

Survey Trips

The Missionary in all his planning must give time to consider the need for a Missions Survey trip.

Every Missionary interested in an Effective Deputation, an educated knowledge of the country and enlightened wife in the ministry should do what it takes to make a survey trip.

I. Survey trips are not extra-biblical. Consider these truths

- A. Your survey trip will provide an opportunity for God to show you what he wants to do in that place with you. *“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, {2} Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.”* Numbers 13:1,2
- B. Your survey trip will expose your heart to what God’s heart feels. *“Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.”* Lamentations 3:51
- C. Your survey trip will give you Vision. *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”* Proverbs 29:18
- D. Your survey trip will give you that opportunity to count the cost. *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”* Luke 14:28

II. Survey Trips

- A. The idea for a Survey trip is established by the Children of Israel spies trip into Canaan.
- B. Consider God’s Goals for the 12 Spies Survey Trip into Canaan. (Numbers 13:18-20) *“And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; {19} And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; {20} And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.”*
 - 1. See the Land.
 - 2. See what the layout of the land is.
 - 3. See who lives in the Land.
 - a. Determine their Strengths
 - b. Determine their weaknesses.
 - c. Determine how many are there.
 - 4. Determine the Layout of the Land.
 - 5. Determine the value of the Land.
 - 6. Determine how they live.
 - 7. Determine the economics of the land.
 - a. Fat or lean
 - b. Wood or No Wood
 - 8. Bring back the fruit of the Land.
- C. What should be your Goals for a Survey Trip?
 - 1. God wanted them to go to a land and possess it for Him.
 - 2. He would give them the land and they would battle for it.
 - 3. He wanted them to see what it was for themselves.
 - 4. He called them and then commanded them to look it over.
 - a. The Hebrew word is our word is our word “reconnoiter.” (See Definition box)
 - b. Simply put reconnaissance mission.
- D. Similarly, you have been given the Missionary Call to a land.
 - 1. Assemble your Spies.
 - a. They took one from every tribe.
 - b. You under all circumstances should bring your top

re-con-noi-ter (rê'ke-noi'ter, rêk'e-) *verb, transitive*
To make a preliminary inspection of, especially in order to gather military information.

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- spy. Your Help-meet for you.
2. The enemy, Satan, lives in this land.
 3. God will give this land, (i.e. the people)
 - a. You must go into the land.
 - (1) It is not enough to hear about it from someone else.
 - (2) God could have told the spies all about it.
 - (3) However, he wanted them to GO!
 - b. Spy it out.
 - (1) Get out in it.
 - (2) Out of the hotels and in the streets.
 - c. Bring Back the Fruit. Numbers 13:24-29
 - (1) They brought back Grapes - You bring back the places where by Faith fruit will grow.
 - (2) They brought back word - You bring back word to those who sent you and those that will send you.
 - (a) They spoke to their Senders
 - (b) They spoke to their Leaders.
 - (c) They spoke to the Congregation
 - d. They spoke of the Enemies - Speak of how Satan has a grip on these people.
 - (1) They saw who their enemies were.
 - (2) They saw where they lived.
 - e. Then return to that land and possess it.
 - (1) {30} And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."
- E. What then should be our Goals on a Survey trip?
1. Goal #1 See the Land.
 - a. Go to where the people live.
 - b. Go to local events.
 - c. Go to the Market areas and mingle.
 - d. Visit inland areas.
 - e. Visit coastal areas.
 - f. Visit the Grocery Stores.
 - g. Visit the Hardware Stores
 - h. Visit the furniture stores
 - i. Visit the appliance stores
 - j. Visit Car dealerships.
 - k. Visit Government Offices. (Labor, Immigration, etc
 - l. Listen to local radio. (English Speaking countries)
 - m. See the Land through the eyes of a National Mother (wife)
 - n. See the Land through the eyes of a National Father (husband)
 - o. See the Land through the eyes of a Missionary.
 - p. See the Land through the eyes of the Lord of the Harvest.
 - q. Just See the Land
 2. Goal #2 See what the layout of the land is.
 - a. Note the Population of the cities.
 - (1) Give notice to which are largest and second largest.
 - (2) Give notice to where Missionary's ministries are based.
 - (3) Give notice to the demographics of each cities.
 - b. Note the Layout of the villages.
 - (1) Give notice to the population of villages.
 - (2) Give notice how the villages are grouped geographically. This may help you later in strategizing where the best place to put a church.
 - c. Notice Transportation System.
 - (1) Private Routes
 - (a) Get an idea of what people pay to use them.
 - (b) Get an understanding of how the routes are broken up. (Especially if you will be counting on these systems to move people to and from to where you will be based.
 - (c) Get an idea of the costs.

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- (2) Government Routes
 - (a) Get an idea of what people pay to use them.
 - (b) Get an understanding of how the routes are broken up. (Especially if you will be counting on these systems to move people to and from to where you will be based.
 - (c) Get an idea of the costs.
- d. Notice the Politics of the People.
 - (1) Seek to understand the divisions.
 - (2) Most countries will not have a two party system.
 - (3) Find out the differences and make notes of their leaders.
 - (4) Seek to understand these things.
 - (a) You will not vote but your people will.
 - (b) You will preach in areas that will cover the things politicians promote or disallow.
 - (c) You will be affected by what is passed as legislation.
- e. Notice the Ministries of Missionaries.
 - (1) Find out who is where, and what they are doing.
 - (a) This covers guys in our Camp.
 - (b) Then branch out find out what others are doing.
 - i) Southern Baptists.
 - ii) Pentecostals
 - iii) Nazarenes
 - iv) Others
 - (2) Network
 - (a) Find out who wants a teammate.
 - (b) Find out with whom you can develop friendships.
 - (c) Find out everything they have learned.
 - i) Some Missionaries are not willing to share a lot of info.
 - ii) Some have the "I was here first" complex and will help you when with this condition is understood by you.
 - iii) Some are willing to help.
 - iv) No Matter with whom you are interacting just learn.
 - (3) Find out what each Missionary wished was happening spiritually in that region.
 - (4) Find out what each Missionary would do differently.
 - (5) Use common Sense and ASK, ASK, ASK.
3. Goal #3 See who lives in the Land.
 - a. The Lord told the Spies:
 - (1) Determine their Strengths.
 - (2) Determine their weaknesses.
 - b. You should determine what are the Spiritual Strengths of the Country.
 - c. You should determine what are the Spiritual Weaknesses of the Country.
4. Goal #4 Determine the value of the Land.
 - a. Notice Natural Resources.
 - b. Notice Costs of Living.
5. Goal #6 Determine how they live.
 - a. Notice Housing Costs.
 - (1) Find out how Nationals live
 - (2) Find out how Foreign Business People live.
 - (3) Find out how Missionaries live.
 - b. Notice Household Income factors.
 - (1) What does the Laborer make?
 - (2) What does the Office Person make?
 - (3) What does Head of Household make?
 - (4) Notice if there are many people living in one household and all contribute to the household income.
 - c. Notice how they view affluent lifestyles of foreigners in their own country.
 - (1) Take note of what they consider affluent.
 - (2) Take note of what they consider necessary to live.

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- d. You will be attempting to get the gospel to these people and how they view things has direct bearing on your work.
 - (1) You may not be able to please them with how you need to live.
 - (2) You need to take care of your family properly so understanding the people's view will help you keep things in moderation.
 - (3) You may be able to afford things viewed as luxuries in this country but as necessities there. The people there will understand necessities but wanton wastefulness is always viewed in poor taste.
- 6. Goal #7
 - Bring back the fruit of the Land.
 - a. Find small curios of the area and region the Lord has touched your heart.
 - b. Discreetly take Pictures of people in places, Not just places. Obtain their permission where possible.
 - (1) Use Slide Film in One camera.
 - (2) Use 35mm in another.
 - (3) Take along a Polaroid to leave a picture with them. You ARE using their image to convey your ministry.
 - (4) Be considerate.
 - (a) If you choose to photograph their traditional churches, obtain permission.
 - (b) Consider how you would feel about having a tourist show up in a church service here and take pictures indiscriminately.
 - c. Bring back the emotions and burden of your heart.
 - d. Bring back that country in your heart.
 - e. Then tell the story in your slides and let these pictures bolster your burden.
- F. Financing your trip. The money you spend on this trip now will alleviate many unforeseen problems later.
 - 1. **PRE-DEPUTATION:** Consider consulting with your home Pastor and area churches that know you and ask them to help you.
 - 2. **DEPUTATION:** Consider presenting your need to the churches as you present your Call.
 - 3. How much do I need?
 - a. Determine the airfare for you and your wife.
 - b. Determine your place of Lodging.
 - (1) Hotel - Obtain cost per night.
 - (2) Host - Leave a Monetary gift.
 - c. Determine your miscellaneous expenses.
 - d. Total these and add 500.00 cash.
 - e. Then Pray.
 - f. Save all your receipts, as this trip will be deductible.
- G. Who will be my host and how do I make arrangements.
 - 1. If you know no one there yet:
 - a. Call every Independent Baptist Mission Agency you have knowledge of and ask if they have someone serving in you country of interest.
 - b. Make notes of their Names and Numbers and Addresses.
 - c. Contact all of them, express your interest in coming, and see what they offer.
 - 2. If you know someone ask them if they are prepared to help you arrange your survey trip.
 - a. Remember the missionary is not a travel agent, nor an activity director.
 - b. Expect nothing and be grateful for anything.
 - 3. If no one is there:
 - a. Consider asking an experienced Pastor, missionary friend or a representative from your agency to accompany you.
 - (1) Offer to pay their way.
 - (2) You ARE asking them to be a guide for you.
 - b. If you can not do the above
 - (1) Read up on the country.
 - (2) Rely on an experienced travel agent.
 - (3) Get your lodging arranged in advance with your flight.
 - (a) Consider Guesthouses.
 - (b) Consider Alternate lodging.
 - (4) Get your rental car arranged in advance with your flight.

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- (5) Use your money wisely.
- H. If you stay with a Missionary.
1. Home:
 - a. Remember you are a guest to their home.
 - b. Remember you are a guest to their ministry.
 - c. I would suggest you leave at least \$20.00 per night for every night you spend with them.
 - d. Pay for gas if they escort you anywhere.
 - e. You should try to take the host family out for a meal. This may be an unexpected treat for them and a relief for the wife of the missionary that has been feeding you.
 2. Etiquette:
 - a. You are a Christian, act like one.
 - b. Remember if you do end up in this country and your survey trip does not scare you off, you will be an associate to this missionary. You are establishing your reputation with this trip, do so wisely.
- I. Knowing how to make the Proper arrangements.
1. Letters and Follow-up letters
 - a. Make sure you confirm all info committed to in letters.
 - b. Take them with you when you go.
 2. Visas
 - a. Every Country is different.
 - b. Contact the travel agent you purchased tickets from and ask them whether you need a VISA.
 - c. There are several companies that will walk your visa through the respective office in Washington, DC. They usually charge \$50-75.00 per visa. This is well worth the charge.
 3. Passports
 - a. Go to your local post office for a Passport Application and get one now.
 - b. Send it in and get this step out of the way. Cost \$85.00
- J. Do I take my Family and Why
1. You should at least take your wife on this trip.
 - a. She is a Help, meet for you.
 - b. She is going to see things you will not.
 - c. She has fears she will not mention to you.
 - d. These fears will be allayed or confirmed and out of the way by this trip.
 2. Do not try to convince your wife this is a vacation.
 3. Find out what your kids want to know.
 4. You are on a fact-finding mission for your family. You need to have you both on this trip.
- K. Finding housing on the field.
1. Do you want to live where you will work first?
 2. Do you want to live between where you will work second and first?
 3. Do you want to live near other missionaries?
 - a. Emotionally, your family may need this.
 - b. Practically, you may regret this.
 4. Your neighborhood coupled with your status, as a foreigner will raise your rent exponentially.
 5. Consult Realtors.
 6. Have the veteran missionary look for you.