

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Jeff's Devotions | |
| Counting the Cost | 3 |
| Spiritual Plum Line | 5 |
| The Call to Go | 7 |
| A Servant's Heart | 9 |
| What Matters Most? | 12 |
| No Turn or Burn Needed | 14 |
| Take God Out of the Box | 16 |
| Jeff & Tonya's Devotions | |
| Dealing with Rejection | 18 |
| You Will Be Forever Changed | 21 |
| Understanding the Culture | 23 |
| Loving Others | 25 |
| Tonya's Devotions | |
| God-Given Talent | 28 |
| Missionaries are Made of Rubber | 30 |
| Getting Along with Your Teammates | 32 |
| Trip Journal | 34 |
| "Re-Entry" | 63 |
| Reflections | 64 |



Introduction

If you are reading this devotional, then you are most likely getting ready to go on a short-term mission trip. Preparing for a trip is more than getting a packing list and learning to say hello in another language. Although those 2 things are important, preparing yourselves mentally and spiritually is also vital.

This book is divided into 3 parts. The first part is a devotional called "Before You Go". You should start these devotions 14-15 days prior to your departure date. Do one devotional per day. Take your time reading each devotional. Ask God to speak to you through the devotional and scripture. Read the scriptures carefully, meditating on the meaning behind each sentence.

Part two is a trip journal. While you are on the mission field, spend time in prayer and journal the events of each day. You may experience so much that you may forget some details if you don't write them in your journal. Besides listing your activities, write down your thoughts concerning someone you met or something you saw.

The third section deals with your return home. This section should be read on the day you are about to return to your home country. This is needed in order to bring closure to

your missions experience and give you a chance to deal with your feelings and concerns prior to going home.

We commend you for stepping out.....for obeying the call to go.

This book is dedicated to the next generation of missionaries, both young and old, who have answered the call or will soon be raising their hands saying, "Here am I Lord, send me".

Jeff & Tonya Hoglen

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Day 1 Counting the Cost

You already know that the mission trip has cost you time and money. But money isn't the only thing we need to consider when it comes to "counting the cost".

Luke 14:28-30

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

What do you think the passage above means?

What other costs may be involved as you enter and work in the mission field (not monetary costs)?

Luke 14:31-33

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Are you totally committed to serving God?

I know in this day and time, everyone is so busy. One thing is for sure though, if we first seek God, he will bless us with all that we need. With that in mind, I encourage each of you to make a commitment to read your Bible, memorize scripture, and pray on a daily basis.

Day 2 Spiritual Plum Line

I pray that you made a commitment as you were reading the first devotion (if you had not already done so). Take some time to study these scriptures and get an understanding of the importance of each of these areas.

- 1) Prayer – Philippians 4:6-7
- 2) Bible Study – Romans 15:4
- 3) Worship – John 9:31

If you are a born-again believer, you have the Holy Spirit. Yet even with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, some people still wonder if they are living a life that is holy. At our church in Fayetteville, NC, we call this the Phil 4 Filter. Basically, it's examining the words of Philippians 4:8 and then asking ourselves whether we are living our lives according to the scripture.

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Is there something in your life that doesn't pass the Phil 4 Filter?

If there is something in your life that is not holy, ask God to reveal it to you. He is faithful and will reveal it to you in hopes of a change. What is it that God would like you to change?

If it is a bad habit, exchange that bad habit with a good one. What can you do in place of that bad habit?

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for revealing the sin in my life. I am sorry for living this way and ask that you would help me change. I want to live my life holy and pure. In Jesus' name, Amen.



14-Day Trip Journal



Before You Go Home “Re-Entry”

Reflecting on our past devotion “A Servant’s Heart” from Matthew 25:34-40, what does Jesus say about our response to those who are:

1. Thirsty
2. Strangers
3. Homeless
4. Naked
5. Sick
6. Imprisoned
7. Hungry

***Setting your
sights on going
home.***

You have been involved whole-heartily the past few weeks in answering the needs of all these groups. The question that we propose to you now is... Who do you know in your own community with these needs? Our call to missions should not end here on the foreign missions field. Before you start packing for your return home, think about how you can take what you have learned abroad back to your neighborhood, town, school, or workplace in the states. List those ideas below.

Take time now to commit to continue the work God has started in you during your time on the foreign missions field. Vow to continue to run the race with vigor, reaching out to those closest to you at home. Pray that God will connect you with other believers with the same desire to serve.



Reflections

Think about all the people that you ministered to on this mission trip. What one person or group stands out the most as you reflect?

Why?

What impacted you the most on this trip?

What will you miss the most when you leave the mission field?

What will you be glad to leave behind?

Did you learn anything new about yourself?

What type of ministry did you enjoy the most?

...the least?

Your adrenaline should still be pumping as memories are fresh about all the things you experienced over the past weeks, but realize that life at home went on as usual for everyone you left behind. As you share your adventures in a third-world country with your family and friends, some will catch the excitement... others... well, they may not seem to care so much. Please, do not be offended by those who are uninterested. Remember that not everyone has a heart for missions. Many people think you are crazy to leave everything behind for a few weeks and go to a foreign land. They just don't understand why anyone would leave the comforts of home to take bucket baths, sleep on the floor, wake up early every morning, and use outhouses or toilets that don't flush. Focus more on the people whose interest is

sparked by your enthusiasm. Share your stories, testimony, adventures, and pictures with them. Tell them about all the ways you were able to minister, the places you traveled, the people you met, the food you ate, the weather, the lives that were changed forever (including yours), the smells, the different types of transportation, and anything else that comes to mind. Encourage them to get involved in local missions, assisting you with some of the outreach ideas you listed on the previous page. These are the people that you should also encourage to participate in missions abroad. Assist them in connecting with a reputable mission-sending organization.

We pray that God will continue to give fuel for your heart's fire as He is faithful to complete the work that He has begun in you. May God bless you richly as you continue to bless others!