

## **Vacation Missions**

By Bill May

### **INTRO:**

God puts desires in our heart as we delight ourselves in Him and one of those desires is time off with travel Psalm 37:4. Nothing is as rewarding though as giving back to God what he has given to us. We already have the mandate to go and make disciples, Mathew 28:18-:20, what better way to perform that mandate then in vacationing with that being the focus.

### **PREPARATION:**

#### **#1 Prayer:**

This always comes first, seek God, let the Spirit guide with expectation He will guide you in where you want to go. This will likely be through that still small voice in your heart, desire to go to that location, provision given to get you there (Never go into debt, where God guides He provides), and or confirmation through others, teachings or your time in the Word. Psalm 37.5.

#### **#2 Partner:**

Read Acts 13.2 and Luke 10.1. If you don't already have a likeminded friend, seek God for one. This is the biblical model and for good reason. Having a partner allows for prayer times, devotional times and fellowship times that are richer and keeps you from loneliness. But not only that, there is safety physically and spiritually speaking as well as protection from temptations. However, while traveling be careful to not allow you and your partner to become a closed club. A pair that are not approachable because of focusing on each other more than those you meet. For this and other reasons a partner of the same gender is the best, unless you're married and your wife is your partner.

#### **#3 Choosing a Destination:**

This isn't as difficult as it may seem, ask yourself and your partner where you would like to go. With your partner, make a list to pray over, then research the places, go as God guides. Study the culture you've chosen to visit and learn ways of adopting their manners and ways of living to remove any possible obstacles that come through cultural insensitivity. You want to avoid unnecessarily offending people by doing or saying things that are considered impolite. In short be prepared to become all things unto all men that you may win some. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9.19-27 and 10.32-33

#### #4 Logistics:

If you're not familiar with traveling, today it's made very easy on the internet through travel applications. Consider what you will need for lodging, travel, and activities. Also consider Visa's you may need, with many countries this process has been made easy online.

### **THE ADVENTURE:**

#### #1 The Journey:

It starts when you arrive at the airport to depart and continues through every place you go and any activity you engage in. Pray for opportunities to make friends with people that lead to opportunities to share the gospel. As you are in airports, airplanes and on your journey, make friends by talking to people God places around you. Ask them questions and let them share with you about their lives. As you do this pray for wisdom, for God to open up an opportunity to share the gospel. Pray with expectation and wait on God. He will provide.

#### #2 Where to Hang Out:

Avoid if at all possible, talking about America or yourself, your life here. This is easy to do but that will likely be all they take with them when they leave you. But rather follow Paul's example, determine to know nothing except Christ and Him crucified - 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:2. Consider who you're focus is for witnessing and create a good balance of visiting tourist areas and areas where tourists don't usually go like locals' areas where you will have opportunities to get to know the people in the land you're visiting. But whether you're in a tourist area or locals' area, remember there are always opportunities available. Many of the tourists you may meet are going to be from other countries other than America.

#### #3 Journal:

Journal your trip, with names of people God brings your way. Things He shows you and things He did on the trip. Don't neglect personal devotion times to recharge your own batteries.

#### #4 Returning Home:

It's a great idea to get email addresses and other contact information so that you can stay in contact with your new friends. There may be discipleship relationships that are built or just opportunities to stay in touch, continue to witness and pray.

#### #5 Review:

Go back from time to time and read your journal entries from your trip and remember the people and places and how God blessed you and pray about your next trip.