

Drawing Others into Your Journey

Perhaps one of the loneliest feelings I have ever felt was upon coming home from a short-term mission trip! Sure, there are friends and family who welcome you home, but you are suddenly aware of how little they understand about your trip. You feel all alone in some of the struggles of your culture’s excess in light of your recent experience. Additionally, you want to continue serving as Jesus served, but life seems to always get in the way. So, what do you do with this new missional worldview?

The first thing you need to do is realize you are not alone in this journey. It is not God’s desire for any of us to be alone on our spiritual journey. Unfortunately, we sometimes think no one can relate and so we push others away. Joining a small group of believers can be a great way to encourage growth along your spiritual journey.

One of the things that uniquely situates MFM in the landscape of Short Term Mission agencies is the use of Action Groups. An Action Group is basically a small group which is focused on world missions and which meets at least once each month.

Action groups meeting together and living together are beneficial for a number of reasons.

1. **Accountability**—When you are living life with others, you can’t get away with anything. If you tell your action group how you think God is calling you to change, then you have a group of people to hold you accountable.
2. **Diversity**—You probably found out what a great thing diversity is while on your trip. The same is true of action groups. In any group you will find people with different ideas, strengths, and weaknesses. A good action group emphasizes the strengths and minimizes the weaknesses.
3. **Pool Resources**—Action groups are able to do things an individual can’t.
4. **Synergy**—An action group working together will keep you going even when the fire starts to dim.

Now that we know action groups are a good thing, where do you find one and what should you do? If you aren’t already a part of an action group, we are committed to helping you form one, with others from your church or sphere of influence, who are committed to the importance of world missions. You might be surprised how many people care about missions but haven’t had the chance to go.

Once you have formed your small group, the real fun begins. Your group should be based on prayer, education, and action. Here are some ideas of how to do that.

1. **Pray for the world**—Get the book *Operation World* and make a prayer schedule. Pray for the countries of the world in a systematic order. You can do alphabetically or by region.
2. **Learn a little about everything and everything about something**—Begin expanding your understanding of the world by learning something about everywhere, but pick a place and focus in on it by learning everything about it. The country, region, or people group you choose to focus on will be the focus of your action. Also, look for and provide opportunities for educating people at your church. This could be through a weekly bulletin insert that follows your prayer schedule, a slide during announcements in your church’s PowerPoint, or a display somewhere in the church.
3. **Take Action**—Look for ways to reach and serve people from your focus group. Don’t just think overseas, but look for those people where you are. College campuses and refugee relocation offices are good places to look.

For more information about starting an MFM Action Group in your area, contact Mark and he will walk with you through the process. Send him an email or give him a call at 888-417-5256.