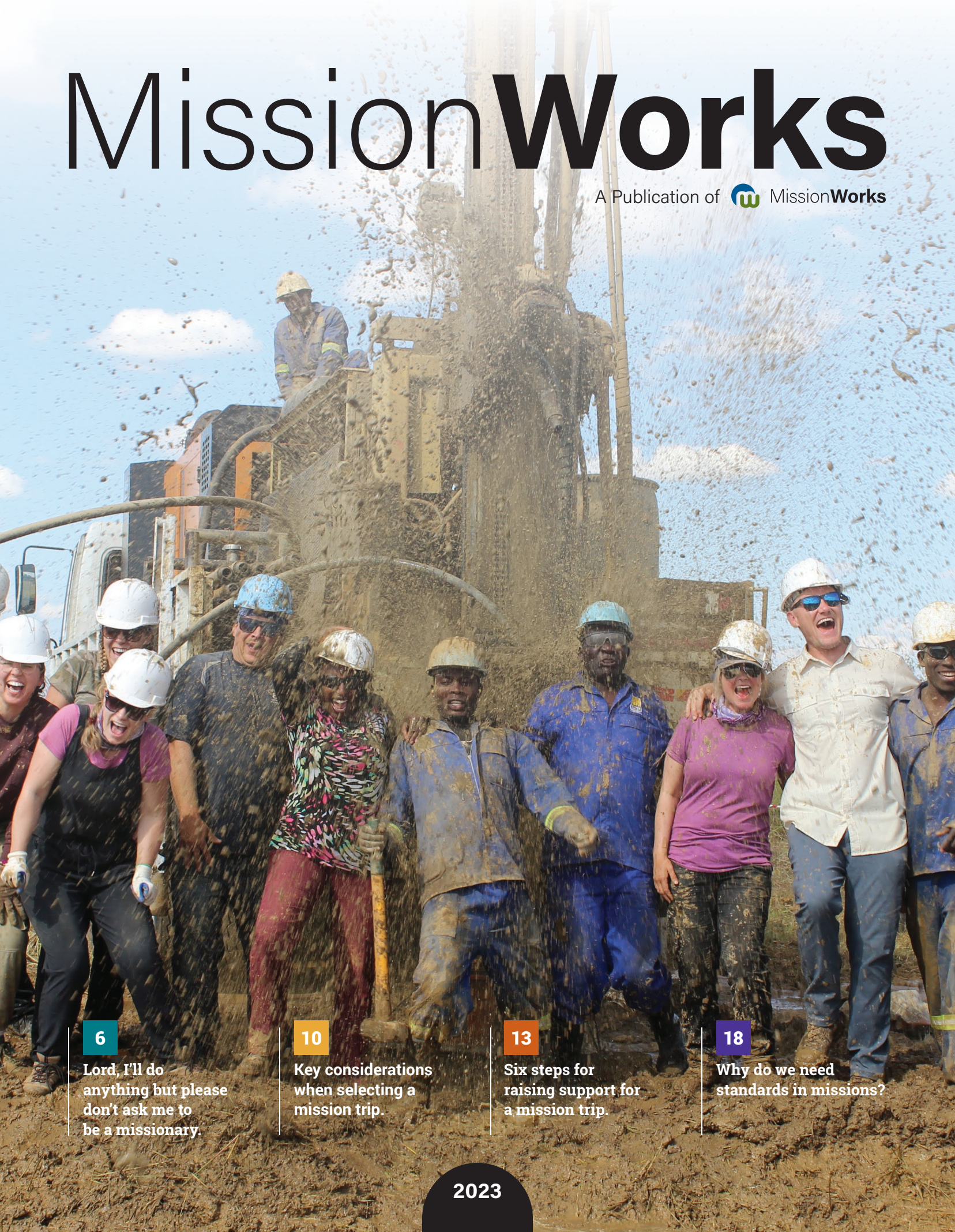


# MissionWorks

A Publication of  MissionWorks



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Lord, I'll do anything but please don't ask me to be a missionary.

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Key considerations when selecting a mission trip.

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Six steps for raising support for a mission trip.

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Why do we need standards in missions?

# Called to the Edge

*"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." — Acts 1:8*



## **Is God calling you or your church to share the Good News with those who have yet to hear?**

A third of the world has no access to the Gospel—including hundreds of millions of Muslims. Your partnership with Frontiers will help to reach them.

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**Our family of ministries work perfectly together.**

**WHO WE SERVE**

Through our family of ministries, MissionWorks provides individuals, churches, mission organizations and schools with all the outstanding resources, connections and training needed to be successful in local and global mission work.

**Expand your mission through our family of ministries.**

We know that in all things

God works for the  
good of those who  
love him,

who have been called according to  
his purpose. ROMANS 8:28

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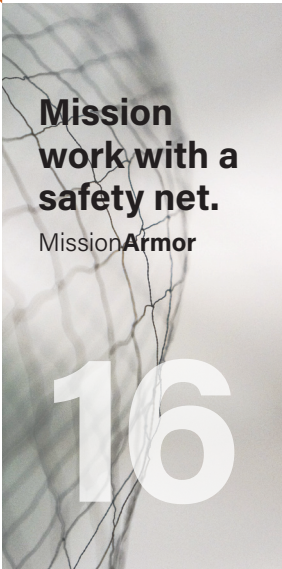


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Equip yourself by attending [regional conferences and focus events](#) providing training to accomplish your mission.

## Mission**Guide**

Enlist in a mission trip by [searching for your service, ministry and mission](#) preferences.

## Mission**Linked**

Engage with supporters through [fundraising tools](#) that tell your story and share ministry in real time.

## Mission**Armor**

Ensure everyone is safe and sound on your mission trip with [comprehensive coverage](#) for illness or injury.

## Mission**Excellence**

Excel your church, organization or school mission trips by implementing [better standards](#) in effective Kingdom service.

Together  Mission**Works**

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Welcome to MissionWorks!

If you're mission minded, you already know mission work takes a lot of know-how.

Here's the good news. Whether you're just starting out to discover your mission, looking for a mission short-term, or fine tuning your organization's mission trips, you're in the right place.

That's because at MissionWorks our goal is to see more people like you doing more in mission and doing it better.

Through our family of ministries, MissionWorks provides individuals, churches, mission organizations and schools, with all the outstanding resources, connections and training needed to be successful in local and global mission work.

As a membership organization, MissionWorks members get additional benefits – free and discounted access to our mission-focused tools and resources, member-only events, exclusive articles and resources, free access to MissionExcellence webinars, discounts for MissionWorks events and more from our family of ministries.

And membership makes it possible for thousands of others to discover MissionWorks through our free conferences and resources. So, if you are already a member, thank you.

Our prayer is you find these articles to be helpful tools as you engage in your mission journey.



**Brian Heerwagen**

Mission**Works**

Chief Executive Officer



WATCH THE VIDEO  
[MISSIONWORKS.GLOBAL/HOW-IT-WORKS](https://www.missionworks.global/how-it-works)

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# “Lord, I’ll do anything but please don’t ask me to be a missionary.”

Tory Ruark | **MissionExcellence Director**, MissionWorks COO

Have you had that thought? I won’t deny it, I have. Perhaps the first time occurred when I was a kid sitting through one of those infamous visiting missionary family slideshows at the Sunday evening service.

I’m pretty sure I had that thought in high school as I considered college and beyond. I wasn’t in rebellion. I loved Jesus and had even talked to plenty of missionaries when they visited but something was still missing.

I didn’t get it. I didn’t understand how these people could live in such far-off lands and, more importantly, I had yet to understand and share their passion. It’s not that I didn’t think missions or evangelism was important, I just hadn’t visualized my part yet. Can you relate?

For me, I didn’t get it until I experienced the missionary life. My experience of God was limited to my middle-class family and the four walls of our Baptist church. I hadn’t experienced God as the Savior of every nation, tribe, people and language.



- I was able to
- experience God
- and His love
- and care for the
- nations by going
- on a mission trip.

I was able to share in the passion for the nations by dipping my toes in the life of a missionary on a four-day mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico as a college student.

I had the advantage of both going to college a couple of hours from the Mexican border and having people who could plan the experience for students. However, I realize not everyone has this opportunity. Some of us find ourselves alone in our church or perhaps our church feels alone and unsupported.

In fact, as I’ve been part of churches and attempted to get others to share my passion, I’ve often struggled with this accomplishment. I know that many people – especially generations younger than me – are particularly moved by experience. Like me, they must see it, touch it and taste it. But they can’t all go and I can’t bring the mission field to my church.

How can I get my friend who goes to church on Sunday to dip his toe in the life of a missionary when a mission trip might be out of reach? How can I get my friend to rub shoulders with people passionate about the gospel and the Great Commission and to see what it’s all about?

I’m not alone in these questions. For most churches, bringing the

mission field to the church is not possible but coming together can be accomplished. When churches and organizations don’t worry about who gets the credit this creates opportunities for people to experience missions and ignite a passion.

Coming together allows like-minded people to connect with God’s mission. Imagine a weekend like that. Envision a conference that is geared toward the Church by the Church. At



this conference we will get to dip our toes in the missionary life by rubbing shoulders with hundreds of missionaries and people passionate about missions. We will get training for how to live on mission in our neighborhoods and around the world.

We'd be challenged to commit our lives to something bigger than our own passing pleasure and connect with the mission opportunities to which God is calling us. We'd get to respond to our Savior God in worship surrounded by brothers and sisters passionate about God's glory. We'd get consumed by this laser focus on God glorified on earth as He is in heaven!

In short, we'd get to connect to God's mission for us.

Does this sound too good to be true? It's not! MissionConnexion is about connecting God's people to mission through regional conferences and focus events.

MissionConnexion conferences and events are planned by the church and for the church. They are an equipping weekend to connect you with other like-minded believers. This conference allows for your passions to be catapulted to where God's calling you to serve. Join us and attend a MissionConnexion event.

By attending a MissionConnexion event you can equip yourself for ministry and find an opportunity to serve through one of the many exhibitors presenting their ministry.

Better yet, bring a group with you to a MissionConnexion event and spread the

excitement. This is a great way for people to become excited and equipped for missions at your church.

You may even consider attending a specialized focus event designed to go more deeply into a special area of missions for more in-depth training. There are focus events addressing planning and leading short-term mission trips, caring for missionaries, praying for the nations and specifically introducing and inspiring middle and high school students to missions.

The Great Commission belongs to the church but we can't do it alone in

isolation. I'm reminded of how essential it is to work together as I think through Scripture.

God said it was not good for Adam to be alone. The author of Ecclesiastes tells us that two people are better than one and three people are better than two. Paul worked in teams for his mission journeys and Jesus surrounded himself with a team.

Clearly, we are better together. In fact, we aren't just better together, we are made to work together. Don't try to do missions alone. Together MissionWorks.

”

### DAVE MARTIN | HERITAGE BIBLE CHURCH, PASTOR

I started coming to **MissionConnexion** for two reasons. First, my pastor told me I should and I felt a little obligated. And then another youth pastor told me that he brought his youth and I thought, okay, I'll give it a shot.

I bring students to **MissionConnexion** because I want them to experience what God is doing around the world. I want them to hear the speakers they're not gonna hear in our small towns.

We want them to see mission organizations and hear what they're up to. To hear what God's doing and to be encouraged by what God's doing. I want them to be exposed to the opportunity, or at least the idea, that God might want to use them – whether it's to be a pastor, a missionary, across the street evangelist, Sunday School teacher, or whatever the case may be. I want them to realize that God can use them wherever He calls them.

And it's just exciting to take part in the worship. It's exciting to hear some of the testimonies over the years. To hear about the Muslim world and the Mormon world and what God's doing there. It's been incredible.

So, I bring the kids to **MissionConnexion** and expose them to God in a new way, and every year they leave excited about what they've seen and what they've heard, and that's why we come.



YOU CAN WATCH DAVE'S VIDEO AT [MISSIONCONNEXION.GLOBAL/CHURCH-PARTNER](https://MISSIONCONNEXION.GLOBAL/CHURCH-PARTNER)



# Training for missions starts here.

## WHAT WE DO

You never stop learning when you're on a mission.

At MissionWorks, we serve up a variety of training and events to address the needs of mission-minded people just like you. Featuring speakers, ministries and leaders in the mission field, our regional conferences, focus events and trainings cover a range of topics to help you make short work of learning more and expanding your mission.

2024

## JANUARY

### Mission**Excellence** Standards Introductory Workshop/ Preconference - Northwest

You'll discover the benefits of The Standards and begin applying them to your specific ministry context. The SIW includes a resource notebook.

### Mission**Connexion** Leadership/ Preconference - Northwest

Training to better equip church mission leaders in their role.

Mission**Connexion Northwest**  
Regional conference providing training to accomplish your mission.

### Mission**Connexion** Short-Term/ Focus Track - Northwest

It's all about training and equipping short-term mission hosts, mobilizers, leaders, and goers to be effective outside their cultural comfort zone as they journey together.

Mission**Excellence Webinar**  
*How to Listen to Your Hosts and Participants*

## FEBRUARY

### Mission**Connexion** Care Midwest

Training to help those responsible for the care of missionaries on and off the field.

Mission**Excellence Webinar**  
*What you need to know to involve senders and receivers—not just goers—in your next mission trip*

## MARCH

Mission**Connexion Crescent\***  
Training to help people love their neighbor from the 10/40 window.

### Mission**Excellence** Standards Introductory Workshop/ Online

You'll discover the benefits of The Standards and begin applying them to your specific ministry context. The SIW includes a resource notebook.



Mission**Excellence Webinar**  
*Preparing With Your Host for Your Mission Trip*

### Mission**Excellence** Accreditation Cohort Meeting #1 of 5

You'll participate in 5 cohort meetings plus personalized coaching that will ensure you're applying all 7 Standards of Excellence to your mission trips and prepare you to pass an accreditation peer review.

## APRIL

Mission**Excellence Webinar**  
*4 Paths for Training Your Mission Team*

### Mission**Excellence** Accreditation Cohort Meeting #2 of 5

You'll participate in 5 cohort meetings plus personalized coaching that will ensure you're applying all 7 Standards of Excellence to your mission trips and prepare you to pass an accreditation peer review.

## MAY

Mission**Excellence Webinar**  
*How to Keep Your Team Safe on a Dangerous Mission*

### Mission**Excellence** Standards Introductory Workshop/ Online

You'll discover the benefits of The Standards and begin applying them to your specific ministry context. The SIW includes a resource notebook.

### Mission**Excellence** Accreditation Cohort Meeting #3 of 5

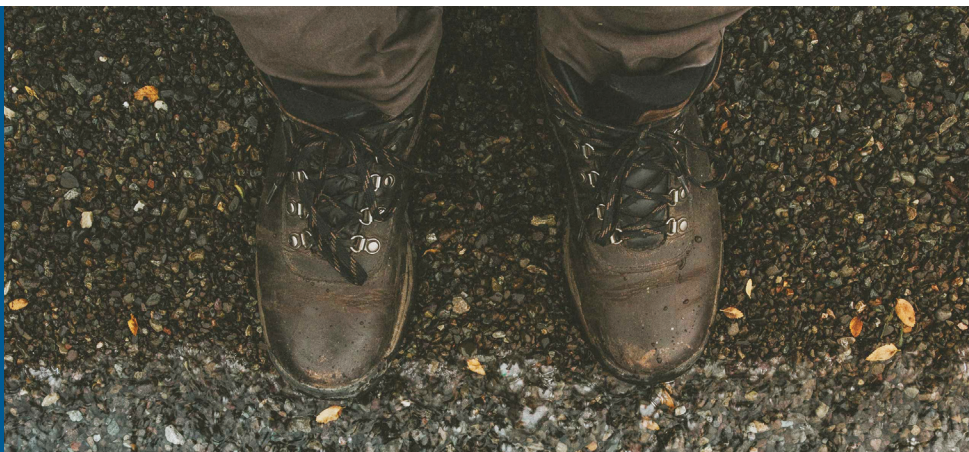
You'll participate in 5 cohort meetings plus personalized coaching that will ensure you're applying all 7 Standards of Excellence to your mission trips and prepare you to pass an accreditation peer review.



Christ himself gave the apostles,  
the prophets, the evangelists,  
the pastors and teachers

to equip his  
people for works  
of service,

so that the body of Christ may be  
built up. EPHESIANS 4:11-12



## JUNE

Mission**Excellence** Webinar  
*Communicating Without  
the Distraction*

Mission**Excellence**  
**Accreditation Cohort  
Meeting #4 of 5**

You'll participate in 5 cohort meetings plus personalized coaching that will ensure you're applying all 7 Standards of Excellence to your mission trips and prepare you to pass an accreditation peer review.

## AUGUST

Mission**Excellence** Webinar  
*How to Inspire People with  
Your Story*

## SEPTEMBER

Mission**Excellence** Webinar  
*Identifying and Training  
New Leaders*

Mission**Excellence**  
**Standards Introductory  
Workshop/ Preconference -  
Missio Nexus**

You'll discover the benefits of The Standards and begin applying them to your specific ministry context. The SIW includes a resource notebook.

Mission**Excellence**  
**Accreditation Cohort  
Meeting #5 of 5**

You'll participate in 5 cohort meetings plus personalized coaching that will ensure you're applying all 7 Standards of Excellence to your mission trips and prepare you to pass an accreditation peer review

## OCTOBER

Mission**Excellence** Webinar  
*What To Do—and Not Do—  
When Promoting Your Next  
Mission Trip*

## NOVEMBER

Mission**Excellence** Webinar  
*Reversing roles: How to Host  
your Host*

Mission**Excellence**  
**Standards Introductory  
Workshop/ Preconference -  
Southwest**

Designed to help short-term mission leaders and mobilizers make their mission trips better.

Mission**Connexion**  
**Leadership/ Preconference -  
Southwest**

Training to better equip church mission leaders in their role.

Mission**Connexion** Southwest  
Regional conference providing training to accomplish your mission.

Mission**Connexion** Student

A challenge to youth to go beyond. Student Connexion provides a launching point for youth into a lifetime involvement of serving Jesus through missions and ministry by connecting them with the mission field of today.

Mission**Excellence**  
**Standards Introductory  
Workshop/ Preconference -  
ICOM**

Designed to help short-term mission leaders and mobilizers make their mission trips better.

**\*Conference is in early planning stages. Check website for updates.**



FOR ALL THE DETAILS AND UPDATES VISIT US AT  
[MISSIONWORKS.GLOBAL/CALENDAR](https://MISSIONWORKS.GLOBAL/CALENDAR)



Then he said to his disciples,  
"The harvest is plentiful, but the  
workers are few. Ask the Lord of  
the harvest, therefore,

to send out  
workers into his  
harvest field."

MATTHEW 9:37 – 38

# Key considerations when selecting a mission trip

**Before choosing a short-term mission trip, it's important to ask yourself some key questions to help select the right trip. Here's how to break down these questions into some broad categories.**

- Enlist the help of a
- pastor, mentor, or friend
- with missions experience
- to help you think through
- your answers.

## Questions to ask yourself.

**Purpose:** Why are you going? What is your motivation?

**Practice:** What type of experience are you looking for? (discipleship, cross-cultural exposure, ministry experience, other)

**Difficulty:** Which level of cross-cultural experience is right for you?

## What to look for in a Mission Agency.

**Fit:** Do they have programs that match your interest and experience?

**Experience:** Do they have experienced, mature leaders onsite? Does their communication with you show signs of quality and professionalism?

**Preparedness:** Have they thought things through? (Expect some flexibility but also thorough planning). Do they have emergency management procedures in place?

**Comprehensiveness:** Do they provide adequate training to prepare you? Do they help you process the trip with a debriefing?

**Dependability:** Have other groups or individuals found they practice what they claim? What do prior participants say? Does the sending organization practice *The Seven Standards of Excellence* as set forth by MissionExcellence?

**Emotionally Healthy:** Can I expect times of resting, building community, being disciplined and supported? Will there be an emotionally healthy environment provided by who I serve with? This is a great list of things to consider and questions to ask an agency before choosing the best mission trip for yourself.

## What to look for in a mission trip.

**Long-Term Plan:** Does it fit into a broader long-term plan for the area in which you'll be ministering? How does it match with local churches and career mission work in the area?

**Great Commission Focus:** How does what you will be doing contribute to accomplishing the Great Commission?

**Questions if you're taking your family:** Many people desire to share a mission trip experience with their family. In fact, while it can be a challenge to take your family on a mission trip, serving together can not only build great memories but help your family find ways they can serve God and others as a team.

Consider your motives. While mission trips can be life-changing experiences, we do not recommend dragging along a rebellious child or family member you hope to "fix." Often, this creates problems for you and your host.

That being said, a mission trip can build a lifelong availability and heart for serving and growing in faith. Not to mention it can build your family unity in positive ways.

**Calling:** Do other family members sense a call to this as well (mature enough to discern the will of God)?

**Participation:** Does the nature of the mission trip allow your children to participate? If not, to what extent could you still participate if you need to provide care for your child?

**Age Appropriate:** Should you join an intergenerational team or look for an opportunity that could be designed specifically for your family?

- **Travel Wisdom:** Who has experience traveling with their children and can help me anticipate what it would be like to travel with my family?



**Preparation:** How can your family prepare for this mission trip? For example, can you practice eating certain foods? Adjusting to colder or warmer temperatures? Go without certain creature comforts like showers, hot water and so on?

### Discerning God's will.

As you consider a mission trip and have asked all the good questions, remember that your top consideration should be God, His glory and His will for you. While the questions above are a good guide, they should not replace the Holy Spirit.

Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring about unity. Be careful not to use the Holy Spirit as a trump card when you don't get your way. Submit to your leaders for they are held to account by God Himself. Rather than resist, lean in and invite your leaders into your discerning process.

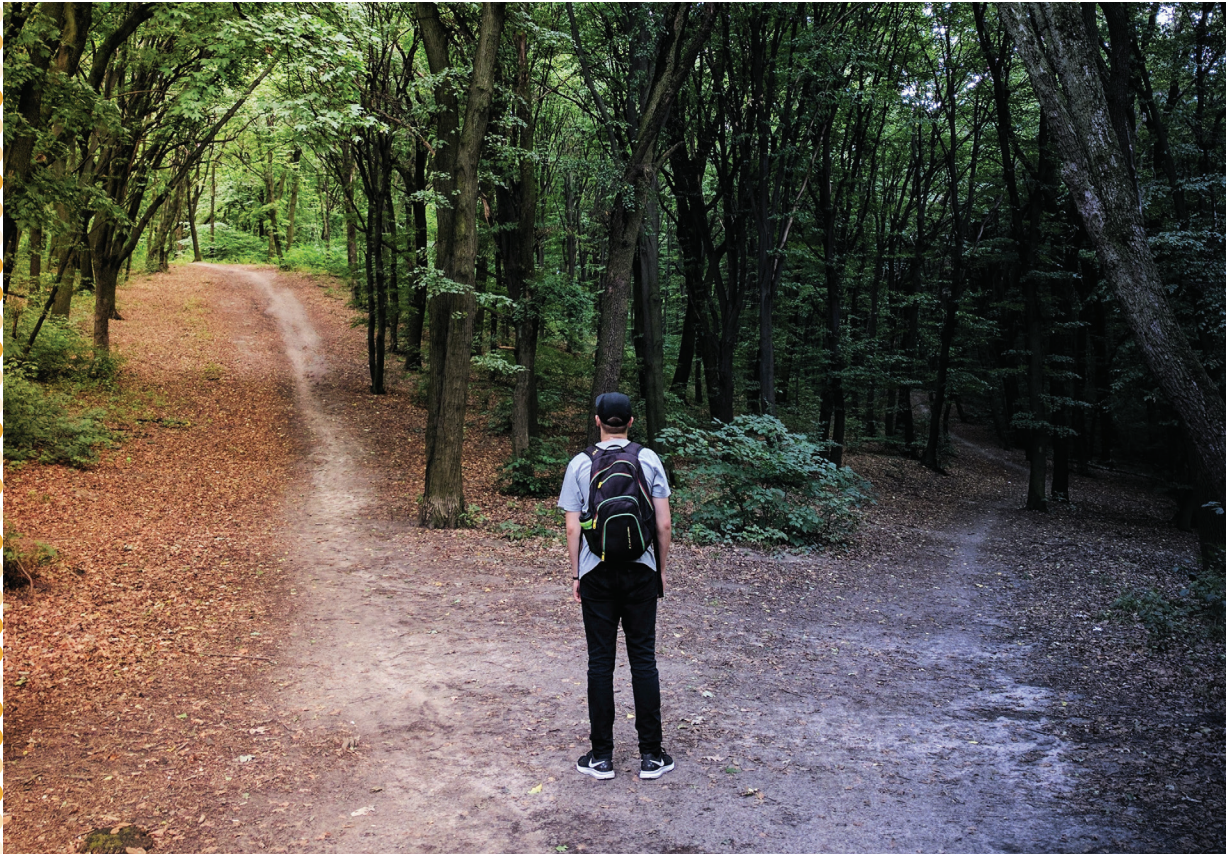
As you pray and seek the Lord, you may find some doors open but other doors close. Be discerning as to whether God is redirecting you or if the Devil is trying to keep you from obeying the Lord. Trust God, submit to His ways and you can be confident that God will be pleased with your servant's heart.

”

### JENNY | VOLUNTEER, HOPE 4 KIDS

I wanted to make a difference in the world, but I wasn't sure what that looked like. I prayed that God would guide me. One snowy day, I decided to do some research on MissionGuide. I began reaching out to organizations and within an hour, a lady from Hope 4 Kids International called me. She told me all about the trip and responded to all my questions. I went to Uganda for a two-week mission trip and quickly realized I was exactly where I was supposed to be. That trip changed the trajectory of my life forever.





I'm on a mission.

I really want to invest in people and in a ministry  
that can give me perspective.

Some call it a gap year.

I'm praying it fills the gaps.

### **Receive a Free Mission Trip Journal**

Enter the promo code **MGMag23** when you inquire about a mission trip at  
[MissionGuide.global](https://MissionGuide.global)

Mission**Guide**

 **MissionWorks**

## Six steps for raising support for a mission trip.

So, you're going on a mission trip. Worried about raising support? You're not alone.

You need to develop a support-raising plan, but first, know that God has already chosen people who will invest in your ministry. As you follow His direction, He will lead you to people who are willing and able to support you.

The information below gives specific steps to discover the support that God has already appointed for your trip. Resist the urge to think of this as a system or a strategy to raise funds on your own, but a way to faithfully invite others into your calling and to discover His provision for your trip. So, pray and begin that journey of support raising.

## Step I.

### Begin with your home church.

The first step is meeting with the leadership of your home church if the trip isn't already organized by your church. By contacting your church first, you recognize your church, your pastor and your elders as your spiritual leaders and seek their approval on proceeding to enlist support in the church. You will benefit from your church's counsel now and in the days ahead. You need to have your church on your team.

**There are four things you want to accomplish when you meet with your church:**

1. Articulate how God led you to be a part of this mission trip.
2. Share your financial need.
3. Gain a clear understanding of the steps you should follow to request church support.
4. Identify ways to present your ministry in the church.

## Step II.

### Determine who to ask for support.

The second step is to make a list of people to ask for support. This list should be anyone who knows you and cares about you. Don't try to qualify them to be on the list based on their ability to give or even based on their faith in Jesus. You have the privilege of inviting people into ministry with you and you never know the impact that could have on a friend or loved one.

## Step III.

### Organize your potential donor contact info.

The third step in raising support for your mission trip is to compile your list of contacts and their contact information in an easy-to-use system. Ideally, you will computerize this list.

- MissionLinked allows you to create groups and house the information
- for quick and easy electronic communication before, during and after your trip.

## Step IV.

### Distribute your prayer letter and giving page.

In step four, you let people know how God is leading you. In the past, support letters would be mailed to the people on your list and those people would mail in support checks. However, most of the communication and giving is now being completed online. Today, a common alternative to a prayer letter is an online giving page.

With MissionLinked, your giving page not only communicates what you're doing but allows people to see how much you've raised, how much you still need to raise and give toward your goal.

**Make sure your giving page includes these five components:**

1. Provide a brief update on your life.
2. Convey your mission and why you felt led to go.
3. Write about who you will be working with and what you and/or your team will be doing.
4. Provide some photos or videos (if electronic) to help people better understand what you are doing.
5. Share about your needs and give people a way to respond.

Once you're done, distribute the link to your giving page or mail out your support letter. You can text and email out your link to your giving page or even post it to your social media accounts. If you use MissionLinked, you'll be able to email people directly



from the platform to connect them to your page. You can also connect your Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts so you can directly post from your MissionLinked account.

TAKE NOTE! Your giving page or support letter is a tool for information sharing and giving – it’s not the actual ask. That’s coming in the next step.

## Step V.

### Ask people to pray about joining your Support Team.

In this step, it’s time to individually ask people to pray about joining your support team. Set a goal and start communicating individually with people each week. It could be 5, 10, 15, or however many people seem realistic for you and your schedule. Remember, you’ll have to plan to follow up with people each week in addition to talking with new people.

Order your list by the people closest to you and work your way out. Again, try not to rank people based on their ability to give, the amount they could give or even how likely they are to give. Remember, you’re not the one persuading them to give. The Holy Spirit is the one moving!

Communicate with the people on the list the way you would normally communicate – that could be over coffee, a text message, social media post, a phone call or even an email. Follow up to make sure they received your link to your giving page/ support letter and ask them to pray. See if you can follow up with them in a week or so to see how the Lord has led and then do so. Keep following up until you get a “Yes,” or a “No.” Then don’t forget to thank them and continue to communicate with them as part of your support team if appropriate.

Be aware that support comes in many forms so don’t make it only about money. Make anyone who supports you in any way part of this support team.

## Step VI.

### Stay linked with your Support Team and potential donors.

Don’t make this a transaction by reaching out to someone when it’s time for your trip and then cutting off contact once they’ve given. Make it a transformation! Take advantage of the tools in MissionLinked to keep people informed of your progress toward your financial support goal, thank your donors, provide updates to those praying, post updates to social media and share how you saw God move in and around you after the trip.

Raising support is so much more than just paying for a trip. It will stretch your faith, create a space for God to demonstrate what He can do and give many more people the opportunity to be part of the ministry than ever before. This is your opportunity to develop a ministry team where everyone gets the privilege of fulfilling their role in God’s plan for redemption. Some will be goers and some givers, others will pray and support in different tangible ways, but all of us will be working together for the glory of the Lord!



### STEVE ROUSE | PASTOR, GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH

As a pastor and a member of our leadership team, managing the raising and receiving of funds for our Mongolia mission trip looked to be an overwhelming task for our church, especially for our part-time bookkeeper. The MissionLinked software was a big help in this. We were able to get the word out about raising funds for the trip to our church family as well as extended family and friends. Thanks for helping our church navigate this important part of our short-term mission trip.



# Mission work with a safety net.

A cell phone network that works great at home may not offer the kind of coverage you're used to when you travel. In the same way, insurance that meets your needs in your hometown may not fit the bill when you are on the road or across the ocean.

For this reason, most mission groups provide or require supplemental insurance for their mission trip team members. Often this is included in your fundraising budget. It is also a good idea when you are traveling alone. Good policies are not expensive or hard to get, especially if you work with a specialist. It may help to know, though, the kinds of insurance that are available and what you're likely to need.

## Travel medical insurance.

Travel medical insurance plans are the most common types of insurance and should include at least the first three items below:

### Medical care for illnesses and injuries.

Most who go on mission trips are already covered under some type of health insurance, but this may not provide good coverage for your treatment, medication, or hospitalization in another country (from what they call "out of network" care providers). Supplemental health insurance gives trip organizers the peace of mind that everyone has adequate coverage and simplifies the process of getting medical advice, finding clinics or hospitals and filing claims if you get sick or hurt on the trip.

### Emergency evacuation coverage.

What if you are so sick or hurt that you need to be evacuated home or to a city with better medical facilities? Medical evacuation insurance picks up those expenses and can cover the cost of someone traveling with you. Emergency evacuation insurance may also cover the expense of getting you out if you must leave due to political or civil unrest.

### Repatriation of remains.

In case you die overseas, this insurance will cover the expense of bringing your body back to your home country. It's not something we like to think about, but if you don't have this and the worst happens, it could cost your family or sending group a great deal of money and trouble.

### Trip cancellation insurance.

Businesspeople and other travelers sometimes buy trip cancellation insurance in case a conference, meeting or flight is canceled. If your trip gets canceled or you are sick and cannot go, you might be glad to have trip cancellation insurance. Such policies may also cover costs incurred due to flight delays and missed connections or loss or damage of your luggage.

Trip cancellation insurance is different from a travel medical insurance policy in cost and when it can be purchased and is often called "cancel for any reason" insurance. While travel medical insurance policies typically cost a few dollars per day regardless of the age of the participant, this coverage is usually a percentage of non-refundable costs and gets more expensive as the participant gets older.

Consequently, cancellation insurance usually costs a few hundred dollars per person. Additionally, while travel medical insurance policies can be purchased up until the day before you leave, trip cancellation insurance often must be purchased within a certain number of days of signing up for a trip or the initial payment for the trip.

### Travel assistance service.

Some travel insurance policies even include a hotline for assistance 24 hours a day, for medical emergencies, lost items such as passports and luggage, destination information and advice and even purchasing tickets for travel and events. This kind of help may be more than you need or want to pay for but could come in handy if you are on a tight schedule, on your first trip to that location or don't have people who can help you on the ground.

### Coverage for dangerous activities or destinations.

If you're traveling with a sports team or your trip includes an extreme activity such as zip-lining or hang-gliding (or even something like riding a motorcycle), make sure your medical insurance policy will cover you in the event of an injury during that activity.





MissionArmor: Protecting people on short-term missions by offering insurance coverage and serving them in the event of illness, injury and emergencies during their trip.

Depending on where you are going, you may want to look for war and terrorism coverage, kidnap and ransom coverage and international property insurance. You may even be offered supplemental life insurance.

### Don't be afraid to ask questions before purchasing.

Although you can buy many kinds of insurance off the internet, the most efficient and affordable way to get the coverage you really need is to work with an insurance provider or broker. Insurance brochures are full of legal language and technical terms that can be confusing and intimidating.

Call the insurance agent and ask questions. Look for the heart of a teacher and not a salesman. Run some scenarios by them and make sure that you understand what the insurance covers and what it does not. This will help you sleep better at night!

This will also allow you to test out the insurance company's customer service. When you're in an emergency you'll want

an agent that is available and responsive and ready to help. Many insurance products are similar in coverage and cost, so customer service can be the differentiating factor.

### Expect fairly low prices.

Most short-term policies should cost about \$3.00 – \$4.00 per day. And rather than expecting co-pays on each expense, the policy should pick up 100% after you meet the deductible – that's the initial amount you agree to pay before insurance kicks in.

In addition to the pricing, you'll want to check the amount of the deductible and the length of continuing care coverage upon return. It is not unreasonable to expect a \$0 deductible even though that is unusual for domestic health insurance plans. Many policies will only cover the cost of continuing care for six months but consider looking for one that provides benefits for a full year upon your return. This continuing care coverage could benefit you by covering surgeries and physical therapy following an injury on a trip or prolonged treatments for serious illness.

While comparing different travel assistance policy providers, include MissionArmor from MissionWorks. This is a travel medical insurance policy established in cooperation with MissionSafe and based on feedback from MissionWorks members about what's most important to them.

The MissionArmor gold plan provides the highest benefit amount with a \$0 deductible and 12 months of continuing coverage upon your return.

Between the insurance plan and the service provided by MissionSafe, you can ensure that you're ready to care for yourself and others no matter what comes your way on your next mission trip.

MissionArmor.global



#### MADISON | SHORT-TERMER SERVING IN KENYA AND MEXICO

**After becoming ill while on my international trip, I was encouraged with the ease of filing my claim.** My insurance plan reimbursed me completely and in a timely manner. I'll never travel without coverage!





# Why do we need standards in missions?

**Pretend there's no AAA, Expedia, or Hotels.com to be an independent voice setting standards for what constitutes a 2-star, 3-star, or 4-star hotel. In a world like this, every hotel could and likely would give themselves four stars and claim to be the best hotel in town. How would you know if you should book a particular hotel?**

**Tory Ruark** | **MissionExcellence Director**, MissionWorks COO

The world of short-term missions is not so different. While short-term missions have been around a lot longer than people think (wasn't Jonah sent on a short-term mission?), the phenomenon is recent in its current form. For many years, there were no standards by which to judge a mission trip and, thus, no way to truly know if a trip was good. In fact, often our only way of determining quality was the feedback of the goer.

## **More good than harm.**

However, in the late 90s, mission leaders came together at conferences and started sharing about their experiences with short-term mission trips. They all had stories from missionaries and pastors after the trips that made them wonder if they really were doing more good than harm. They knew these mission teams didn't have bad intentions, but sometimes we have blind spots. We

have the right heart; we just don't know the right way.

The problem is, we don't know what we don't know. Sure, every ministry said their trips were great – after all, nearly every team member came back talking about how their life would never be the same. But there must be a way to evaluate a trip other than the immediate impact on the team members.

### The Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission

After several years of studying Scripture, talking to missionaries and pastors who host teams, talking to people who go on trips, consulting with similar groups in Canada and the UK, the Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission were composed.

In 2003, the Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission (SOE) was officially launched as a parachurch organization that existed to help churches, organizations and schools make their mission trips better by applying the Seven Standards to their mission trips and programs. This organization would eventually grow into what you now know as MissionExcellence.

Finally, a standard was set. Mission trips ought to honor God, their host and the ones whom they are serving, and we now had a way to determine if a trip was doing that. Rather than evaluating a trip based on its product – a fruit that God might not bring for years – the Seven Standards would be a process-oriented roadmap to follow when planning a mission trip. Mission trips and programs that embodied these Seven Standards could be trusted as excellent mission trips:

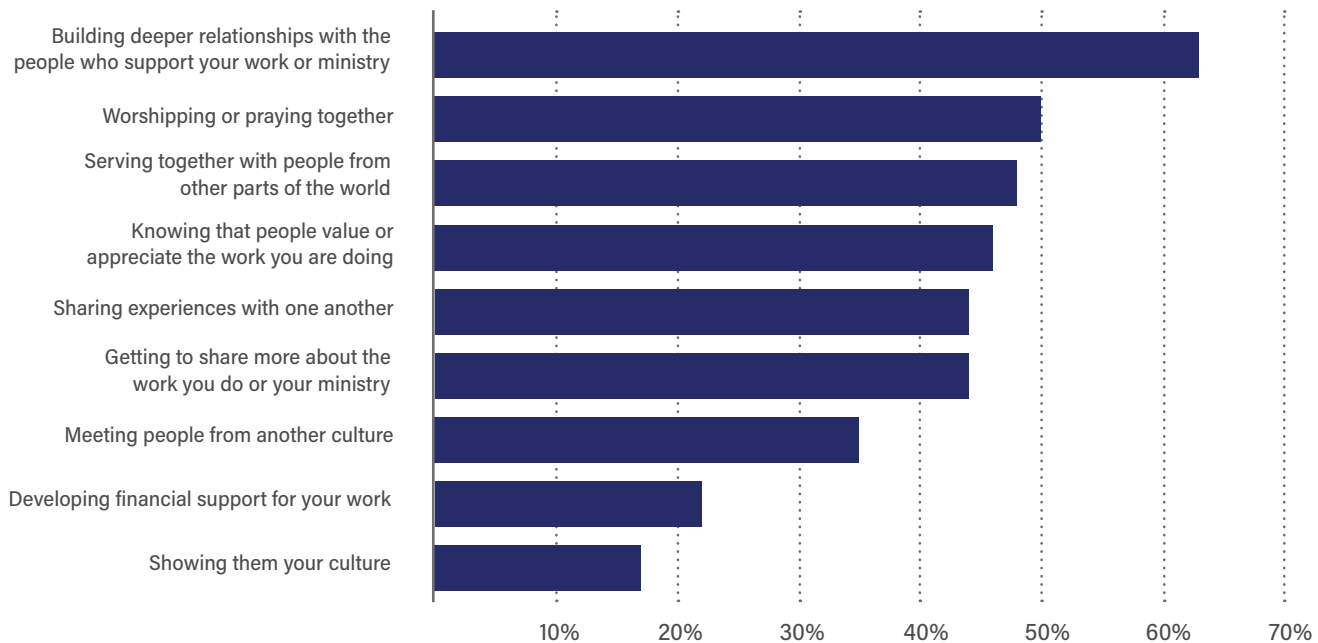
1. God-Centeredness
2. Empowering Partnerships
3. Mutual Design
4. Comprehensive Administration
5. Qualified Leadership
6. Appropriate Training
7. Thorough Follow-Through

### What a difference Seven Standards can make.

SOE has now grown into MissionExcellence and hundreds of leaders have learned about the Seven Standards. More than 200 churches, organizations, schools and individuals have currently adopted the Seven Standards as MissionExcellence Members. The Seven Standards have been endorsed by The Chalmers Center and cited in *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett.

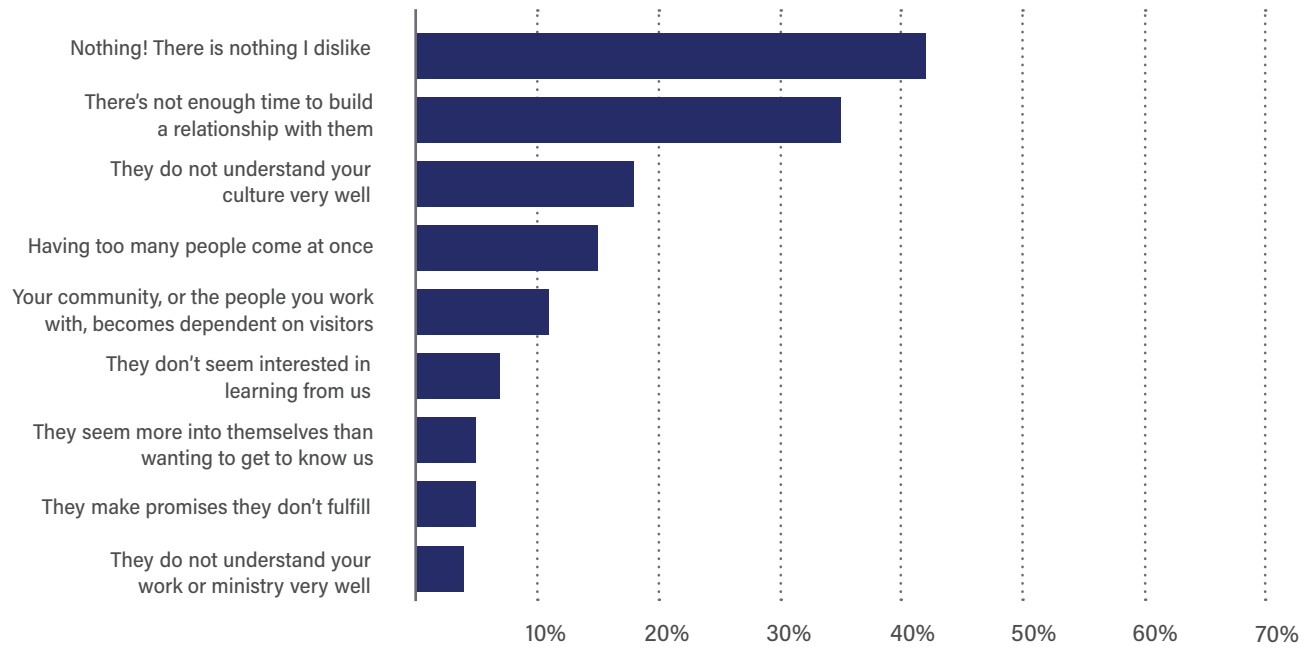
The Seven Standards have been adopted by denominations and church associations, colleges and universities and mission organizations that have been faithfully sending missionaries for decades upon decades. Dan Sered, Chief Operations Officer for Jews for Jesus said, “using MissionExcellence’s

### What in-field hosts appreciate about having visitors from other countries



n=130 in-field international ministry hosts; July to September 2021.

## What in-field hosts find difficult about having visitors from other countries



n=130 in-field international ministry hosts; July to September 2021.

training materials, we were able to equip over 150 volunteers to love and serve people in the city of Jerusalem.”

However, the real evidence of the impact of the Seven Standards can be found in feedback from Global Church hosts provided by a study sponsored by MissionExcellence, Chalmers Center, Barna Research Group and others\*. When we set out to hear from our brothers and sisters in the global church who are hosting

mission teams, we weren't sure what to expect. We weren't even sure we'd like the results. However, we were very encouraged by the response.

As you read through the study take note of how you see the presence of the Seven Standards represented in the responses. It became obvious that the positive attitude toward short-term mission trips nearly always came within the context of the application of the Seven Standards. In some cases,

the respondent was familiar with the Seven Standards and had adopted them while others were unfamiliar with them and were accidentally practicing them.

Either way, while not all mission trips put the Seven Standards into practice, the ones that are applying them are the ones with favorable responses. According to Director of Global Outreach Heather Hunter, CURE International has built their whole

”

### JENNYFER VALDEZ | MERGE TRIP FACILITATOR FOR PANAMA

**Meeting with the MissionExcellence (SOE) staff for their training taught me a lot.** Being able to listen and exchange opinions with those who were part of the training was inspiring for me. It was a very enriching experience that definitely helped to develop my short-term mission work.



short-term mission program around the Seven Standards because, “we know that short-term missions done well is important to the overall impact of CURE around the world.”

**God’s glory is at the center.**

As the center of global Christianity has moved south and east, the material resources and positions of power have not always followed. Centuries of geopolitical animosity and colonialism have made the already difficult task of cross-cultural ministry even more difficult. Yet the

Seven Standards have established a context where God’s glory is the center of our efforts and unites us in empowering partnerships where we have the freedom to listen to one another and serve together in brotherly love.

The implementation of the Seven Standards has revolutionized partnerships by giving a greater voice to the host and ongoing ministry presence. Mission efforts are more likely to serve the long-term goals of the host rather than catering

to an experience for the goer and simply painting the church . . . again.

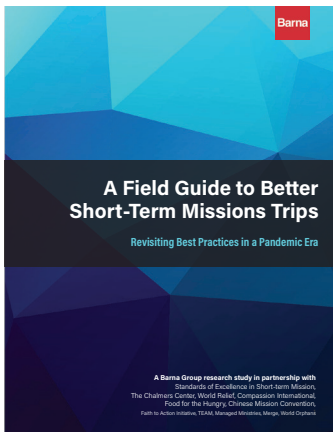
We’ve seen short-term missionaries trained to do more than pack a bag but be able to relate across cultures by humbly serving rather than seeking glory and affirmation. Finally, we’ve seen a shift from accomplishing the task of a trip to embracing the conviction that we all ought to be missionaries in whatever setting we find ourselves; and that we’re better missionaries when we learn and work together!



Join the movement of excellent mission trips that honor God, their hosts and those they’re serving by becoming a MissionExcellence member.

You’ll gain access to valuable resources and training, declaring your commitment to excellence to all those who learn about your mission trips and join a community of like-minded people that mutually encourage each other in the Great Commission.

Mission**Excellence**.global



## A Field Guide to Better Short-Term Missions Trips

### Revisiting Best Practices in a Pandemic Era

A Barna Group research study in partnership with Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission [MissionExcellence], The Chalmers Center, World Relief, Compassion International, Food for the Hungry, Chinese Mission Convention, Faith to Action Initiative, TEAM, Managed Ministries, Merge, World Orphans





We're on a mission . . .

to make certain our short-term teams do no harm and  
always leave the field better than we found it.

We need training.

That means we've decided to raise the bar and focus on achieving  
the Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.

MissionExcellence provides resources, training, membership and accreditation to  
help your church, organization or school adhere to the same principles, so every  
mission trip is successful.

### **Get 50% Off Online Training**

Use the promo code MEMag23 when registering for any online Standards Introductory Workshop in 2024 at  
[MissionExcellence.global/category/workshops/](https://MissionExcellence.global/category/workshops/)

# Mission**Excellence**





Christar mobilization and donor engagement staff have been engaging with MissionWorks through MissionConnexion, MissionGuide and MissionExcellence on a number of levels.

Team members with Christar who attended MissionConnexion over the last couple of years have used the conference to gain insight into how best to come alongside the church today. Sensing that churches are eager to have a more hands-on approach to cross-cultural ministry, their goal by attending the conferences was to learn what churches are doing today in missions and to help the church do what God has called it to do.

Christar is not a sending organization but has been challenged in a new way to view their ministry as service to the body of Christ — to help the church as a growing, sending, reproducing entity that God has designed. At the MissionConnexion conferences, they were able to attend different workshops and hear speakers who are training churches as well as come away with new insight on how to better equip churches to live out the great commission.

MissionConnexion Southwest also provided the Christar team with a unique and creative opportunity to meet with ministry supporters who live in the Greater Phoenix area. Christar staff were

able to personally invite local individuals to join them for a “family gathering” at lunch as well as encourage them to attend the workshops and keynote sessions. The team invited partners to attend as a way to empower them to learn more about missions and to meet the Christar team members attending the conference in person.

Christar’s mobilization team also uses the ministry of MissionGuide to promote its short-term trips. They often point students on campus to visit the site and find trips that might be right for them. Having the extra exposure from a third-party site is beneficial in helping the ministry find people who are a good fit for their trips and that will ultimately have a good experience with the Christar teams and glorify God.

Mobilization Team Lead, Andrew Broeckelman, shared that, “As an organization, we have benefited greatly from partnership with the MissionWorks family of ministries.

“In seeking to mobilize and serve workers well, our membership with MissionExcellence has provided training and resources for us to enhance our short-term opportunities and training.

“Posting our short-term opportunities on MissionGuide has resulted in several people serving short term with us over

the past few years and continuing to engage with our ministry.

“MissionConnexion Northwest and Southwest have both been great opportunities for us to connect with churches that are already sending workers through us and to meet and interact with many who are considering serving among the least-reached. We are grateful for what MissionWorks is doing to equip the church to be involved in cross-cultural ministry and recommend them to anyone.”

Together MissionWorks.



The vision of Christar is to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT**  
[Christar.org](http://Christar.org)



# MissionWorks

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Through our family of ministries, MissionWorks provides individuals, churches, mission organizations and schools with all the outstanding resources, connections and training needed to be successful in local and global mission work.

## Our Family of Ministries work perfectly together.

MissionConnexion  
MissionGuide  
MissionLinked  
MissionArmor  
MissionExcellence

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