some will be directly discussed, while others are more supportive, giving “Biblical flesh” to the planned discussion. Since Scripture is our foundation, be sure your team makes reading and responding to these passages a top priority.

- **Study Overview.** Reviewing what individual team members have already done will make your meetings go much smoother. You should be able to focus on the primary point of the passage instead of chasing rabbit trails.



- **Ministry Team Time.** Studies show we learn best through hands-on, experiential activities. Jesus did the same with His disciples. He showed them what to do, did it with them, and then let them do it on their own. This time is exceedingly important to give your team the chance to walk out what they’ve been reading and discussing. Be sure to discuss what happened after each time. Experience is okay, but Biblically-evaluated experience is fantastic!



- **The CD-ROM.** Throughout the meetings, you will be directed to the Resource CD-ROM. This has additional items that you will either need or might want to incorporate. Take a moment and review the contents of the CD-ROM so you’ll be familiar with what we’ve gathered for you.



- ♦ **Optional Group Builder and Discussion Questions**  
(Used by permission from “Team Building Activities” )  
To Order: [www.MissionsResources.com](http://www.MissionsResources.com)



## **Missions 101 Training**

1. Always surround your preparation with prayer. Pray for *direction*, *protection* from distractions, and a sense of the Holy Spirit's *presence* and *guidance*. Pray for yourself, your team, and the mission.
2. Be creative in training your team. For most lessons, you can find additional information on the CD-ROM. Feel free to add other items that you've found to be effective.
3. As you prepare, remember that ministry teams of five to seven participants, including adult leaders, will minister together on your trip. Plan accordingly. Breaking your group down into these teams early will help them get acclimated better than if teams are formed a week or so before the trip.
4. The disc symbol means that an idea being discussed is included on the CD-ROM at the back of the notebook. Please review all the information before each training meeting and tailor it to your needs.
5. For projects in Spanish-speaking countries, consider additional time to practice the language.
6. Mail or e-mail reminders of your meetings to your group.
7. Consider making a preparation timeline to help guide you through the preparation process.
8. When handing out forms, make due dates clear.
9. Remind participants and parents that there will be mandatory assignments for the next meeting.

10. Develop a plan to involve parents of your students in the trip preparation. Consider involving them as team leaders or as meeting helpers and trainers.
  11. Send meeting updates to parents and church leadership regularly. Good communication will help avoid problems.
  12. If there are questions you can't answer, explain that you'll have more information about the project later. You should have a project leader by April. At that point, you will be able to answer more specific questions about the trip.
  13. Create an environment of flexibility surrounding your trip. Each participant should have a flexible approach. AIM will plan your trip with as much detail as is reasonably possible, but sometimes sensitivity to the Holy Spirit opens up new ministry opportunities.
  14. AIM is an interdenominational ministry, what this means practically, is that you may have another group on your trip that is from a differing denomination. The church you'll be serving in the field maybe of a differing denomination as well. It's crucial that you explain this to your group, that they may see others worshipping differently than what your accustomed to.
- ♦ *Training your group is essential.*
  - ♦ *Discipline yourself to properly complete Missions 101.*

## **AIM's Project Objectives**



Every participant on an Adventures In Missions trip will pursue each objective before returning home.

1. **Listening Prayer** – This is the biggest objective of all. You will develop an ability to hear and discern God's voice through prayer and Scripture, and then obey the direction God gave. You will learn to be sensitive to the Spirit's specific leading in personal ministry. This will define the other four objectives. Everything hangs on listening prayer.
2. **Share Your Faith** – Each participant will share the Good News. More than a Gospel presentation or a rehearsed testimony, it's your life! You will listen in prayer to know *when* to share, with *whom* to share, and *how* to share. This is not about reciting something from memory, but being open to the direction of the Holy Spirit. This *could* include a Gospel presentation or personal testimony.
3. **Build a Meaningful Relationship** – Led by the Holy Spirit, each participant will build a meaningful relationship through ministry with a local person. Seeking out that person each day, a participant will demonstrate the love of Jesus. Keep in mind that people want you to be interested in their story, and they'll be interested in your story, but not a memorized outline. Be real!

4. **Meet Felt Needs** – Each participant will respond in obedience to God’s specific direction to meet a local person’s practical need, something physical. This could be construction or repair work, or it might be something very specific in answer to prompting by the Holy Spirit.
5. **Debrief and Respond** – Assisted by the project leader, staff, and group leaders, participants will learn to identify (debrief or talk about) what God has done each day and some things that remain to be done. This is a very important part of every AIM trip.



## **Why Prepare?**



With so many things to do, people to see, and places to visit, why do we spend all this time to train and prepare for a week of missions activity? Seems like a lot of work for just seven or 10 days out of your life. Is it *really* necessary? Yes! Although AIM will be setting up all the ministries for your group, you'll still need to prepare. The amount of preparation your group puts into this trip will determine the effectiveness of your ministry.

**You and your team will set the tone** for your trip long before you leave for the field.

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe . . ."*

Philippians 2:14

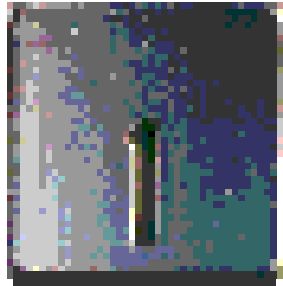
**A good preparation process is a vehicle for discipleship.** Participants have a reason to learn spiritual disciplines as they shoot toward a target. The successful completion of their mission trip depends largely on their own commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Remember, in the big picture of ministry, this trip can be a forum to make better disciples.

## ***The Benefits of Preparation***

1. Teams develop realistic expectations of the trip.
2. Ministry on the field is more productive.
3. God is able to use your group in more ways.
4. Team unity, community, and identity develop.
5. You can identify potential problems early and help attitudes become more Christ-like.
6. Learning takes place in a safe setting.



# AIM Prep Meeting



## *Why Go?*

### *Suggested Meeting Schedule*

Opening prayer, worship	20 minutes
Announcements	
Study Overview	20 minutes
Ministry Team Time	10 minutes
Closing prayer	10 minutes
Optional group builder, discussion questions	



## **Meeting 1 – Why Go?**

### ***Study Overview***

Go over the Scripture study in the Beforehand section.



So often we hear that the reason to go on a mission trip is because it's commanded in Matthew 28: "Go into all the world . . ." But this isn't the full story.

**A proper reading of this passage** reveals that "go" is NOT the command. So, what is Jesus telling the Church to do? To make disciples! "Going", "baptizing", and "teaching" are all part of making disciples. Jesus wants us to multiply ourselves in His image (1 Corinthians 11:1), not simply run around in Christian activity. In fact, doing this can get us into trouble (Matthew 7:21-22).

So, if the command is not "go", why go?

### ***Boot Camp***

**This mission is a boot camp toward a larger objective.** You'll find that a short-term trip is exhausting, fun, stretching, and challenging. But you will also find that sharing your faith is relatively easy because you're out of your comfort zone, with friends, and it's expected. You can be bold for Christ because, face it, the chances you'll ever see these people again is slim to none. But there's something far more difficult you're called to do – to reach your own world for Christ back home!



**God will speak to you** over the next few months and during the mission; you will learn to listen and obey. But will you hear and obey Him when He tells you to speak to the student who sits next to you in Science class? Or what about the “uncool” kid in your neighborhood? This is where the rubber meets the road. Are you up for it?

The people we’ll meet are not objects to be won, but people to be loved. This mission is not about reciting an evangelism outline or perfecting a VBS curriculum, or getting someone into a religion. It’s about learning to love! Jesus touched lepers, healed on the Sabbath, and ate with tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners because He loved God and loved them. **Will you be Jesus to the people in your world?**

### *Jesus Saves!*

We’re not called to save people; we’re called to love them. **Only Jesus saves.** We’re called to be ambassadors for a God who is reaching a lost and dying world.

We go because God wants His creation to spend eternity with Him and we get to participate in that! God wants to populate Heaven! What an awesome privilege God has given to us. In addition to God using this trip to reach others through you, He will also use it to train and transform you. He’s actually passionately interested in both.



**Time spent at the feet of Jesus** results in ministry. All true ministry comes from overflow – not from the flesh or man’s thoughts, but from the leading and empowering of the Spirit. In fact, in the first chapter of Acts, Jesus tells His disciples to wait. If there’s so much work to be done and people are lost and dying, why would Jesus tell His people to wait? Because it’s about the Holy Spirit working through you, not about you!

**It’s vital that we spend time** in the presence of God, sitting at His feet and asking Him where and what He wants us to do.

### *Ministry Team Time*

Take some time to discuss the Scripture passages. You know your team best, but challenge them to grasp the real reason they’re going. It might take time, but love them through this process. What adjustments does your team need to make in light of these Scriptures?



Close in prayer.



## Minefield

### Objective

For group members to think about problems the group have and come up with possible solutions.

### Group Size

Two or more

### Description

Give each person a piece of paper and pencil or pen. Have the group write down things that can get in the way of experiencing all that God has for them on this mission trip. Gather the papers and read them to the group anonymously. Then wad each one up and throw it into the minefield. These are now the mines in the minefield.

**Now have group members get into pairs.** Blindfold one member of each pair, and have them try to cross the minefield without stepping on any of the mines while their partner verbally tells them where to go. You may have more than one person walking though the field at once. For an added challenge, have them walk toward one another.



## Discussion Prompts

1. Would it have been easier to get to the other side without the mines in the way?
2. How did you overcome all of the mines in the minefield?
3. How can the team get past things that are disruptive to unity?
4. Do you feel that this team is experiencing problems in becoming one? Why or why not?
5. What are some ways the team can eliminate the "mines"?

**Finish in a time of group prayer**, surrendering all the land mines to the Lord. **Variation:** Gather up the papers, and take them outside to burn during your prayer time. Or have the students take one of the papers and nail it to a wood cross.

After the lesson, you may find out there are other reasons your students want to come on the trip, such as relationships within the group or parents forcing them to go. Include all issues that can get in the way of experiencing all God has for them on this trip.

*(Used by permission from "More Team Building" pg. 72 )  
To order: [www.MissionsResources.com](http://www.MissionsResources.com)*



# AIM Prep Meeting



## *When God Speaks*

### *Suggested Meeting Schedule*

Opening prayer, worship	20 minutes
Announcements & review "Why Go?"	
Study Overview	20 minutes
Ministry Team Time	30 minutes
Closing prayer	10 minutes
Optional group builder, discussion questions	





## **Meeting 2 -When God Speaks**

Pre-meeting prep: Print out the *Walk With Jesus* exercises for each participant.



### ***Study Overview***

Go over the Scripture study in the Beforehand section.



### ***It's About Life!***

"God's Word brings life! God's Word never leaves someone or something the same. However, many Christians have lost the sense of awe at receiving a word from God. God's Word is far too important for us not to take seriously. There is too much at stake for us to be careless with a word from God. The Bible is full of examples of God speaking to people. We should encourage each other to share what we are hearing from God."

Blackaby, Henry & Richard; *When God Speaks*, pg. 11,

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God speaks at many different times in many different ways. We need to remain open.

### **A Testimony**

"I do two things to be open to anything God wants to say to me: First, I make myself available to many opportunities for God to communicate with me. For example, although God uses my quiet times with Him to speak to me, He can and will also use the preaching of His Word at my church, a Bible study, or a small group prayer time.