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**Keep that Fire Burning - Continue to Serve Globally**

It is the tendency of fire to go out. Just light a campfire and walk away. If you don’t pay attention to it, the fire will die. You have to continually add more wood to it, stoke it, and adjust the coals. If you don’t, what was burning hot will turn cold.

The same is true in the wake of your short-term mission trip. The burning you felt inside from the joy in the face of the nationals you served, the camaraderie of the teammates you served alongside, the answers to prayer you witnessed personally, and the changes you told Jesus you’d make in your life as a result of all you saw and experienced on your short-term mission trip will grow cold and dark if you don’t stoke the embers.    
How do you keep that passion burning? How do you keep the fire of change you were so determined to make while you were on the field glowing? One way is to continue serving globally. You might be thinking, “But, God hasn’t called me to be a vocational missionary!”  Maybe not, but God did take and use you on your short-term mission trip and He can use you once again.

Personally, I love culture. I love seeing how God is at work in other cultures and by being immersed in it occasionally; it helps keep my own relationship with the Lord fresh. I look for viable opportunities to continue to serve cross-culturally, opportunities that match my skills, interest and passion with needs and opportunities overseas.

Where can I find those opportunities? What a great question! The obvious place to start is by calling the MFM office and speaking to Mark or Charlotte about opportunities already available. Then you can check with your nearest Action Group to find out what projects are being planned for the near future. This can involve teams being planned, projects that need planning and funding as well as fundraising events to pay for these projects.

Speak with your home church. Do they have teams headed out that you could serve with? Serving on a team through your church helps with your on-going growth and follow-through as you will be with others who have been through the same experiences and you can encourage and challenge each other. You can help stoke each other’s fires upon your return.

Where did you serve on your last trip? Could you go back to that field or host? Do they have on-going needs or a strategy that you could be a part of? You already started building relationships and understanding the culture, so your next trip you could be that much more effective.

If you are going to keep that flame alive, you have to stoke it! You have to continue to add fuel. One of the best fuels is continued cross-cultural service, that will indeed keep you burning hot and bright for His glory!