



think MISSIONS

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.

BOLIVIA TRIP MANUAL



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Mission Trip Training Manual

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Mission Trip Training Manual

Congratulations! You've decided to join us in Bolivia! So now what?

It is wonderful that you have made the commitment to follow Jesus's command in Matthew 28:19 "to go and make disciples of all the nations". You've already taken the real first step, you've made the decision "to go". What's next? The below details the steps you will need to follow to ensure that your trip prep is smooth.

Step 1: Apply/Send Deposit

Timeframe: ASAP after making the commitment

Action(s):

1- Go to www.thinkmissions.org and complete the online application.

2- Send your \$200 deposit to Think Missions 405 Brownsdale Rd. Renfrew, PA 16053. If you are part of a church group, all deposits should be combined into one check and sent together from the church.

3- Check your passport, if you have one, to be sure it is not expired. Your passport must be valid for 6 months after you return from the trip or it may not be accepted. You also need at least one blank page for entry/exit stamps. If you don't have a passport or it needs to be renewed, [start this process now](#) to avoid missing any deadlines or having to pay expedite fees.

Step 2: Raise Trip Funds

Timeframe: Immediately upon completing the online application and submitting your deposit.

Action: Begin raising your trip funds using info provided in the *Save, Raise, Praise- Bolivia* section in the Trip Manual. Send trip funds to our office (or your church, if going as a church group) on or before the deadline dates detailed on the trip flyer. *Save, Raise, Praise- Bolivia* can also be found on our website www.thinkmissions.org, 'Think Resources' tab under 'Trip Resources'.

Please be sure to review the payment schedule as shown on the Trip Flyer. There are trip expenses, such as flights, that we must purchase well ahead of our trip so we need some of your trip funds early

Step 3: Check with your family doctor, travel clinic or CDC for immunizations

Timeframe: The months prior to your trip. This may possibly be done as a group appointment at your travel clinic.

Action: Everyone should have tetanus but other immunizations may be required depending on the location to where your team may be traveling. Keep in mind that some immunizations may require more than one dose so don't wait to check into what is required. Check with the Centers for Disease Controls (www.cdc.gov) for the latest immunization information.

Step 4: Read, sign and mail *Assumption of Risk, Release and Indemnity Agreement and Communicable Disease Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Liability Indemnification Agreement forms*

Timeframe: The months prior to your trip. The completed and signed ORIGINAL HARDCOPY forms must be mailed to our office prior to your trip so it should be done as soon as practical. Directions are on the forms.

Action: The forms should be e-mailed to you shortly after you apply or you may request a copy from duane@thinkmissions.org

Step 5: Read Manual/ Pray

Timeframe: The weeks/months prior to your trip. This may be done as a group in team meetings by your church's team leader/mission director. Consult your team leader.

Action: Read the '*Trip Manual- Bolivia*' and pray, pray and pray some more.

*If you have any questions or problems, contact your team leader or Think Missions at the contact info on the cover page.

Team Training Schedule

(This is a sample team meeting schedule,
see your team leader for details/dates, if applicable)

1st Meeting:
(date)

Notebooks, Team requirements, Passport Info, Medical info, Funding requirements, Sample letters, Project overview, Go over assignments for next meeting

2nd Meeting:
(date)

Passports, Letters in mail, Financial report, Cultural overview, Personal Testimony 1st Draft, Go over assignments for next meeting

3rd Meeting:
(date)

Personal Testimony 2nd Draft, Salvation Scriptures – write them out, Financial report, Bible Study, Airline itinerary, Copy Passports, Project materials and Tools, Missions Book – read before last meeting, Go over assignments for next meeting

4th Meeting:
(date)

Personal Testimony Final Draft – have memorized to share with the team, Scriptural Greeting, How to give a Testimony through an Interpreter, Financial report, Emergency Numbers, Baggage requirements & I.D., Group and Personal Packing List, Go over assignment for next meeting

Final Meeting:
(date)

Brief book report – How the book inspired you for missions., Group Guidelines and suggestions, Cultural and Customs prep, Final packing instructions, phone & e-mail chain

Underlined items are the homework assignments due at that meeting.

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PASSPORTS

If you don't already have a valid US Passport, you will need to **apply immediately** in person at a US Post Office that processes Passports. **NOTE:** Passports can take 6 weeks or longer to process; you cannot get an international airline ticket without one so we need your passport number well before your trip date.

*If you are inside of 6 weeks to your trip, you should expedite the passport application/renewal to ensure it is completed in time.

**Also, your passport will need to be valid for a full 6 months after you trip return date or they may not accept it.

Application forms, fees and all Information on applying for a Passport can be found at:

www.usps.com (Click on All Products and Services Tab. Then click on Learn How to get a Passport.)

www.travel.state.gov

You will need:

- Raised seal Birth Certificate (not a certificate of birth, this can be different depending on the state).**
If you don't have one – go to: www.health.state.pa.us
(You can begin at this website even if you weren't born in Pennsylvania.)
- Photo ID**
- 2 Checks** (Leave blank until Postal Clerk confirms fees)
- 2 Passport size photos** (Many Post Offices are equipped to take photos or you can sometimes get these at pharmacy stores like CVS or Walgreens for lower cost). Read instructions on the websites for more details.
- Both parents** must be present if you are under 16
- Any other documentation required** – see above websites for more info

Medical Requirements

Go to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** website for all recommended immunizations for the location of the mission.

www.cdc.gov

****NOTE: Yellow Fever immunization may be required to go to Bolivia depending on our location. Do not get the vaccine until requirement is confirmed.** If required, make sure you get an official immunization card that documents that you have had yellow fever immunization and carry it with your passport. (You need that card to get back into the US or at least some proof that you received the shot). This immunization is good for life.

The only required shot is **Tetanus** (you must get a booster every 10 years so make sure yours is current).

Check with your Doctor or Health Care Provider to get advice on any other immunizations.

Make sure you see your doctor or get to your County's Health Department as soon as possible because some immunizations require multiple shots or doses over several weeks.

Note: Certain locations in Bolivia (example: Cochabamba @ 8000 ft) are at higher elevations so malaria typically is not a big problem there but could be in other locations.

Also – we will only eat and drink food and beverages that have been approved by the missionary.

Staying Healthy During Your Trip

Recommendations from the CDC

Prevent Insect Bites

Many diseases, like malaria and dengue, are spread through insect bites. One of the best protections is to prevent insect bites by:

- Using insect repellent (bug spray) with 30%-50% DEET. Picaridin, available in 7% and 15% concentrations, needs more frequent application. There is also less information available on how effective picaridin is at protecting against all of the types of mosquitoes that transmit malaria.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and a hat outdoors.
- Remaining indoors in a screened or air-conditioned area during the peak biting period for malaria (dusk and dawn).
- Sleeping in beds covered by nets treated with permethrin, if not sleeping in an air-conditioned or well-screened room.
- Spraying rooms with products effective against flying insects, such as those containing pyrethroid.

For detailed information about insect repellent use, see [Insect and Arthropod Protection](#).

Prevent Animal Bites and Scratches

Direct contact with animals can spread diseases like rabies or cause serious injury or illness. It is important to prevent animal bites and scratches.

- Be sure you are up to date with tetanus vaccination.
- Do not touch or feed any animals, including dogs and cats. Even animals that look like healthy pets can have rabies or other diseases.
- Help children stay safe by supervising them carefully around all animals.
- If you are bitten or scratched, wash the wound well with soap and water and **go to a doctor right away**.
- After your trip, be sure to tell your doctor or state health department if you were bitten or scratched during travel.

For more information about rabies and travel, see the [Rabies chapter](#) of the [Yellow Book](#) or CDC's [Rabies homepage](#). For more information about how to protect yourself from other risks related to animals, see [Animal-Associated Hazards](#).

Be Careful about Food and Water

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Avoid eating or touching foods with your hands.

Diseases from food and water often cause vomiting and diarrhea. Make sure to bring diarrhea medicine with you so that you can treat mild cases yourself.

After You Return Home

If you are not feeling well, you should see your doctor and mention that you have recently traveled. Also tell your doctor if you were bitten or scratched by an animal while traveling.

If you have visited a malaria-risk area, continue taking your antimalarial drug for 4 weeks (doxycycline or mefloquine) or seven days (atovaquone/proguanil) after leaving the risk area.

Malaria is always a serious disease and may be a deadly illness. If you become ill with a fever or flu-like illness either while traveling in a malaria-risk area or after you return home (for up to 1 year), you should seek **immediate** medical attention and should tell the physician your travel history.

Important Note: This document is not a complete medical guide for travelers to this region. Consult with your doctor for specific information related to your needs and your medical history; recommendations may differ for pregnant women, young children, and persons who have chronic medical conditions.

Save, Raise, & Praise

At Think Missions, we highly encourage you to work hard; consider getting a second job, pick up extra hours at work and SAVE. You having “skin in the game” is very important!

This is not something we write in stone, but here is good advice: You should pay for 30% of your mission trip with your own, hard-earned money. The rest you can RAISE! Remember this: The most effective way to raise your finances is through one-on-one meetings and by sending out letters. You will be stunned by the way God shows up in your fundraising journey.

Your attitude will play a huge role in this journey. Don't let fear, doubt, and insecurities undermine your trust in God. PRAISE God! Below is an example you can follow.

TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE				SAVE
<p>IT'S DOABLE A Think Missions trip usually costs about \$2300. 30% of that is about \$690.</p>	<p>YOU CAN DO IT If you begin planning 12 months before the adventure, you can fill up your piggy bank with \$58 dollars/month and boom...\$696!</p>	<p>HERE IS AN IDEA \$58 per month is less than \$15 per week. That's four cups of coffee at Starbucks!</p>	<p>HERE IS ANOTHER IDEA We have so many comforts we can sacrifice. Cable TV? Gym membership? Netflix? Eating out? How about asking for donations instead of a birthday or Christmas present?</p>	<p>\$690</p>
GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE				RAISE
<p>SAVE & RAISE While you are working to save your \$690. You also need to RAISE \$1610. Remember: God is on your side. He called us all to "GO." He will provide if you are diligent.</p>	<p>50/10 VISION Send out at least 50 letters and meet with 10 people face-to-face or by phone. Pray for every recipient and meeting. The same faith you are using to fundraise is the faith you are going to use to lay hands on the blind.</p>	<p>DREAM Your dad gives \$300, grandma \$200, aunt \$200, your church \$100, two people you didn't expect give \$100, and then 13 people you know give \$50. That's only 27 people, but it equals \$1650.</p>	<p>HONOR If you honor (value) God and your donors, heaven's door will stay open over your fundraising journey. How big is your God and how much do you "value" the people who are supporting you? Keep them updated, send them thank you cards. Love them!</p>	<p>\$1610</p>
DON'T PUT PRAISE ASIDE				PRAISE
<p>Fear of rejection or fearing your network is too small can cripple your faith. You should leave the unknowns behind and walk into the adventure God has for you. Go buy 100 envelopes and 50 stamps! Pick your top 50 people and send the letters off in prayer. For the 10 people you are meeting face-to-face, don't send letters to them. First, send them a short email. ("I am going to Bolivia to build and evangelize. I am contacting friends and family to ask them for prayer and financial support. Would you consider meeting next week or setting up a phone call to talk further about what God is doing? When is good for you?"). Once you meet with them, THEN give them your material to take home. Last tip: Before the meeting ends, ask the donor if you can follow up with them. The rest is in God's hands!</p>				

Save, Raise, & Praise

“Don't look at fundraising as a burden but a faith-building adventure and an awesome opportunity for God to train you for the mission field.”

LET'S MANAGE THE HEART

<p>FAITH VS FEAR Choose faith not fear. God wants you to go and He wants to provide.</p>	<p>BLESSING VS BURDEN You are a blessing not a burden to the donor - “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” - Jesus</p>	<p>WORK + PRAYER It will take a balance of personal initiative and divine intervention. Lazy plus prayer doesn't work.</p>	<p>OWN A VERSE Ex: The priests did ministry and Israel supported them. You are the priest now. Read Numbers 18.</p>
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LET'S GET PRACTICAL

<p>DONOR LIST Get your donor list ready. TIP: A name on your list is not valid until you have their phone # and address. Take your time with this.</p>	<p>OUTSIDE OF THE BOX Think outside of your circle of friends. Your mom's manicurist is one. Your father's best friend. Your family doctor, the list goes on...</p>	<p>MOVE 'EM UP Move the people that love you and/or high-potential givers to the top of list. You want to go to them first.</p>	<p>KNOW YOUR STUFF Learn about the country and/or people group you are reaching. Become familiar with the nature of the mission, the organization, etc. pray, pray, and pray. Your heart should ooze compassion.</p>
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LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

<p>50/10 GOAL We highly suggest that you do both: Send your support letters AND meet with your donors face-to-face. GOAL: 50 letters and 10 meetings.</p>	<p>FUNDRAISING LETTER Not more than one page. Make it inspirational. Give them vision! What needs are you meeting? Give the donor opportunity to pray and give. Don't forget to tell them HOW to give! Take your Fundraising Letter Example from Think Missions and personalize it!</p>	<p>STAMPED ENVELOPE Give the donor a hassle-free way to give. Stamp an envelope with your church address.</p> <p>START A FREE SITE: Build a “giving page” to give your donors a way to give online. Ex: www.youcaring.com</p>	<p>#10 ENVELOPE Gather the fundraising letter, a stamped envelope and put them in a #10 envelope. Send the letters to, or meet with, your donors. Don't forget to include a link for your personal website. Remind them that when they give online it's NOT tax-deductible. However, if they send a check to your church, it is.</p>
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LET'S WALK BY FAITH

Fear of rejection or fearing your network is too small, can cripple your faith. You should leave the unknowns behind and walk into the adventure God has for you. Go buy 100 envelopes and 50 stamps! Pick your top 50 people and send the letters off in prayer. For the 10 people you are meeting face-to-face, don't send letters to them. First, send them a short email. (“I am going to Bolivia to build and evangelize. I am contacting friends and family to ask them for prayer and financial support. Would consider meeting next week or setting up a phone call to talk further about what God is doing? When is good for you?”). Once you meet with them, THEN give them your material to take home. Last tip: Before the meeting ends, ask the donor if you can follow up with them. The rest is in God's hands!

May God bless every detail of this faith-building season!

Fundraising Letter - Down & Dirty

Fundraising is a simple process. It requires your prayer, your effort, and your time. Remember this, if you're not willing to invest the time and effort, or in other words "get down and dirty", your prayers alone might not be enough (James 2:18). Below is an easy-to-follow series of steps to get your letters into the hands of your donors. When combined with prayer, this will generate the funds each team member needs to be a part of this mission.

Down	Dirty
1	Purchase/obtain a minimum of 50 of these items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.5" x 11" printer paper• #10 envelopes• First-class postage stamps• Names and mailing addresses of family, friends, and co-workers
2	Copy the text of the <i>Fundraising Letter Example</i> from the Save, Raise, & Praise section of this guide. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone has access to a computer, or knows someone who does...be sure to use a computer.
3	Edit the text of the <i>Fundraising Letter Example</i> to make it more personal and specific to your trip. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add the names and addresses of your family, friends, and co-workers to the letter, so each letter is addressed to an individual, couple, or family.• If you're not comfortable using a computer or word processing application, get help from someone who is.• If you're not good with spelling and editing, have someone looking over your work.
4	Print your letters.
5	Sign, fold, and stuff your letters in #10 envelopes. (You may want to consider adding a personal note.)
6	Address your envelopes, include your return address, and affix your postage.
7	Mail your envelopes.
8	Over the next 5-7 days, pray for each person you have sent a letter to.
9	Call or visit each of the family, friends, and co-workers that you mailed letters to, if possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask them to pray for you and for your team.• Ask them if they have made a decision about being a part of your team by giving towards this opportunity.• Be prepared to explain to them the giving process again.
10	Regardless of their response, thank them.
11	For those who are committed to give towards this mission...send them a <i>Thank You</i> card.
12	Be sure to send a follow-up report to each of your supporters after the trip and ensure that you bring back a small, inexpensive gift from Bolivia for everyone who made your trip possible.

Fundraising really is this simple. Don't let pride, laziness, or fear hold you back from being a part of this Think Missions trip. You know *at least* 50 people that can send a letter to; everyone knows at least 50 people that they can send a letter to. Note: Facebook will come in handy when asking for addresses!

Sample Fundraising Letter

DATE

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope all is well with you. I am writing to share an amazing opportunity that God has opened up for me. I am a part of a team from **YOUR CHURCH** and Think Missions. We are planning to leave on a mission's trip to **CITY**, Bolivia on **DATES OF TRIP**.

Think Missions is a church planting ministry based outside Pittsburgh, PA. Their mission is "to serve and empower the North American Church to fill the globe with life-giving churches". As of February 2024, they have helped to plant 502 churches world-wide. As a part of the team, I will be involved in the construction of a new church along with evangelism using drama, dance and personal testimonies to share the Gospel with people. We will work alongside several other churches and we will preach the Gospel, pray for the sick and minister to the people of **CITY**, Bolivia! It's going to be an incredible experience and I am really excited about being a part of this team.

Will you pray for me as I prepare for this mission and as I travel? Please pray that the trip will be a tremendous blessing to the people of **CITY**. Pray that God will plant life-giving churches in Bolivia as a result of this trip. Also pray for protection for our team, and the event.

I am also asking you to pray about partnering with me with your financial support for this ministry opportunity. It will be impossible for me to go without the partnership of friends and family. All team members must raise \$**<enter trip cost>** to cover the cost of their trip expenses. Details about financial support are below. All gifts are tax deductible.

If you have any questions regarding this mission, please call me at **YOUR PHONE #**. You can learn more about Think Missions at their website: www.thinkmissions.org.

Thank you for allowing me to share this opportunity with you!

God Bless You!

SIGN YOUR NAME HERE
TYPE YOUR NAME HERE

Financial Details:

- Please make all checks payable to **YOUR CHURCH**.
- Please do not put my name on the memo line of the check.
- Use the enclosed envelope to mail contributions. That will assure that your donation is credited toward my trip expenses. You can put my name on a sticky note, or a piece of paper, to assure that money is accredited to me.

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1. Prayer

The greatest preparation that we need for this ministry endeavor is **prayer!**

Prayer is essential! If we expect to see God move, we must pray!

Set aside time each day (at least 1/2 hour) to **PRAY** about the following:

- A Daily Prayer for Freedom & Prayer Guide (Pages below)
- A spirit of unity among the group
- That the Lord will prepare the hearts of children and adults to receive Christ
- Hearts to be open and drawn by the Spirit
- Minds will be open and able to comprehend the message
- Satan to be rebuked in their lives
- For strongholds to be torn down
- Needs to be met in their families
- Distractions to be rebuked
- That the Lord will equip us for His service
- For greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- A spirit of cooperation toward anyone who is in authority
- For protection from sickness and danger
- Christ's anointing on the team
- Wisdom for the team leaders and pastors
- Spiritual covering from the enemy's attacks
- Good weather
- Families at home
- Supernatural manifestations
- Flexibility (this is essential on the mission field)

Prayer scriptures are enclosed for you to pray the Word!

2. Fasting

Everyone is expected to fast as the Lord leads you for this trip.

Remember to be reading God's Word and praying in place of your meals.

3. Scripture Memorization

In order to minister one-on-one, you will need to memorize the following Scripture:

- ❖ **Romans 3:23**
- ❖ **Romans 6:23**
- ❖ **John 3:16**
- ❖ **Romans 10:9-10**
- ❖ **Revelation 3:20**
- ❖ **John 1:12**

It is suggested that you write these out on 3 x 5 cards with the verse on one side and the reference on the other side. These verses will be practiced at meetings to be held prior to the trip. You will need to have them memorized at our meetings.

4. Daily Bible Study

This will further help you to develop a mission's mindset. Follow a program, what your team leader designates or you can use an App such as the *Bible App*.

5. Prepare a Scriptural Greeting and a Short Sermon

6. Prepare Physically

Do everything you can to get in shape. This trip will be demanding physically.

-All requirements mentioned above are essential in the development of your personal life in preparation for this experience. Your understanding and cooperation in these areas are important for the success of your trip.

-Anticipate a move of God. Believe that God is going to use you in a powerful way!

Your relationship with the Bolivian people

Bolivians are known for their warmth and friendliness. They are always eager to express their kind hospitality. You will probably notice several cultural differences during your visit. In Bolivia, nothing is more important than relationships. North Americans tend to focus on the task at hand and finishing what we are doing at all cost; we are task-oriented people. The Bolivians, on the contrary (and most Latinos in general) are relationship oriented. Much of their time is spent building and nurturing relationships. Take time to greet the people you come into contact with. Language barriers will limit your ability to communicate somewhat but remember, the language of love is cross-cultural. Use this as a challenge to communicate with your smile. Your loving and caring attitude can shine through without even a word of Spanish.

Your relationship with the Bolivian National Church

Missionaries, MAPS teams and AIM teams all work together to help build the national church (that is, the Bolivian church, which is self-governing and self-supporting). We don't want to do or represent anything that a national will have to come behind us and fix or repair. Let's all serve to the best of our ability.

We hope one of the most exciting aspects of your time in Bolivia will be to see first-hand the growth that is taking place among the churches. For example, there were only 2 Assembly of God churches in the city of Sucre just a few years ago and now there are many, and growing. From the smallest to the largest, the poorest to the richest, God is moving in a mighty way and your Bolivian brothers and sisters in the Lord are very grateful for the assistance you are providing.

The Holy Kiss

Bolivians are very warm and hearty in their greetings. Men and boys always shake hands in their salutations; they may even hug. The Quechua (Ketch-u-ah) people are a sub-group of Bolivian people that you will likely meet while there. In Quechua circles, the men will shake hands, pat your upper left arm twice and then shake again. You should do the same. Practice this until it comes naturally.

Bolivian women, even those who are meeting for the first time, will usually greet by taking each other's hand and then kissing once on each cheek. In upper-class circles, you will only kiss one cheek. Some Quechua, mostly in the churches, will also kiss on both cheeks.

A good rule of thumb is to JUST FOLLOW THE CROWD!

Weather in Bolivia

Bolivia has 4 seasons but they are the complete opposite to ours in the United States. They do experience a rainy season in some parts during the months of November, December and January. The daytime temperature is usually very pleasant, between 65 and 80°F. Most places are at a very high altitude and close to the equator (thus closer to the sun), so even on a cloudy day, it is easy to get a sunburn in a very short period of time. It is very wise to be equipped with sunblock and a hat. There is very little humidity and the evenings and mornings tend to be quite cool.

What if I get lost?

It is a **very good** idea to never go anywhere alone in a foreign country where you don't speak the language. Try to pay attention and develop a little bit of herd instinct. It is a good idea to keep the phone numbers of the missionaries and where you are staying in your wallet at all times. This will be given to you as we leave for our trip.

You mean they don't eat Tacos?

The diet of a Bolivian is very different from that of what most of us think they eat. Mexican food (tacos, enchiladas, burritos...) is just that, Mexican food. In Bolivia, they don't eat Mexican food, they eat Bolivian food. Bolivians generally eat a great deal of starch in their diets. In fact, there are over 350 different types of potatoes in Bolivia! All types of baked breads are a staple as well. The typical Bolivian breakfast is a piece of bread (usually dry) with something hot to drink. Soups are also a very common meal and the big meal of the day is lunch. Most Bolivians maintain the Latin tradition of a two-hour siesta. For example, in the city of Sucre, 99%+ of the businesses will be closed from 12 noon until 2 or 3 pm. They return home from their jobs and spend the middle of the day with their families. At night, they eat a lighter meal – sometimes only a piece of bread and a hot drink. Meat, in very small portions, is something for people of better means or for special occasions. ****It is unsafe to drink the tap water in Bolivia. You will be given bottled water to drink and use for brushing your teeth.****

Things your mother never told you

One thing you will want to remember while in Bolivia is that pedestrians have virtually no rights. So, before you cross the street, be sure nothing is coming!!

This may be a little embarrassing, but you need to know about the toilet paper. It is almost never provided in public restrooms and the plumbing in Bolivia isn't always the best. Therefore, next to every toilet you will find a waste basket. This is for your used toilet paper. If you flush the paper, you risk clogging the plumbing, and embarrassment.

Construction Information

Construction of most projects in Bolivia has become a standardized process. The same building plan, layout and use of materials is typically repeated, resulting in a very efficient building method for the dollar. Variations may occur but the fundamental building itself changes very little. It's different than what we may be used to but it is time-tested.

The foundation will be finished before you arrive. This includes a row or two of blocks, the placement of all vertical steel and possibly the roof. It will be ready for us to begin laying block our first day on the job. We will have local foreman and a crew of workers on the job site who will be supervising the work. The foreman is responsible for your work; therefore, he is the boss. Building techniques are different than here in the US so we are to follow their lead.

Construction Vocabulary

mortar mix=	mezcla	string=	cuerda
cement with rock=	concreto	scaffold=	andamio
bag of cement=	cemento	sawhorse=	caballete
shovel=	pala	bucket=	balde
trowel=	vadilejo	wall=	pared
block=	bloque	door=	puerta
steel=	fierro	column=	columna
water=	aqua	roof=	techo
sand=	arena	floor=	piso or suelo
rock=	piedra	pliers=	alicates
level=	nivel	electrical outlets=	enchufe
wood=	madera	electric saw=	sierra
hammer=	martillo	hand saw=	serrucho
nail=	clavo	glass=	vidrio
wheel barrow=	caratillo	brick=	ladrillo
tape measure=	cinta metrica	boss=	jefe

One-day Spanish Course

hola	hello
hasta luego	see you later
hasta mañana	see you tomorrow
chao	goodbye
buenos días	good morning
buenas tardes	good afternoon
buenas noches	good night
Como se llama?	What is your name?
Me llamo...	My name is...
mucho gusto	pleased to meet you
Como Esta?	How are you?
gracias	thank you
de nada	you're welcome
hombre	man
mujer	women
nino	boy
nina	girl
amigo	friend (male)
amiga	friend (female)
no	no
si	yes
plata	money
bano	bathroom
comida	food
Tengo hambre	I'm hungry
Donde esta...?	Where is...?
uno	one
dos	two
tres	three
cuatro	four
cinco	five
seis	six
siete	seven
ocho	eight
nueve	nine
diez	ten
Dios te bendiga!	God bless you!

A Daily Prayer for Freedom

(Taken from John Eldredge's *Waking the Dead*)

My dear Lord Jesus, I come to You now to be restored in You- to renew my place in You, my allegiance to You, and to receive from You all the grace and mercy I so desperately need this day. I honor You as my sovereign Lord, and I surrender every aspect of my life totally and completely to You. I give my body as a living sacrifice. I give You my heart, soul, mind, and strength; and I give You my spirit as well. I cover myself with Your blood- my spirit, my soul, and my body and I ask Your Holy Spirit to restore my union with you, and guide me in this time of prayer.

Dear God, holy and victorious Trinity, You alone are worthy of all my worship, my heart's devotion, all my praise and all my trust and all the glory of my life. I worship You, bow to You, and give myself over to You. In my heart's search for life, You alone are Life, and You have become my life. I renounce all other gods, all idols, and I give You the place in my heart and in my life that You truly deserve. I confess here and now that it is all about You, God, and not about me. You are the Hero of this story, and I belong to You. Forgive me for my every sin. Search me and know me and reveal to me any aspect of my life that is not pleasing to You. Expose any agreements I have made with my Enemy, and grant me this grace of a deep and true repentance.

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me and choosing me before You made the world. You are my true Father- my Creator, my Redeemer, my Sustainer, and the true end of all things, including my life. I love You. I worship You. Thank You for proving Your love for me by sending Your only Son, Jesus, to be my sacrifice and my new life. I receive Him and all His life and all His work which You ordained for me. Thank You for including me in Christ, for forgiving me my sins, for granting me His righteousness, for making me complete in Him. Thank You for making me alive with Christ, raising me with Him, seating me with Him at Your right hand, granting me His authority, and anointing me with Your Holy Spirit. I receive it all with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Jesus, thank You for coming for me, for ransoming me with Your own life. I honor You as my Lord. I love You, worship You, trust You. I sincerely receive You as my redemption, and I receive all the work and triumph of Your crucifixion, whereby I am cleansed from all my sin through Your shed blood, my old nature is removed, my heart is circumcised unto God, and every claim being made against me this day is disarmed. I take my place in Your cross and death and whereby I have died with You to sin and to my flesh, to the world, and to the Evil One. I am crucified with Christ. I now take up my cross and crucify my flesh with all its pride, unbelief, and idolatry. I put off the old man. I now bring the cross of Christ between me and all people and spirits, and things. Holy Spirit, apply to me the fullness of the work of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim in my life.

Jesus, I also sincerely receive You as my new life, my holiness and sanctification, and I receive all the work and triumph of Your resurrection, whereby I have been raised with You to a new life, to walk in newness of life, dead to sin and alive to God. I am crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. I now take my place in Your resurrection, whereby I have been made alive with You, I reign in life through You. I put on the new person in all holiness and humility, in all righteousness and purity and truth. Christ is now my life, the One who strengthens me. Holy Spirit, apply to me the fullness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for me. I receive it with thanks and give it total claim to my life.

Prayer Guide

Could you not tarry one hour?

- I. Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy name...
- a. Picture Calvary and thank God, you can call Him "Father" by virtue of the blood of Jesus.
 - b. Hallow the names of God corresponding with the five benefits in the new Covenant, and make your faith declarations.

Benefit	Name	Meaning
SIN	JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH	'Jehovah our righteousness' 'Jehovah who sanctified'
SPIRIT	JEHOVAH-SHALOM JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH	'Jahovah is peace' 'Jehovah is there'
SOUNDNESS	JEHOVAH-ROPHE	'Jehovah heals'
SUCCESS	JEHOVAH-JIREH	'Jehovah's provision shall be seen'
SECURITY	JEHOVAH-NISSI JEHOVAH-ROHI	'Jehovah my banner' 'Jehovah my shepherd'

- II. ...Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.
- a. Yourself
 - b. Your family (mate, children, other family members)
 - c. Your church (pastor, leadership, faithfulness of people, harvest)
- III. ...give us this day our daily bread...
- a. Be in the will of God (prayer life, church, work habits, obedience in giving)
 - b. Believe it is God's will to prosper you
 - c. Be specific
 - d. Be tenacious
- IV. ...and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
- a. Ask God to forgive you
 - b. Forgive and release others
 - c. Set your will to forgive those who sin against you
- V. ...and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- a. Put on the whole armor of God (put on the Lord Jesus Christ)
 1. Loins girt about with TRUTH
 2. Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS
 3. Feet shod with the PREPARATION (READINESS) of the gospel of PEACE
 4. Shiled of FAITH
 5. Helmet of SALVATION
 6. Sword of the Spirit which is the WORD OF GOD
 - b. Pray a hedge of protection (You are my refuge, my fortress, my God)

Personal Testimony

Evangelism Preparation

This section of the Trip Manual is the “nuts and bolts” of the entire outreach. Our goals are specific:

1. To lead individuals into a personal experience with Jesus Christ and to establish them in the faith through follow-up.
2. To inspire all participating team members to become involved in active witnessing and follow-up.
3. To demonstrate to the entire local church the effectiveness of personal soul-winning and inspire them to perpetuate the concept of team witnessing and follow-up.

Personal Testimony

Included in this section, and necessary for completion, are worksheets for your personal testimony. In the words of Rebecca Manley Pippert, “Every Christian has a personal story to tell. Each of you is unique. God has called you to be a very specific, very special person, and your story, your life, is a testimony to God’s goodness, His grace, His forgiveness. So share who you are with people. Let them know you have struggles, but that Jesus has made a difference.”

We can’t promise that you won’t have beginner’s jitters, but we think we can help you prepare to share your faith with more boldness and self-assurance. The testimony pages are to be used as a guide in preparing your personal testimony. Once you have in mind precisely what you want to say, you’ll be much more confident about speaking out. These sheets are not intended to limit you, but to help you. They will give you the opportunity to clarify and solidify your personal testimony.

The Gospel Presentation

From the material given, develop a soul-winning presentation that you are comfortable with so you can present yourself in a clear and concise manner. The way to salvation must be understood. Memorize your outline until you can give it on a moment’s notice.

How to Give Away Your Faith (Suggested Reading)

It would be beneficial for you to read the book “How to Give Away Your Faith”, by Paul Little (IVP) and complete the individual study questions at the end chapter.

Personal Testimony

I. The General Outline of a Personal Testimony

- A. **Before** - A short sketch of what your life was like before you became a Christian.
- B. **How** - How, specifically, you took the step of becoming a Christian.
- C. **After** - A description of the changes in your life.

II. Guidelines for Preparing Specific Content

- A. **Make it sound conversational.** Prepare it to be spoken. Avoid literary sounding statements like, "I viewed the crimson sunset and pondered." Use informal vocabulary.
- B. **Say "I" and "me," not "you" (share, don't preach).** This helps keep the testimony warm and personal. People like to hear experiences of others told in the first person.
- C. **Avoid religious words, phrases, and jargon.**

Religious Words:

Possible Substitutes:

Believe

Invited Christ to come into my life through prayer

Sin

Disobedience, breaking God's laws, turned my back on God

Went forward

Decided to turn my life over to God

Under the blood

God forgave me of my failures

Accepted Christ

(Same as "Believe")

Saved

Became a Christian, delivered from the consequences of disobedience

Prayed through

Sincerely Prayed

Christian

Committed Christian, real Christian

- D. **Generalize, so more people can identify with your story.** Don't name specific churches, denominations, or groups. Avoid using dates and ages. (Poor: "I was seven years old when I became a Christian. We moved to the city in 1956." Better: "I was a very young when I became a Christian.")
- E. **Include some humor and human interest.** When a person smiles or laughs, it reduces tension. Humor is disarming and increases attention.
- F. **One-or two-word pictures increases interest.** Don't just say "I grew up on my folks' farm." You might briefly describe the farm so a person listening can visualize it.
- G. **In the "before," include both good and bad aspects of your life.** Have a cushion of interesting non-spiritual material at the beginning.
1. Examples of "good aspects"- wanted to excel, desire for education, concern for others, hard-working.
 2. Examples of "bad aspects"-selfish, inferiority complex, get ahead at any cost, temper, greed.
- H. **In the "how"...**
1. Communicate the gospel clearly and briefly. You need to include:
 - a. The fact of sin
 - b. The penalty of sin
 - c. Christ's payment of the penalty
 - d. The requirement to receive eternal life
 2. Make the Bible the authority
 - a. Poor: "Bill shared with me that I had failed and needed forgiveness."
 - b. Better: "Bill shared with me that the Bible said..."
 3. Use the word **pray** when referring to receiving Christ. The word **pray** communicates what a person needs to do. (Good: "I prayed and asked Christ to forgive my sin and give me the gift of eternal life.")
- I. **In the "after," rapidly conclude with two or three personal benefits of becoming a Christian.** (These may be current benefits.) The last sentence of your testimony should be something like, "But the greatest benefit is that I know I have eternal life." The listener often comments on the last thing you say in your testimony. If the listener's comment is on eternal life, the door is open for presenting the gospel to him.

J. **Avoid dogmatic statements which skeptics can question.** Some examples are:

1. "I prayed and I know Christ came in."
2. Poor: "God has given me a wonderful husband (or wife and three children)."
3. Better: "I prayed and asked Christ to forgive me and make me a new person. Since then I have experienced peace..."

K. **Sound adult, not juvenile.** Reflect an adult point of view, even if you were converted at an early age.

1. Poor: "My dad helped me understand about Jesus."
2. Better: "I had great talks with my parents. One day Dad and I discussed in some detail who Jesus Christ really is."

L. **Simplify-reduce "clutter."** Mention only a limited number of people you know and such things as meetings and jobs you have had. Use only first names when possible.

1. Poor: "Bill Smith, Thomas Van Buren, and his cousin Ed Matthews came by my office at Acme Plumbing and Appliance Company..."
2. Better: "Bill and two other men talked to me at work one day..."
3. Combine information like, "After living in five states and attending six universities, I found myself at my first engineering job."

III. The Sequence of Your Preparation

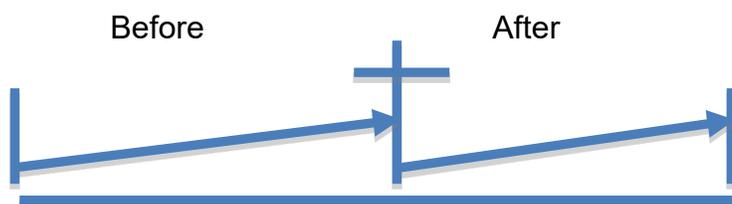
- A. Before you begin writing, pray for God's help. Look to Him for wisdom and insight as you work on your testimony.
- B. Accumulate brief notes on three separate sheets of paper labeled **Before**, **How**, and **After**.
- C. Write out your first draft, using your notes from the three sheets of paper. (It will usually take about five minutes to read. Apply guidelines A-L.)
- D. Make improvements on the long-draft (your pastor or leader may be able to help you with this).
- E. Cut your draft until it is 2 ½ to 3 minutes when read.
- F. Outline your presentation on a 3" x 5" card. Learn to give the testimony using only your outline.
- G. Learn to give your testimony in 3 to 4 minutes without the outline.

Two Testimony Formats

1. Chronological

In this approach you tell your story in chronological sequence. You might use this format:

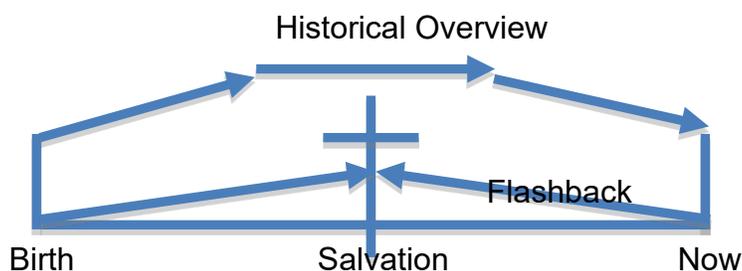
- a. If you were converted later in life
- b. If you have enough interesting material to share prior to your conversion.
- c. If your conversion experience occupies most of your testimony because of the **how**. The **before** would then be relatively short.



2. Overview/Flashback

In this approach (pictured below), you're giving an interesting, rapid overview of your life right up to the present. This overview takes the place of the **before** in your testimony. The flashback to the spiritual dimension of your life may go back to the **how** or just before the **how**. This means that some of the **before** might end up in your flashback. You might use this format:

- a. If you came to Christ at an early age.
- b. If you had a drab early life, but have had a more interesting adult life.
- c. If your **how** is very short.



Personal Testimony Draft Evaluation

Name _____

(Check off each item and make comments below)

	First Draft	Second Draft	Third Draft
	Are there 3 obvious parts? Before ___ How ___ After ___	Is it conversational? ___	Are transitions from one part to another smooth? ___
Before	Is there an obvious nonspiritual cushion? (About 1/3 of the material) ___ Comments: Adult—not juvenile? ___	General (no ages)? ___ Word picture? ___ Human interest? (Your feelings, experience, success, humor) ___ Good and bad aspects? ___ Comments:	Reduce clutter: Comments:
How	Four points of the Gospel: Fact of sin ___ Penalty of sin ___ Christ paid the penalty ___ Must receive Christ ___ Comments: Adult—not juvenile? ___	Religious jargon? ___ Bible authority? ___ "Pray" to receive Christ? ___ Smooth transition? ___ "I" and "me" (not preachy)? ___ General (no ages)? ___ Comments:	Reduce Clutter: Comments:
After	Are there two or three personal benefits? ___ Last thought regarding eternal life? ___ Comments:	Dogmatic? ___ Comments:	Reduce Clutter: Comments:
Time	___:___	___:___	___:___

How to Give a Testimony Through an Interpreter

Ok, you've written your testimony. Now, you need to prepare to give your testimony through an interpreter. Our whole purpose is to give witness that Jesus saves, so a few team members will be assigned to share their testimony during each service. Don't be nervous; just take part and do the best you can for the glory of God.

The language barrier need not be a big problem in worshiping with, and ministering to, foreign-speaking people. However, when it is necessary to speak through an interpreter, there are a few things that should be observed:

Smile—Christians are supposed to be happy! Not a forced, strained smile, but a sincere smile of happiness in Christ.

Gesture a bit—naturally, and not overdone, but let your enthusiasm for Christ show.

Speak up—loud enough to be heard clearly.

Be brief—remember that a 5-minute testimony is really an 8 to 10-minute testimony when given through an interpreter.

Give your testimony in short statements—pausing often enough for the interpreter to keep up with you; pause at every comma. (Typically every 5 to 8 words.)

Do not make any reference to the Roman Catholic Church or other denominations, or to the government or politics.

Keep your testimony limited to: a) what Christ has done for you; b) how much you love Him; and c) what He can do for them.

Close with a Scripture verse—in the language of the country you are visiting, if possible. The foreign-speaking Christian will deeply appreciate your efforts to use their language. Memorize it if you can.

Bible Study

Read through the book of Acts several times during the next few weeks, using different versions if possible. Answer the following questions:

I. Acts 4:23-31

- A. What is the request made in verse 29?
- B. What is the reason/need for the request?
- C. What happened after this prayer? (v. 31)

II. Acts 10:9-48

- A. Notice the distinction referred to between Jew and Gentile (v. 28); summarize the distinction.
- B. What new “understanding” did Peter gain? (v. 34)
- C. What resulted from this realization? (v. 44)

III. Acts 12:1-19

- A. Notice Peter’s desperate need (vv. 1-4 They already killed James.)
- B. What did the church do? (v. 5)
- C. What was God’s response?
- D. What was Peter’s reaction?

IV. Acts 22-27

- A. See how Paul incorporates his testimony into his presentation of Christ.
- B. What promise was given Paul in the midst of his trials? (23:11)
- C. Was this promise fulfilled? List the reference.
- E. Did Paul stop preaching Christ because he was persecuted?
- F. What occurred due to Paul’s faithfulness in preaching Christ? (28:28-30)

Scriptural Greeting

The Scriptural Greeting is for the purpose of effectively greeting **believers**. The Soul Winning Plan (Mini Salvation Sermon) will be used when addressing unbelievers. The Scriptural Greeting should be short, personal, and reflect an encouraging Biblical concept or verse.

Scriptural Greeting Components

- Short encouraging verse or Biblical concept
- Your personal feelings and observations
- Reflect gratitude and servanthood
- Should be 60 seconds or less

EXAMPLE: “It is a tremendous privilege to be in your country. Thank you so much for your warm welcome and hospitality. I’m looking forward to getting to know as many of you as I can. Galatians 5:13 instructs us as believers to ‘serve one another in love.’ That is my heart’s desire. I want to serve you in whatever way I can. Thanks again for having us. God bless you.”

Bolivia Missions Trip Packing List

Note 1: Pack with the intent that you can leave some clothes in the country to be a blessing. Avoid bringing valuables that could be lost or stolen. You will be allowed 1 carry-on bag, 1 personal bag (purse, small bag etc.) and 1 or 2 checked bags (one for personal items and possibly second for team supplies) with a combined weight of less than 50 lbs. for the checked bags. Pack a change of clothes in your carry-on (in case your checked-in luggage is lost). Leave some room in your checked bag for team supplies (Spanish Bibles, tracts, tools etc.) *Be sure to use a quality scale to check your bag weights. Fees for oversized or overweight bags can be up to \$100 per bag! If the airline is not Copa, weight info will be provided to you. Most airlines have their own requirements that may be different than the below.

Copa Airlines Baggage Standards (as of 12/22/22)

Checked bags: 2 bags with combined weight of <50 lbs. & <62" (L+H+W)(wheels/handles not incl)

Carry-on bags: <22 lbs. & <46" combined dimensions (L+H+W)(wheels/handles are incl.)

Personal bags: no specific information given. This would be purse or small bag

Note 2: Make sure you bring your passport! No passport, no trip! Also make a photocopy of your passport and carry it in a different pocket or wallet. (Always carry your passport with you – do not put it in your checked-in luggage).

Note 3: Make sure that your personal identification with name, address (USA), and phone are tagged and clearly visible on the outside. Also, put your identification inside each bag in the event that the outside tag is lost.

Medical:

Note: You may need a **Yellow Fever** vaccination and the **paperwork to prove it**. You will be informed if a Yellow Fever vaccine is required well before the trip. If it is, make sure you bring your yellow-colored vaccination card with your passport. Duane or Pat will have an emergency medicine kit with basic items if needed.

Team Packing List:

Team First Aid Kit

Powdered Gatorade Drink Mix (to mix on the jobsite)

10 Biblia de Estudio de la Vida Plena - Pentecostal Full Life Study Bible in Spanish NIV (Think Missions buys these Bibles wholesale for around \$20.00 each – please work to raise some money for Bibles and Think Missions can order them for you)

Evangelistic Spanish Tracts (can check with local Christian bookstore or online)

Packs of chewing gum – not cinnamon, can be too hot for kids (gifts)

Dum-dum lollipops (gifts)

Lots of trinkets, small toys/prizes, craft items, balloons, puppets, clown outfits- for the VBS prog.

Ballpoint pens (gifts)

Soccer balls (they don't play baseball or American football very much in Bolivia)

Personal Packing List:

Any personal medications or prescriptions (be sure these are in your carry-on)
Bible
Journal/notebook/pens
Toiletry items (soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, razor, etc.)
Little bottle of laundry detergent (optional- for hand washing clothes)
Toilet paper/toilet wipes (rec at least one roll)
Lip Balm
Sun Block
Antiseptic cream
Off Insect Repellant with DEET (wipes are better than aerosol due to new airline rules)
Imodium AD
Pepto-Bismol or Maalox tablets
Dramamine (if you get motion sickness)
Small Kleenex packs
Tylenol PM (This can be used for a sleep aid if a dog or pig is outside your bedroom window)
Flashlight (unless your phone has one)
Sunglasses
Wash cloth, towel, sheets, pillow case (don't need w/ Hotel)
Throat lozenges/cough drops
Camera/film/or extra digital storage (if your phone doesn't have a camera)
Constipation medicine
Travel alarm clock (unless your phone has one)
Light weight plastic travel poncho

Note: Pack all fluids in zip lock baggies. Put fluids in your checked-in bag. (Not carry-on). If you have to carry on any fluids they must be in a clear bottle and in a zip lock bag and not more than 3 ounces.

Personal Food/Money:

Note: All food will be provided when we are in Bolivia however, you can also bring some snacks that aren't affected by heat if you like. You should bring some spending money for meals or snacks while we are travelling, souvenirs and for offering at church services we may attend. Do not hand out money directly to any nationals. If you want to bless someone, we ask that you talk to Duane or Pat to be sure it is handled correctly.

Granola Bars - breakfast bars
Chewing Gum - always an appreciated gift
Beef jerky, etc.

Suggested Personal Clothing Packing List:

Work shoes or tennis shoes on the jobsite (steel-toe not required)

Work gloves

Hat

Large handkerchiefs/bandanas or cooling towel

3 - Work pants (jeans, etc.)

3 - Modest shorts

1 - Casual pants (like Dockers for church services)

1 - Jeans (for services or time off)

Ladies can wear casual pants for services. Bring a modest skirt as well.

Shirts for work and the evenings

2- casual shirts for services

Tennis shoes are ok for evenings and services

Underwear/socks

Modest swimsuit (one piece for ladies)

Sandals/flip flops

Tools (check with Pat or Duane on exactly what tools each team needs to take or are needed):

Masonry hand tools: brick trowels, pointing trowels, finishing trowels, margin trowels, concrete floats, line blocks and mason line, line levels, joint tools, edging tools, levels 2', lineman's pliers, tie wire, brick hammers, brick chisels, duct tape, etc.

Additional Resources

How to Win Someone to Christ

First Show him his need of Christ.

1. Without Christ he is lost, Luke 19:10
2. Without Christ he is guilty, Romans 3:19
3. Without Christ he is condemned, John 3:18
4. Without Christ he is dead, Ephesians 2:1

Second Show her she cannot save herself apart from Christ.

1. She cannot save herself by keeping the law, Romans 3:20
2. She cannot save herself by good works, Titus 3:5
3. She cannot save herself by personal character, Isaiah 64:6
4. She can only be saved by trusting Christ, John 5:24

Third Show him what Christ will do for him when he accepts Him as Savior.

1. Christ will bear all his sins, Isaiah 53:6
2. Christ will give him eternal life, John 10:28
3. Christ will strengthen him against temptation, 1 Corinthians 10:13
4. Christ will provide for, protect, and pray for him, John 17:20; Hebrew 7:35
5. Christ will prepare for him a place in heaven, John 14:1-3

Then Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to
Persuade persuade men.
Him/Her!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,...and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors,...we implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:11,17,19,20

Soul Winning - Witnessing

I can find ultimate purpose only by learning the essentials of sharing my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I must share Christ, His Word, and the joy of my personal experience with everyone who crosses my path. I must become a torch of truth in a troubled world.

I hereby resolve to choose this course of action daily, and in God's power I consider it done.

* * * * *

A Sharing Principle Passage

Romans 1:16-17

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”

Verses for Further Study

Acts 4:13-20
Luke 14:16-24
Isaiah 43:10-12
Mark 5:1-19
Mark 16:12-15
John 15:26-27
II Timothy 1:6-8
Acts 2:29-32
Mark 5:19

Acts 26:13-16
Psalms 107:1-2
Matthew 10:16-20
John 4:35-38
Jeremiah 1:6-9
Psalms 126:5-6
Jeremiah 1:17-19
I Timothy 2:1-2
Luke 8:39

Developing a Soul-Winning Plan

I. The Soul-Winning Plan

Successful soul-winners use a general outline in each conversation, recognizing that the Holy Spirit may sometimes direct them to deviate from this plan. The following three areas should be part of every soul-winning encounter. Adapt them to fit both your personality and the particular situation you face.

A. Scripture

1. The universality and penalty of sin
2. The provision of God through Christ
3. The benefits of salvation
4. The method of appropriating salvation

B. Prayer

1. The decision to accept Christ's way
2. The enlistment of God's help
3. The expression of thanks

C. Follow-up

1. The confirmation by testimony and review of the Scripture
2. Instructions concerning Bible reading, prayer, baptism, church attendance

You should learn a dialogue to—

- A. Overcome the fear of not knowing what to say
- B. Become used to saying the words and bridging gaps
- C. Become familiar with your own voice in the midst of distractions
- D. Be able to listen to the Spirit instead of worrying what to say next
- E. Assist the person in his decision.

The conversation must be controlled, but not argumentative. To leave a tract or a general witness is not sufficient. When you know the necessary salvation steps without fumbling or repetition, you can be attentive to the Spirit instead of grasping for words.

II. Establish Common Ground

It is important for you to establish a point of reference. You might talk about sports, a mutual friend, a humorous event, or a geographic location. You must ask questions that cause the person to think and respond. Be sincerely interested in their response. Common ground is time for collecting information and looking for opportunities to affirm and agree. Remember, establishing a relationship requires that you take the initiative.

In the space below, create several questions that will help you establish common ground.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

III. Transition

Many people successfully establish common ground, but fail to share the gospel due to poor planning.

You must seek opportunities to turn your conversation to the subject of Jesus Christ, using a transition sentence—the link between common ground and the gospel presentation.

Using a transition sentence also helps in giving a smooth gospel presentation.

Simply think in terms of everyday conversation and turn that into a discussion about God and Jesus Christ. For example, when Jesus talked with the woman at the well (John 4), He used the subject of living water as a transition. The woman was talking about the water at the well when Jesus talked to her about the living water.

A basketball player who wins on the court can be asked: “Are you winning in life?” Then you can explain a related biblical parable (it doesn’t have to be the New Testament: it can be a beautiful story from the Old Testament).

In the space provided, develop transition sentences:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

After establishing common ground, you might say: “Could I have five minutes with you so that I can share the most important thing in my life?”

Use your personal testimony here. You could say, “I used to think that” or “I felt that way too, until...” and then proceed with your testimony. Afterwards, ask if you could pose a couple questions. These will open the door for the gospel presentation

IV. The Gospel Presentation

The need of the hour is for people to talk about Jesus—not church, not religion, not philosophy, not denomination, but Jesus Christ.

Asking questions is the way that doctors find out what’s wrong with their patients. In the spiritual realm, questions are indispensable as well. We must ask and provide questions that will reveal their spiritual condition and open a door to share what the Bible says so they can be lead to a salvation decision. Each presentation must include Scriptures to show the Need, the Penalty, the Provision, and How to Receive Forgiveness.

Following are several questions with Scriptures:

A. What does it mean to be a Christian?

When asked this question, many individuals will tell you what a Christian does. A Christian goes to church, carries a Bible, witnesses—a Christian does this or does that. You might respond: “You have said what a Christian does, but let me share with you what a Christian is.” Let’s ask the question again—“What does it mean to be a Christian?”

As a Christian, I:

- Recognize the Bible tells us that we fall short of God—Romans 3:23
- Recognize the Bible tells us there is a penalty for sin—Romans 6:23
- Recognize the Bible tells us there is a provision for sin through Jesus Christ—Romans 6:23
- Recognize the Bible tells us we can pray for forgiveness and be assured we are forgiven—1 John 1:9

B. Suppose you were to die tonight and stand before God, and He were to say to you, “why should I let you into my heaven?” What would you say?

Most of the time their response will be, “I’m a good person; I don’t lie, haven’t killed anyone; I try to do the right (moral) things,” or “I go to church and pay my tithes.” Although these are admirable traits, and ones we should all possess, the Bible is clear on the way to heaven.

1. We Have a Problem

- a. God’s standard: Matthew 5:48—“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect”
- b. Man’s predicament: Romans 3:23—“All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.”
- c. Deserved punishment: Romans 6:23—“The wages of sin is death.”

2. There Is a Solution

- a. Door of hope: Romans 6:23—“The gift of God is eternal life.”
- b. Give a brief overview of Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection, emphasizing that He paid our “wages” and was our substitute. His purpose in coming was that you might have life, and life more abundantly (John 10:10). (Depending on the content of your personal testimony, it may fit in well at this point.)

3. The Result of Applying the Solution

- a. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). If you believe Jesus was your Substitute, died for your sins, and was raised from the dead, then you can receive the gift of eternal life. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

V. Commitment

To make sure they understood your presentation, ask if it made sense. Recap the outline, if necessary. You may want to ask if there is anything hindering them from making a commitment to Christ. Often, people have doubts about taking this step, and asking this question will help them pinpoint their fears. When you learn the nature of their doubts, emphasize that Jesus never requires us to "get it all together" beforehand. When we simply come to Him as we are, He helps us take care of these things. (Provide real-life examples).

Distractions may come while you're sharing, but do the best you can. When you're finished, ask if they would like to pray and make a commitment. Explain that doing so means that we no longer trust in our "good works" to save us, but in Jesus. Because we're sinners, we can't save ourselves—no matter how good we try to be.

Model a prayer of commitment, saying something like this: "Dear God, I ask you to forgive me of any wrongdoing. I ask you to be in charge of everything I do. I give you complete control of every decision I make. I ask you to forgive me of my sin. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me so I can have eternal life. Thank you, Jesus, for dying in my place and rising from the dead. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen."

VI. Assurance

Jesus said: "He who believes has everlasting life" (John 6:47). Share this verse, recap the plan of salvation, if necessary, and ask if they have any prayer requests. Know that if you have clearly presented Jesus Christ, you have accomplished your purpose, and God will do the rest.

Leave decision literature and arrange a follow-up visit. Invite them to attend a local church and offer to go with them, if possible. Stress the importance of growing in their relationship with the Lord through Bible reading (beginning with the gospel of John), prayer, and church attendance.

