

Experiencing God in Mission Exposure Trips

Interserve Newsletter
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A Letter from Queena Lee Leadership Team

The first time I enquired about a “missions trip” I had mixed motives. I wanted to see what missions was all about, even if to check-off a box on an imaginary bucket list. Mostly I wanted to settle in my mind that it was what I’d previously thought it to be: preaching in a remote location where the climate is oppressively hot... You can correctly surmise that there were gaps in my missions-related education.

Some years later, I made a two-week commitment with a medical team to Asia. The team members were dispatched to various teaching hospitals and the medical university. During our time there we held lectures, demonstration sessions, and had a series of clinic days in various counties. When we met nurses, doctors, patients and family members, we addressed their medical issues. Whenever we could, we sent people home with something they asked for: medication, prescriptions, treatment recommendations or professional instruction. But, little did I know we were there for more than just addressing people’s physical needs. The team and its leaders were investing in relationships — with people in influential places. Our lectures, demonstrations and clinics gave us the opportunity to connect with medical practitioners, medical students, and village patients. We attempted to show Christ’s love and compassion, and whenever we had the invitation, we prayed with and encouraged those whom we met.

The invitation to participate in “short term missions” became, for me, an opportunity to look, listen, pray and learn about what God is doing and discern His personal call. The mission that He sets out to accomplish is His, not ours, but God invites us into a small part of His work.

Mission Exposure Trip

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Fast forward to this year, when Interserve invited six people to join me for a two-week encounter with missions. Our time together began months before we boarded our flights: examining cultural practices, our personalities, learning about prayer walking, and discussing the logistics of travel in Asia. Their motivations were as varied as you might imagine. While some wished for a well-defined task, the group's assignment was to look, listen, learn, pray, and where possible, encourage missionaries and local people.

We visited overseas workers who are serving Him by reaching out to the most unreached people of the world. We were invited to walk through the towns and villages that we visited, praying for the local people, that they might encounter Jesus in a life-changing way. Now, several months after the two-week encounter, we continue together on this journey in missions, responding to His invitation to look, listen, learn, and pray. Through this we are discerning what is God doing there, and how we might participate further in His work.

As for the cultural aspect, I really didn't know what to expect because I have heard so many different aspects of East Asia. Some said it was dirty, and smoggy, others said it was beautiful and exciting. Being there it felt like a mix of both sides because we did go to the city which was busy, smoggy and dirty, but we also went to the countryside where it was clear, beautiful, and calming. I was intrigued by the people we saw, mostly the Buddhist and an animist people; one being so enveloped in Buddhist faith and the other having none, but we understood that both peoples needed God in their lives.

Coming home from the trip was somewhat of a relief, not because I didn't like being there, but because I needed time to ponder what He had shown me and what we did. As I have had weeks to let everything sink in, I think I would definitely go on another trip like this. Personally, I would like to go to another part of the world to see God's people and how He changes lives.

I'd like to share with you a couple of the group's reflections on the trip:

Lauren, a young adult says:



For me, missions trips, were always fascinating, because every time someone came back from missions, the stories were unique to every person and place. Usually, what I would hear are stories of missionaries physically working in areas, whether it is building a school or being part of a natural disaster team, in the name of the Lord.

The trip that we went on was less physical and more mentally and spiritually based within God's works. I saw it as the "other side" of missions that is not often heard about, but I'm happy to have been through this experience with God. I got involved with this mission because of my mom. I said "yes", even though I was not sure what I was getting into.

At first I was confused on what we were going to do. I didn't know what a prayer walk was. At the start of the trip I was sad and distracted by the idea that we needed to physically help the people, but through every day I started to understand the purpose for us being there. We were there for the people, as disciples of God, to pray for their mental and spiritual lives, that they may one day see the One and true Saviour. I began to comprehend more and more throughout the trip because of God revealing Himself through the places we went, the people we met and being together as a team.





Stella, Lauren's mother says:

Throughout my life I have experienced God's abundant grace and mercy. So, when the proposal to see, learn and pray for East Asia was announced last December, how could I say 'no'. I accepted the invitation 'to go' knowing that God is bringing hope to this area of the world, that our team's presence could encourage long term workers and that I could somehow be obedient to God's great commandment and commission.

Among the many things that I prepared for and expected (hot humid weather, squat toilets, no restriction on smoking, using code language...) there were things that I did not expect. I did not expect to meet M, who risked her own life and the life of her young infant to be God's witness when an earthquake occurred. Nor did I expect to hear that S, who was trained in IT left what he did to become a teacher, something he never thought he would do. It amazed me to see how dedicated L is in supporting two young boys physically and spiritually. I encountered G who is offering her home to be a place where believers could gather and worship God together. What touched my heart most were foreign business owners that have dedicated their lives to living for Jesus among the Buddhist people. Yet, they are not even able to freely or publically proclaim His name. All these believers were giving hope to the hopeless, sharing God's Light however they could! My eyes and heart were truly opened to what God could do with our lives, if we are willing to let Him!

It has taken me some time to make sense of what I saw and learned. I have experienced so much that it has been difficult to put into words. Everyday God continues to bring opportunities for me to talk about what He is doing in East Asia and about all the people that are bringing light and HOPE. I am slowly beginning to share what God has shown me. There is so much more to say!

Are you interested in getting a taste of what God is doing in Asia and the Arab World?

Interserve is hosting Mission Exposure Trips in 2017. If you're interested, contact us by email at connect@interservecanada.org or call 416.799.4511 for more information.

What's New



Frank and Sue are starting their ministry in Thailand

God is calling Frank and Sue to Southeast Asia. They are planting a church in an area of Bangkok, Thailand, that does not have a church and reach out to the nonbelievers there. God has equipped and prepared them for this particular ministry and we eagerly anticipate that He will bless them as they continue to serve Him. Pray for and Sue, that their ministry will bear much fruit and the Kingdom of God will be advanced. Frank and Sue need support, both prayerfully and financially. If you'd like to hear more about their ministry, and/or support them, please contact the office or visit our website and click on 'Donate Now'.



Welcome Deborah Morris

Interserve is very excited to welcome Deborah Morris to be our Western Canada Representative. Until recently, Deborah had been in South Asia working with survivors of human trafficking. She has been a huge blessing to the work overseas and we know she will be a great addition to our team here in Canada.

Upcoming Events



Save the Date

Interserve is coming to Western Canada for our Interserve Conference! We are very excited to invite you to come join us in Canmore, Alberta on June 9 - 10, 2017.

This will be an exciting time of worship and encouragement as you hear from Interserve's Partners serving all over Asia and the Arab world. Come and be amazed by how God is working.

More details to follow in January.



Interserve is attending Missions Conference's

Interserve will be attending Missions Fests across the country. Here are the dates and places we will be:

Missionsfest Vancouver January 27 - 29, 2017
Missionfest Manitoba February 3 - 5, 2017
Missionsfest Alberta February 24 - 26, 2017
Jesus to the Nations March 24 - 26, 2017



Missions Fest[®]