



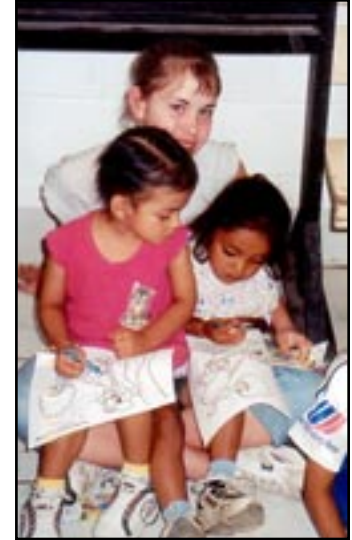
Dear Friend,

Why participate on a short-term ministry team, or why go on a short-term missions trip?

The following is a copy of a handout that someone put together:

Seven Reasons Why You Should Never Go on a Short-Term Missions Trip!

1. **It will distort your perception of the world!** Seeing it through the plastic lenses of our society is sufficient. They may be distorted, but you are used to them! Don't needlessly mess yourself up.
2. **You could get sick or robbed!** It's dangerous out there! Some places have a crime rate almost as high as our inner cities.
3. **It will make you hard to live with!** The way you view life and even your likes and dislikes are liable to change. Your friends and family probably won't understand or appreciate your sudden changes.
4. Afterward **you will feel awkward** at some of the jokes and comments you currently enjoy. They will not seem as funny when you have seen life from the other side.
5. **You will experience sadness** you haven't felt before. After you see real suffering, even you won't pay attention to your complaining about how hard you've had it. You are even liable to feel guilty and uncomfortable about the nice things in your house and the food on your table. Stay home and stay comfortable!
6. **You might lead someone to the Lord.** I (we) know that is a laudable goal, but it tends to cause excitement and further interest in Christian service.
7. **You could feel a pull toward** going overseas again – for the adventure, of course. The problem is that you could slowly, subtly get sucked into thinking about being a missionary.



Children's activities.



Visiting a church on the Rio Dulce.

**My (our) advice?
Stay home and stay comfortable!**

Early next month, we are going to Guatemala with a short-term youth ministry team from the church where our son-in-law is the youth pastor. This is the second year in a row that our daughter and her husband are leading a team to Guatemala from their church. We would like to ask you to pray for the young people who will make up this team that it will be a life-changing, experiential learning time for them. Thank you!

Sincerely, in Christ,

Thanks for Birthing Butterflies!

I want you to know how strongly we appreciate your partnership in the ministry of OC International. Your prayers and financial support for OCI missionaries are essential ingredients in the expansion of Christ's kingdom. And we are working hard to maximize resources by using the most strategic methods possible. Primarily, we do this by *coming alongside the national church to help them disciple their nation for Christ*. Since this is a huge concept to grasp, I thought this month I would give you an illustration of how it can work out in actual ministry.

In Russia, there is a tremendous need and opportunity to bring young people to a saving knowledge of Christ. But American missionaries are limited in what they can do to meet this need. That's why OCI missionary Bob Hilts travels throughout Russia, equipping church leaders to begin Christian camps.

One Russian woman named Anya attended a training seminar and, being disabled herself, received a burden from God to begin a camp for disabled youth. With encouragement from Bob and others, Anya overcame her limitations and began Camp "Babochka" (i.e. Butterfly) in a location that was formerly used to train communist youth.

Like caterpillars becoming butterflies, many young people were transformed by the loving atmosphere of the Christian camp. Anya has also been personally transformed. Formerly despised because of her disability, she now feels valued and accepted by God. "His enabling me for this ministry feels like a miracle," she says. "Thank you for helping me to believe that God has a special plan for me and the disabled children in Russia."



Anya with Bob Hilts

Outsiders could have come in and started camps themselves, but by coming alongside the Russian church and training believers like Anya, Bob Hilts and our OCI missionaries in countries around the world are maximizing available local resources.

The OCI missionaries that you know are implementing this same strategy in the places they serve. Thank you for your interest in what they are doing. Please keep praying that OCI missionaries will discover strategic ways to maximize opportunities. And please continue to partner financially by faithfully supporting the OCI missionaries you know. Each one is as important to the lives of many national believers as Bob Hilts has been to Anya.

With thanks,



P.S. Does the OCI strategy intrigue you? Would you like to find out more about how it works and how you might fit in? We've designed a one-day seminar to answer these very questions. Why not contact us this week and ask for details about "Worldview"?



Greg Gripentrog
OCI President