



FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: THE 7 KEY **BENEFITS OF** **SHORT-TERM MISSION** TRIPS FOR YOUR CHURCH

RED LETTER
LIVING



—Zach Zehnder & Jeff Mueller

1. **The Gumby Effect** – Mission trips stretch people.

Every person that goes on one of our mission trips is generally stretched beyond their comfort zone. These trips build enormous confidence in people and allow them to more freely trust God in the future. *“When you go beyond the levels of your comfort...you experience parts of God you would otherwise miss.”* (Zach Zehnder – Red Letter Challenge pg. 213)

2. **The New You Effect** – Mission trips change hearts.

When teams come and interact and relate with the local people, especially children, God uses it to change their hearts and refocus their priorities.

3. **The Growth Effect** – Mission trips increase spiritual maturity.

Christians who go on mission trips are more open to digging deeper in the Word when they return which results in spiritual growth.

4. **The Giver Effect** – Mission trips increase stewardship.

Followers of Christ who go on mission trips tend to give more in the future.

Typically, those who go on short-term mission trips are more likely to give financially toward missions ongoing. They’ve seen the need firsthand, and their hearts have been

softened to respond to the need. Jesus once said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.”

5. **The Others First Effect** – Mission trips motivate more service.

People who go on international short-term trips tend to serve the poor more actively at home when they return. They don't use their trip as an excuse to sit on the sidelines as if they've met their serving quota. Generally, it's quite the opposite.

6. **The Go Effect** – Mission trips inspire Christians to action.

For many people, short-term mission trips are a life-changing catalyst for them. Through short-term mission trips, when people experience serving God on a daily basis, they come back with renewed purpose. Many even make major life-altering decisions with their vocation, finances, etc.

7. **The Gratitude Effect** – Mission trips increase gratitude.

Short-term mission trips give American missionaries a more accurate perspective of their lives and blessings which creates a lasting sense of gratitude.

There are other positive effects the Spirit brings about through a short-term mission trip, such as discovering the value of teamwork; less focus on materialism; an enhanced cultural awareness and appreciation; new high-value friendships and much more.

Short-term mission trips with Child Beyond International have been the catalyst for an entire church's rebirth of its bi-focal mission. Sending “rescue teams” down to Guatemala has been the launch pad for greater mission fervor not just globally but right across the street. Going on a seven-day mission adventure with other members of the congregation or sending others out to rescue and restore through their prayers and finances builds maturity of faith, a growing awareness of the needs of others in faraway cultures, and a stronger unity of purpose as the Body of Christ!