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**Next Steps Diagnostic Tool**

By Kathy Mort

This tool is designed to help you think about how you can be actively involved in serving now that you have returned from your short-term mission (STM).  It requires no commitment; it is simply a tool to help you assess where your thinking is related to missions.

**Under which category do you place yourself today?**

1. I do not plan to do another short-term mission.
2. I may do another short-term mission.
3. I believe the Lord may be leading me to long-term, cross-cultural ministry.

**For those who selected CATEGORY 1:**
Here are some ways in which you can continue to stay involved in God’s mission without going on another short-term mission.

1. Receive any field updates, and pray for the people and part of the world where you served.
2. Pray using [Operation World](http://www.operationworld.org/) or other tools that help people pray for the world.
3. Pray for missionaries your church supports.
4. Give to mission endeavors in your church.
5. Serve in a local ministry that your church sponsors.
6. Host visiting missionaries when they are in town.

**For those who selected CATEGORY 2**:
While you wait for another opportunity to serve cross-culturally on a short-term mission, here are some ways you can be actively involved in God’s mission.

1. Receive field updates, and pray for the people and part of the world where you served.
2. Pray using [Operation World](http://www.operationworld.org/) or other tools that help people pray for the world.
3. Pray for missionaries your church supports.
4. Give to mission endeavors in your church.
5. Serve in a local ministry that your church sponsors.
6. Host visiting missionaries when they are in town.
7. Volunteer to serve on your church’s missions committee or subcommittee.
8. Volunteer to [host international students](http://www.isionline.org) who are in your area.  [LINK]
9. Take the [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](http://www.perspectives.org/) course.
10. Volunteer to lead a missions prayer team in your church.
11. Develop and teach a missions program for children.
12. Correspond with the missionaries your church supports
13. Offer to help the leader of the next short-term mission trip.

**For those who selected CATEGORY 3:**
While you prayerfully considered if God is leading you into mid-term or long-term missions, here are some ways you can be actively involved that will build a solid foundation for future ministry.

1. Express your interest in missions with the leadership of you church, and pray with them.
2. Establish a relationship with a mentor who will help you navigate next steps.
3. Receive field updates and pray for the people and part of the world where you served.
4. Pray using [Operation World](http://www.operationworld.org/) or other tools that help people pray for the world.
5. Pray for missionaries your church supports.
6. Give to mission endeavors in your church.
7. Serve in a local ministry that your church sponsors.
8. Host visiting missionaries when they are in town.
9. Volunteer to serve on your church’s missions committee or subcommittee.
10. Volunteer to [host international students](http://www.isionline.org) who are in your area.  [LINK]
11. Take the [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](http://www.perspectives.org/) course.
12. Volunteer to lead a missions prayer team in your church.
13. Develop and teach a missions program for children.
14. Correspond with the missionaries your church supports
15. Offer to help the leader of the next short-term mission trip.
16. Investigate schools or other institutions that provide the specialized training you will need for the ministry area you plan to pursue. This will help you determine an educational path.
17. Attend missions-specific conferences such as Urbana.
18. Arrange for appointments with sending organization.
19. Read books, watch DVDs, and visit websites related to missions
20. Communicate with missionaries who are serving in your area of interest.

This tool was simply to get you thinking. Your ideas may change over time. The next two weeks of the e-zine are going to focus on growing closer to God and others. Week six of the e-zine is going to provide information on discovering your spiritual gifts and types of mission coaches. Week seven’s focus is on Staying the Course. During that week you will find information about serving locally as well as globally. For those who selected Category 3, be sure to pay special attention to information contained in week eight. The theme for that week is Missions as a Career.