



Appalachian Regional Ministry

# A.R.M. Journal

Building Bridges of Hope and Change through Volunteer Missions

## Preparing for a Mission Trip

### In This Edition

**Page 1:** Preparing for a Mission Trip

**Page 2:** Weblinks in this publication

**Page 3:** Using Mission Volunteers to Make a Difference

### Leadership Matters!

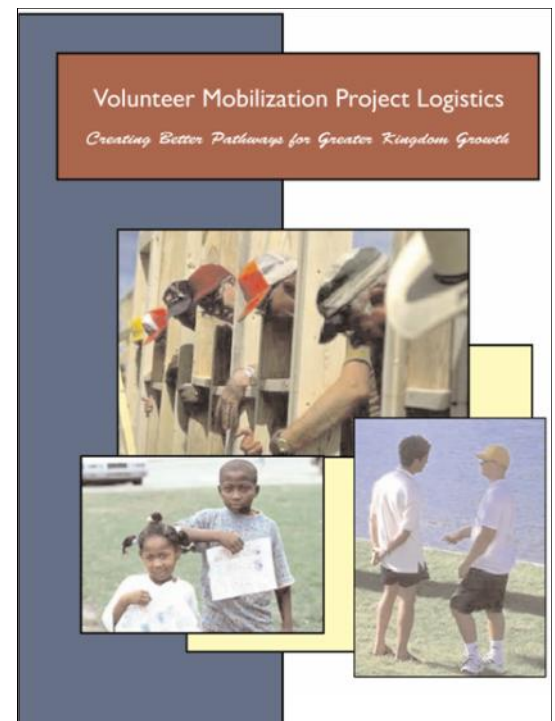
Knowing the purpose, (the mission) of your mission trip and clearly communicating it to all of the participants is the first key to a successful mission trip. The second key to a successful mission trip is found in the leadership team.

When planning a church mission trip it is critical to consider who the leaders will be and to choose leaders with the skills needed to ensure success. While the pastor of a church should always be involved in any mission endeavor of the church it is not necessarily the pastor who should be the Mission Trip leader. The pastor is called by God to shepherd the church. The myriad of responsibilities surrounding planning and leading a mission trip take the pastor's focus off of the day to day tasks of guiding the church, sermon preparation, discipleship evangelism and ministry to the church family.

Selecting a passionate volunteer with good organizational skills, who has the respect and admiration of church members and senses a call from God to the ministry of a missions leader is a great first step in planning and carrying out a successful mission trip.

Once called to the task the wise missions leader will seek out others to join the leadership team. Planning a mission trip includes a myriad of details.

Volunteers can be enlisted to take on responsibility for planning for travel, food, lodging, materials,



medical and insurance forms, bible studies, team member preparation and for promoting the mission trip and other issues. Writing job descriptions for each of the tasks will help to find people with the right gifts and abilities for each area of leadership.

The leadership team will need to work together to ensure all the details are taken care of in a timely fashion. Coming together to pray over the details and the participants will help to build commitment and a sense of teamship.

Usually the recruitment of a volunteer missions

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*Planning a mission trip includes a myriad of details.*

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Mission team holding a Backyard Bible Club in Eastern Kentucky. The team was part of MissionsFest. For more information on [MissionsFEST click here](#). Pictures by Kristy Carr, National WMU

(Continued from page 1)

leader falls to a church staff member. When enlisting a volunteer it will be helpful to remember the following guidelines.

**Tell the story.** Describe the activity of God that would lead the church to do a short-term mission project.

**Tell your story.** Why are you involved? Why do you want to see this happen?

**Define the task.** What is the church attempting to do? Whom will the volunteers be helping?

**Define the expectations.** This will clarify more exactly what the team leader will be asking volunteers to do.

**Describe the personal benefits.** Help a potential team

leader or team leadership member understand how God might grow them through this experience.

**Pray with potential volunteers.** Every step of the volunteer process should be bathed in prayer. No responsibility should be accepted out of pressure or obligation. It should come from a clear understanding of God's purpose for the individual.

© 2009 Adult Volunteer Mobilization Team, NAMB. Portions taken from the *Volunteer Mobilization Project Logistics Manual*. You can download the entire logistics manual by [clicking here](#).

To read more **Tips for the Journey**, [click here](#). Ten tips that will help you make your mission trip a success.

## Weblinks in this publication:

Volunteer Mobilization Project Logistics Manual  
[www.arministry.org/VMLogisticManualNAMB.pdf](http://www.arministry.org/VMLogisticManualNAMB.pdf)

Destination Point  
[www.arministry.org/Destintion\\_PointNAMB.pdf](http://www.arministry.org/Destintion_PointNAMB.pdf)

Tips for the Journey  
[www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.5214691/k.AD18/Mission\\_Trip\\_Tips/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp](http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.5214691/k.AD18/Mission_Trip_Tips/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp)

MissionsFEST (National WMU)  
[www.wmu.com/index.php?q=content/missionsfest-familyfest](http://www.wmu.com/index.php?q=content/missionsfest-familyfest)

Families on Mission  
[www.namb.net/fom](http://www.namb.net/fom)

Appalachian Regional Ministry Projects/Mission Opportunities  
[www.arministry.org/2010Projects.pdf](http://www.arministry.org/2010Projects.pdf)

## Other Volunteer Opportunities:

The Bridge  
[www.thebridge.namb.net](http://www.thebridge.namb.net)

Mississippi River Ministry  
[www.riverministry.com](http://www.riverministry.com)



Georgia Baptists WMU on a Discovery Trip to Central Appalachia in the fall of 2009.

## Using Mission Volunteers to Make a Difference

### How Your Church, new Church Start, Ministry Center, or Community Can Become a Desired *Destination Point* for Short-Term Missions Volunteers

Inviting hundreds of volunteers to your community for a week or longer is not a dream for everyone. Imagine what God could do if you were multiplied and working in 20 different places with 20 different tasks throughout your community, all at the same time.

If God has challenged you with a ministry vision that feels way beyond your capacity, then maybe you need to ask others to join you. With the right strategy, it's possible that volunteers from across the country will come to your community to join hands in a God-sized task.

#### Take a minute and dream for your community.

- Children in small towns and up hollows hearing about Jesus.
- Children in multihousing communities hearing about Jesus.
- Sports camps in community parks teaching children about Jesus.
- Homes being renovated.
- Handicap ramps being built for the elderly and disabled.
- Two evangelistic Block Parties occurring each week.
- People from different ethnic backgrounds hearing about

Jesus.

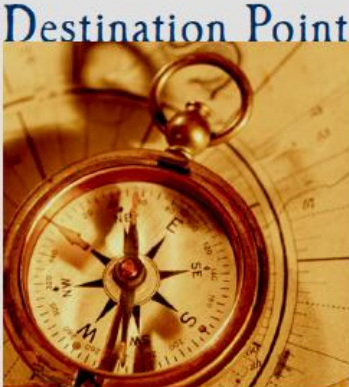
- Hundreds of hungry people being fed and hearing the gospel every day.
- Hundreds of men, women, boys, and girls accepting Christ as Savior.
- Evangelistic sports clinics being conducted in cooperation with the city's day-camp program.
- Day-camps for being held of the children living in your area of ministry
- Prayerwalking/Prayerdriving in neighborhoods
- Ministering to hundreds of people in leisure and resort settings.

#### Could this happen at your church, at your ministry center, or in your community in just one week?




With thorough dreaming, planning, and coordinating, it is possible to multiply your community ministry efforts hundreds of times through the utilization of volunteers. With the onset of the new millennium, we see mission education moving from the classroom and the prayer room to the arena of personal involvement.

People everywhere, especially in the church, are looking for projects in which to become personally involved. They are looking for a place where their lives can make a difference.

Widening ministerial involvement in your association or com-



*How Your Community Can Become a Desired Destination Point for Short-Term Missions Volunteers*

[www.namb.net/destination](http://www.namb.net/destination)

munity to include volunteers increases the opportunities to fulfill the Great Commission. Volunteer skills and experiences expand the tools in God's treasure chest.

Volunteers can do construction, repair vans, sew, teach crafts, and tutor children. They can and will do just about anything they are asked to do.

The varied life experiences of volunteers, such as working with drug and alcohol addicts, working in a factory, or being a refugee, provide a meaningful context from which to relate to all kinds of people. Volunteers are not viewed with the same attitudes as preachers, missionaries, or other church staff. Often people will be more patient with

*(Continued on page 4)*

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*In Appalachia, for every 10 to 12 volunteers who come to serve there is a salvation decision.*

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28 White Rock Road  
Hurricane, WV 25526

Phone: 606-316-4298  
E-mail: [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org)  
E-mail: [bbarker@namb.net](mailto:bbarker@namb.net)

On the web at  
[www.arministry.org](http://www.arministry.org)

*Appalachian Regional Ministry is an intentional missions response to the spiritual and physical needs of persons living in the Appalachian region to mobilize Southern Baptists and their resources to provide ministries, to evangelize the lost, to assist existing churches and to start new churches in the multi-state region of Appalachia.*

*Appalachian Regional Ministry is a Cooperative Program ministry of thirteen Southern Baptist State Conventions in the ARM region in partnership with the North American Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union.*

### Southern Baptists on Mission in Appalachia

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Bill Barker, Editor



(Continued from page 3)

volunteers who exhibit uncomfortable feelings or make awkward presentations during evangelistic events. Less-than-perfect presentations are viewed as genuine feelings, and people will take time to listen.

The purpose of *Destination Point* is to assist you in developing a strategy and plan for your community or association that utilizes a vital resource for the harvest—hundreds of short-term volunteers.

*Destination Point* is a collaborative effort that reflects real-world experience. Based on the model of Charleston Outreach in Charleston, S.C., Jack Little wrote the first draft of this manuscript, reflecting much of the success realized in the diversified ministries of that association. Jack Merritt, who served Southern Baptists for more than 30 years as a missionary and

volunteer mobilization specialist, helped to take the principles of Charleston Outreach and make them more readily applicable to any ministry or association in North America.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in the process of developing a vision and plan that will have an eternal impact on your community. (Adapted from the Introduction of *Destination Point*)

© 2009 Adult Volunteer Mobilization Team, NAMB. This article was adapted from the Introduction of *Destination Point*. You can download the entire manual by [clicking here](#).

*Destination Point* is an excellent resource tool for those desiring to use short-term volunteers and for those preparing to go on a mission trip who desire to make an eternal difference in the area where they will be serving.

**Pictures—Top:** Appalachian Outreach volunteers doing a home repair. **Bottom:** Families on Mission (NAMB) in Blue Ridge, GA.

