**31 Days of Devotions for Short Term Missions**

**Adapted by Dr. Val Lomilo from Devotions by Dr. Devon Spencer**

**As you are on your missions trip, spending regular time in the Word and prayer is extremely important, not only for your ministry, but to your life as a follower of Jesus Christ.**

**Each day as you begin these devotions, look up these verses and take time with God. Pray and meditate on them, asking God to reveal Himself to you and to strengthen you in your relationship with Him.**

**Remember to pray for others as well, and not just for yourself. Other prayer needs on the field are: for your teammates, your host team leader and host communities. Pray that all the details of ministry will come together to make your time glorifying to God and an encouragement to all involved both here and at your destination.**

**One way to pray through verses is the process of Lectio Devina. Lectio Devina is a way of reading the Word, and allowing the Word to read You. It has 4-5 steps:**

1. ***Lectio***- Read the verses multiple times, and at varying speeds and emphasis, to hear the voice of God in it. Savor the words or phrases that connect with your heart. Listen to it as you read it (Mastication).
2. ***Meditatio*** – Reflect on the verses from various angles. Explore their meaning: What does it say about God? What does it say about humanity? What does it say about me? Ponder it in your heart and let the remote corners your heart interact with the Word of God. (Rumination) Write down your thoughts.
3. ***Oratio*** – Respond to God: Speak out your praises, prayer, even questions that you have for Him, or repentance. Let your heart speak to God about the verses and how you experience them in your life. Allow yourself, as led by God, to express any vulnerable or emotional responses that you may have, related to the verses. Write down your conversation with Him.
4. ***Contemplatio*** – Rest in Him. Allow your Father God to embrace you in these moments of silence. Draw near to Him, and encounter His gentle response to you. Feel His presence, His power, His love, His wisdom surround you.
5. ***Operatio*** – Resolve to allow these verses to bring transformation in you. What is God asking you to Do or Become, as a result of your experience with Him during this process (or to stop doing or stop being)? Commit to the process that is necessary to transform your behaviour and thought processes.

**Feel free to use Lectio Devina in your devotions, if it connects with your heart. Use the questions listed as well for further thought.**

**WEEK 1**

**Day 1 - The Example of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:3-11**

Jesus went to the extreme to save us. Part of the mission trip experience is getting out of our comfort zone.

What is one thing on this mission trip that you anticipate will push you out of your comfort zone?

Sampling unique foods: Termites, Rats, Grasshoppers, Intestines, Spleen and Kidney, Rumen and Reticulum, Snake. Chocolate covered crickets or .

**Day 2 - Renewed for Service. Psalm 1:1-3**

We all undergo change and learning. Has God been teaching you something specifically for this trip? We long to bring forth fruit. What fruit/outcome are you hoping will come out of this trip? What barriers are you facing to being fruitful?

Spiritual SWOT Analysis

**Day 3 - Time for Prayer. Mark 1:35-45**

Even Jesus prayed, the very Son of God himself. How much more important that we pray! God’s will and our will become one in the depth of our prayers. We reach out and find Him and He embraces us, even in our weaknesses. What are some ways you like to pray? How can we ensure that we have opportunities for daily time in prayer during our short term ministry time?

Guided Lectio Devina

**Day 4 – The Word sets the Course. Psalm 119**

The longest chapter in the Bible talks about the impact God's word had on David. What impact does it have on you? What are some ways you like to study the Bible? What are some new ways that you could study it in the future?

STORY: Chronological Storying Training

**Day 5 - Empowered to serve Acts 1:12**

Jesus' sacrifice and sending the Holy Spirit is what empowers us to minister in his name. What has the Holy Spirit been doing in your life recently? What would you like Him to do in the future?

STORY: Rescued from Death in Congo

**Day 6 -Here I am, Send Me! Isaiah 6:1-12**

Isaiah has some imperfections that God purifies in him. Are there “imperfections” or bad habits in your life that God has been working on to prepare you for Ministry? What are the roadblocks or distractions within you that could limit His work? Isaiah agrees to a task, no questions asked. Do you typically want details before agreeing to a task that God asks of you?

STORY: Sleeping in.

**Day 7 – Abiding In Jesus, Knowing the Father John 6:1-40**

Those who know Jesus know the Father. How can we know Him more? As believers, people expect to see Jesus in us. What does this say about how we portray ourselves to others?

STORY: Swim team training with my Dad.

**WEEK 2**

**Day 8 - Forgiving One Another Matt. 5:21-24 &Matt 6:14-15**

It is probable that at some point on this trip someone will rub you the wrong way or even offend you. Cross cultural interactions can also be offensive at times. In order to not get distracted and to maintain our witness as believers, it will be imperative that you are prepared to forgive others quickly. What does “offering your sacrifices” in Matt 5 mean? What does this verse say to do before you can seek forgiveness from God? In Matt. 6:14-15, what do we learn about the importance of forgiving others?

STORY: Peace building Training

**Day 9 – Loving God, Loving our Neighbor Luke 10:25-35**

Loving God is so very tied to loving people. On this missions trip, it is very probable that we will see overwhelming needs everywhere, but realistically, our ministry will only touch a limited number of lives. Pray for wisdom and clear direction for “loving our neighbor” as we minister at our mission site. How will you deal with leaving behind such great needs?

STORY: Loving those who hated you: opening Nabwal Peace Village

**Day 10 - Fit For Service. Ephesians 5:1-17**

Sin gets us. Satan knows our weaknesses, and we fall into pits and traps. Fortunately, for those of us who know Jesus as Savior, He has paid the price for our sins. Verse 13 tells us to expose the bad stuff; vs 15 and 16 talk about having an illuminated walk so that we can make the most of our time. Take today to confess any sin to the Lord in prayer so you are prepared to make the most out of your mission.

STORY: Asio Mariko – Killer evangelist

**Day 11 - Ministry Companion John 14:16-31**

How is God's word and the Holy Spirit interrelated? How can we better hear the Voice of God?

STORY: Surrounded by AK47s

**Day 12 - The Surprise Witness John 4:1-42**

Everyone is a witness. We speak and share what we have experienced. The more we experience God, the greater opportunities we will have to share what we have seen. Today, pray for each individual in the team to experience God in some way today. Pray for divine appointments for interactions that will give an opportunity to share your experiences with someone who needs to hear, that God will bring people into your path who are seeking to know more about God and a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for boldness and courage.

STORY: Luis Palau as Match-Maker

**Day 13 - The Extraordinary Ministry Act 4:1-19**

People listened to the disciples and either believed or got angry. How do you react to people’s response to you? What was the major theme of what the disciples were saying in this passage?

STORY: Nausea on First Date

**Day 14 - Revival Psalms 85:1-13**

Break down this word "revival". What does it mean to you? In which ways do you need to be revived?

STORY: PWP in Agro-Forestry Plot

**WEEK 3**

**Day 15 - Overcoming Fears and Threats Numbers 13:25-33**

All 12 spies saw the same thing, but two saw the good and ten saw the bad. Why was that? Caleb knew that God had promised the land to them and that He will take care of the details. How do you help yourself focus on the promises of God, rather than internal fears and external threats?

STORY: Tracking the Murders of Apalopan Paul

**Day 16 - Removing the Obstacles John 11:39-40**

There are a lot of obstacles had to be removed for this mission. What obstacles have you faced so far?

In these verses Jesus asks for the obstacle to be removed. How do you respond to his removing of obstacles?

STORY: The Alter and the Temple

**Day 17 - Anxiety Philippians4:4-9, 1 Peter 5:6-11**

Philippians tells us to not be anxious, but instead to pray. Anxiety shows us that we think that we need to be in control. We don’t. God is. Memorize these scriptures so that you can speak it every day. Instead of worrying over things, practice a prayer of surrender, until it becomes an automatic response to anxiety. Focus our thoughts on the thankfulness, rejoice in the Lord for what He has done. Peter tells us to be humble. What do you think humbleness has to do with anxiety and prayer?

STORY: Awaiting the Enemies

**Day 18 - Greatness and leaders Matthew 20:20-28**

You become a leader in people’s eyes when you travel internationally to another country. How does the World’s picture of a leader compare to Jesus in verse 28?

STORY: Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro (African Shirpas)

**Day 19 – Loving People John 21:15-23**

Care, Empathy and Love. With our Heart, Mind, Soul and Strength. We need to care about the people, including our teammates, our leaders, our hosts and our target communities. One way of showing love for others is by praying for them.

PRAYER TIME: Take time today and pray for everyone involved in this ministry and reflect on how you could love them more. How are you going to remind yourself to pray for them after you return from your mission?

**Day 20 – Reliance on God John 15:1-16**

You’ve been in the mission field now for a few weeks. You have experienced the “moving out of your comfort zone” in more ways than you could imagine. When we are out of our comfort zone, we eventually come to the end of our own capabilities and skills; to the end of ourselves. Who are you going to rely on then? Do you have to wait till you come to the end of yourself or should you start from the beginning, knowing that God is the One who will supply all your needs?

STORY: Just Going Shopping in S. Africa

**Day 21 - The Commission Matt. 28:19-20**

Go. Disciple. Teach. In what way do you think we will be involved in these tasks while on this trip? Are you a disciple? What does it mean to make disciples? Who is mentoring and discipling you?

STORY: Living in Community, Discipling one another in Baker City.