

Spiritual Preparation

We know that in the months or weeks to come, you have plenty to keep you busy with school, church, activities, etc. However, it is necessary that you prepare yourself spiritually for the journey you are about to go on. We expect you to devote yourself to prayer as you seek God's direction and preparation for your trip. Discipline yourself to spend consistent time in scripture and journal what God is teaching you in these days and weeks before Base Camp begins. Our suggestion is that you begin by studying a book of the bible, paragraph by paragraph. If you need some help to get started, ask your student minister or pastor for suggestions. We do ask that we covenant together to spend time in prayer and studying the Bible everyday leading up to this trip.

We also recommend you pray and ask God for opportunities to share your faith before you leave. Don't expect to be a "different person" on the mission field. If you find it difficult to share your faith here, you will most likely find it difficult to share your faith there. Ask God for opportunities and ask him to help you to see them and seize them.

You should also prepare yourself for a spiritual struggle while you are there. The places you will go have been manhandled by the enemy for years, and he does not want to lose his hold on these places. He is not going to give them up without a fight. Expect the enemy to cause problems in the work you are doing and to attack your team and you personally. You will have to be grounded in scripture and prayer and clothed in humility to overcome these obstacles. If your prayer life is lacking now, you can expect it to be even more difficult while on the field. Begin learning to labor in prayer. Find passages in the Bible that will teach you to pray and will encourage your prayer life. A part of your spiritual preparation is to build a list of prayer warriors who will labor for you while you are there. These people will play an important role for you.

You should also prepare to face spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare exists in America, but in the places you are going there seems to be a more potent spiritual battle going on. Some of the places you will go may presently or previously have had spirit worship as a practice, and you can expect the struggle over these places to be great.

We would also highly recommend some books to you as you prepare:

Honest to God, Bill Hybels. This book deals with your own spiritual walk and the disciplines of the faith. It will teach you a lot about Bible study, prayer, and journaling.

Don't Waste Your Life, John Piper. This Piper book is short and to the point with a serious challenge for students in this generation. If you only read one book between now and the time of your trip this summer, make this the one.

Unveiled at Last, Bob Sjogren. This book gives great insight into God's "bottom line" agenda in the world. It will really open your eyes and change the way you read the Bible. This is a great book to help develop a passion for missions and the world.

The Dangerous Duty of Delight, John Piper. This book will challenge you in almost every area of your Christian life. Its basic premise is that we find we are most satisfied when God is most glorified in us. This is a shorter version of the book *Desiring God*, also by John Piper.

Through Gates of Splendor, Elisabeth Elliot. This is a biography about Jim Elliot written by his wife Elisabeth. Jim and 4 other men were missionaries to a native tribe in Ecuador and were killed while attempting to share the gospel with them. This book will give you a passion and a vision for what it means to have a heart for the people you are there to reach.

Let the Nations Be Glad, John Piper. This book will help you to think missionally about the nations as you prepare to go. It presents a scriptural picture of God's heart for the nations and his mandate that we go and make him famous in all the earth.

Cross-Cultural Connections, Duane Elmer. This book will help you as you prepare to cross cultures and fit in.