

"What's Your GPS?" GPS stands for "Global Positioning System." A GPS receiver determines its position by timing the signals sent by the GPS satellites high above the Earth. With a GPS you can find out where you are and the direction you need to go.

Have you ever been lost, and you didn't know whether to go left or right, forward or backward – north, south, east or west? What did you do? How did you find your way?

One summer I led a Senior High youth group hiking in the Rockies, but because of my neglect, we were lost. I had left the map back at camp! In the middle of the mountainous terrain the best we could do was to pool our instincts. Finally we came upon a trail and then met someone, another hiker, who had a map. She gave us the direction we needed, and luckily, we made it back to camp as darkness descended. If we don't know where we are and where we're going, it's easy to get lost.



Short-term mission trips can teach us a lot about GPS, that is, becoming more "Globally Positioned to Serve." In order to find our way through the ups and downs of new situations and cultures, we are wise to seek God's divine direction.

Listen to what Isaiah 30:18-23a has to say to you about being globally positioned to serve. First read the passage slowly, and then read it again and again so that you can absorb what God wants to say to you as you prepare for the mission trip:

*But God's not finished. He's waiting around to be gracious to you. He's gathering strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right - everything. Those who wait around for him are the lucky ones... Cry for help and you'll find it's grace and more grace. The moment he hears, he'll answer. Just as the Master kept you alive during the hard times, he'll keep your teacher alive and present among you. Your teacher will be right there, local and on the job, urging you on whenever you wander left or right: **"This is the right road. Walk down this road."** You'll scrap your expensive and fashionable god-images. You'll throw them in the trash as so much garbage, saying, "Good riddance!" God will provide rain for the seeds you sow. The grain that grows will be abundant. (The Message paraphrase)*

As you embark on this mission trip, my hope and prayer for you is that you will become more **Globally Positioned to Serve**, and that you'll realize that God wants to direct you each step of the way. During the days ahead, listen to the still, small voice of God saying, "This is the right road. Walk down this road." Thanks for saying "yes" to the journey.

Rev. Dr. Franklin W. Nelson, author

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Globally Positioned with God's Word



Pray for **Power!**

(Take 2-3 deep breaths, and as you do, breathe the Spirit of God into your life.)

Dear God, I need your power and guidance as I prepare for the mission trip. I know that Your Word teaches me to trust in Your invisible presence as I walk the pathways of life. During the days of our mission trip help me to (complete this prayer by adding your own words)...

Repeat this prayer over and over: *"Lord, show me the right road, and help me to walk it... Show me the right road, and help me to walk it."*



Find Your **Location!**

God continues to speak to those who will take time to listen. Listening to God's Word helps you locate where you are and where you need to go. Now listen to God's guidance for you in Isaiah 30: **But God's not finished.** *He's waiting around to be gracious to you. He's gathering strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right—everything...*

More Coordinates from God's word: 1 Peter 2:4-10; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



Get **Direction!**

The key verse for today promises that God isn't finished with you yet. Maybe it means that God wants you to grow and change into the person you can be. List three areas of your life (attitudes or behaviors) where you believe God wants to help you grow and change:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Take the **Next Step!**

- Invite someone you trust to pray for you during the mission trip and, specifically, one of the growth areas you listed above.
- Think of someone you know who could use your help, and during the next 24 hours, offer your help to them.

A Journey Day Prayer

“This is the right road. Walk down this road.”

Dear Lord, I want to walk down the right road! As I meet new people and experience a new culture and community, help me to find my place. Teach me to be open to new insights. Position me to serve, not selfishly, but humbly as I meet and befriend the people who will be new to me. Position me to know that I am serving You, God! I know this is the right road, so help me to walk down it.



Lord, I Need Your Power!

I want to turn on the power You offer to me, Lord. Please be the presence and power behind all that I do, think and say this week. As Jesus drew power and determination from Your spirit to walk Your way, empower me to be determined. As You sent Your Holy Spirit to the first disciples to help them walk the pathway of mission, witness and service, send Your Holy Spirit to make me globally positioned to serve. Guide my words, thoughts and actions to serve You during the coming days.



Lord, I Need to Find My Place in You!

Sometimes I feel that I've lost my way and need help to find the path again. I sometimes ask, "Where am I?" and "Where do I stand?" During the days of this mission trip, please help me to know where I need to be and where I stand.



Lord, I Need Your Direction!

A GPS helps a person find out, not only his/her location, but also the direction he/she needs to go. Lord, this week I want Your direction. Help me to read correctly the signals you will give me. Help me to listen carefully to Your Word in the Bible. Even as I complete the pages of this journal, reveal your direction to me. Show me the way to go, Lord. Show me Your way.



Help Me to Go!

It's one thing to know where I am and where I need to go. It's quite another to have the courage to GO! Give me the courage, Lord, to walk the walk. Give me the power I need to serve and love others, unconditionally, just as Jesus loved and served.

Here's the key to being more globally positioned to serve God and others:

But God's not finished. He's waiting around to be gracious to you. He's gathering strength to show mercy to you. God takes the time to do everything right - everything. Those who wait around for him are the lucky ones... Cry for help and you'll find it's grace and more grace. The moment he hears, he'll answer. Just as the Master kept you alive during the hard times, he'll keep your teacher alive and present among you. Your teacher will be right there, local and on the job, urging you on whenever you wander left or right: "This is the right road. Walk down this road." You'll scrap your expensive and fashionable god-images. You'll throw them in the trash as so much garbage, saying, "Good riddance!" God will provide rain for the seeds you sow. The grain that grows will be abundant. (Isaiah 30:18-23a – The Message)



Globally Positioned to See/Notice/Love



Pray for **Power!**

(Take 2-3 deep breaths, and as you do, breathe the Spirit of God into your life.)

Dear Lord, fill me with Your love today, so that I will be able to see/notice/love the people who cross my path. My desire is to become more like Jesus in the way I love the people you give me to serve. Forgive me when I am unwilling to...

Repeat this prayer over and over: "Lord, show me the right road, and help me to walk it... Show me the right road, and help me to walk it."



Find Your **Location!**

The weather today is... (circle one)



My mood today is... (circle one)



During the Past 24 Hours...

I saw...

I tasted...

I touched...

I heard...

I smelled...

I sensed God's presence/power/guidance when...

A person I noticed was _____

I felt good when...

A person who noticed me was _____

I learned that...

During the Past 24 Hours... (continued)

I reached out to serve and help someone when I...

A 24-hour high point/best time was when...

A 24-hour low point/hard time was when...

I think God was helping me when I...

Listen to God's guidance in Isaiah 30: *Your teacher will be right there, local and on the job, urging you on whenever you wander left or right: "This is the right road. Walk down this road."*

More Coordinates from God: 1 John 4:7-15; John 3:16-17; 1 John 3:16-18;
1 Corinthians 13



Get **Direction!**

"This is the right road. Walk down this road." Christ saw, noticed and loved the people he met along the way. He is our teacher. Some of the people that I have seen, noticed and loved today include (list)...



Take the **Next Step!**

Use one of the "blank screen" pages to list some of the new people you have met. Write a brief prayer for each person. Express a wish/hope you have for them during the coming week.

Day 2: Blank Screen.



Day 1: Globally Positioned to be Thankful



Pray for **Power!**

(Take 2-3 deep breaths, and as you do, breathe the Spirit of God into your life.)

Dear God, I'm home again! Thank you for everything. I know I have changed, because You have touched me in so many ways. I have a new desire to follow You. Thank you for guiding me home. I pray that Your love will continue to overflow through me, and that my family, friends, and neighbors will notice You in me. I want to express my thanks to You for many things, including ...

Repeat this prayer over and over: *"Lord, show me the road of thankfulness, and help me be thankful... Show me the road of thankfulness, and help me be thankful."*



Find Your **Location!**

The weather today is... (circle one)



My mood today is... (circle one)



Some of my feelings about being home include...

Some of the people I am thankful for include...

"This is the right road." Walk down the road of thankfulness.

More Coordinates from God: Psalm 118; Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Get **Direction!**

God has given you many good experiences during the mission trip. It's important to express praise and thanks. It's also important that you know that God will continue to guide and empower you daily if you will walk His way every day. Now that I'm back home, I know I will need God's help in the following situations and relationships...



Take the **Next Step!**

Write a thank-you note (or email) to a friend or family member who helped to make it possible for you to go on the mission trip. Thank them. You may also want to send a thank-you email/note to a person you met during the mission trip, and if possible, do it today.