

Volunteer Manual

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Emergency Contact



NOTE:

Take a copy with you. Leave copies with anyone who will need it.

To dial from the U.S. to Guatemala, dial 011-502, then the number you wish to call.

1. Garry Eudy 4743-2120, cell **(EMERGENCY ONLY)**
2. American Consulate in Guatemala City 2326 - 4000 or after hours 2331-2354
3. Daryl Lewis 731-441-9982, cell **(EMERGENCY ONLY)**

COMMUNICATION TIPS*

Good communication is available in Guatemala City, including wireless Internet access in many locations. However, be cautious about using laptops in public areas, as thieves may be watching for them. Public phones work with coins or prepaid telephone cards, and some businesses rent phones by the minute. Also, cell phones are relatively cheap and can be used for overseas calls.

If you want to bring your cell phone, check with your cell phone provider about available international service, charges and how to activate it. This will vary according to providers and the level of use you want. You may find Wi-Fi spots to Skype or FaceTime back home.



Helpful Travel Tips

- Guatemala is currently 2 hours behind Americas, Georgia
- Keep your receipts together in case you are asked about your purchases.
- If you wear glasses, bring along a spare pair or a copy of your prescription (in case your glasses are broken or lost).
- Carry medication in its original prescription bottle with labels properly affixed. Place medications in your carry-on bag, not in your checked luggage.
- All volunteers are provided with insurance as a part of In Country cost.
- In the case of an accident, make sure someone is always with the patient. Please don't leave them alone. Someone who speaks the language should always be with you or your group.
- **Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment. Be prepared to pay for any medical emergencies.** In the event a medical or crisis management emergency arises, you should first take prudent action to obtain medical treatment or secure your safety. As soon as possible, contact the assistance service for assessment and management of the situation:
- **Specialty Assist, 24 hour service; Keep Your Insurance card with you at all times.**
- You should receive written permission from parents to treat a child under the age of 18 in case of emergency. Keep a copy with you at all times and file one copy at the church.
- You will need to fill out an accident and sickness claim report and attach bills or other information in the event of illness or accident.

General Information About Traveling



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

- All travel documents should remain in your physical possession at all times while traveling.
- Going to Guatemala requires no shots. However, it is best to ask **your doctor** for advice. It is always a good idea to make sure you have had a recent tetanus booster.
- Dengue fever is endemic throughout Guatemala, although less common at higher elevations. Hepatitis A and B vaccinations are recommended. There is no risk of malaria at altitudes above 5,000 feet. Preventative antimalarial medication can and should be purchased if you will be visiting coastal areas or Petén. Check the CDC Web site for more information about immunizations and prophylaxes. If you are bringing in prescription drugs, keep them in the original. Again check with your doctor, he knows your health better.
- After your bags are checked in at the airport you will not see them again until you arrive in Guatemala. Make sure you have everything you need before you check your luggage.
- There is a small possibility that Guatemala customs will “charge” you something for any materials or tools you bring. If stopped and asked about anything, you say that they are used (“usado) and not for sell (no para venta).
- Take some reading material, snacks and bottled water (may have to get once you pass security) for the airplane.
- Airlines will no longer allow a free bag, so you will have to pay \$25 for first checked bag and \$35 for second bag, if you check two. Each piece should be a total measurement not exceeding 117 inches (one length, plus one width, plus one height). The largest piece cannot exceed 62 inches. Each of the check pieces must not exceed 50 pounds per piece. It is best if you try to limit your checked baggage to one piece.
- You can carry on one bag (maximum combined linear measurement of 45 inches). Your carry on must be able to fit under the seat of the airplane or in the overhead bin. In addition to one carry-on item, you may bring one small personal article (such as briefcase, purse, small laptop, camera case, compact disk player or similar sized personal entertainment item). Because security changes all the time it is always best to verify this information with your particular carrier closer to departure day.

*Please note that airlines are getting very strict about luggage so please make sure that you follow the rules above.

ITEMS TO BE KEPT WITH YOU WHILE TRAVELING

- Your passport
- Detailed flight schedule
- Your Guatemalan Insurance Card
- A list of any allergies, food, medicines
- A list of any special health conditions or medical restrictions (includes the name and phone number of your family doctor, insurance card and information for emergencies). Make sure your team leader has a copy and make sure you list it on your volunteer information form
- Your eyeglass prescription
- Prescription medicines

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BE KEPT WITH YOU WHILE TRAVELING

- A copy of your birth certificate
- A copy of your social security card
- A record of your blood type and Rh factor

THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE LEFT WITH YOUR FAMILY

- Your itinerary, including flight numbers and hours of departure
- A photocopy of your e-ticket or actual airline ticket, if you get one (note the ticket number so that in case it is lost, you will be able to get a replacement or reimbursement)
- Valid will

If you are leaving children at home with someone other than a legal guardian or parent, a Power of

- Attorney should be left which authorizes permission for emergency operations or treatment
- A Power of Attorney over your financial affairs
- Your key to a joint safe deposit box, if applicable
- A photocopy of your credit cards
- Knowledge of your important papers
- Copy of passport

Place an identification tag and copy of your itinerary and passport inside your luggage. If the bag is lost, the airline officials can track you to your destination. If your luggage is damaged in flight, please report it before you clear customs.

Guatemala

The Land and Its People

Guatemala is located in Central America, bordered by Mexico on the north and west and by Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador on the east. The Pacific Ocean forms the southern border. It also has a very short segment of Caribbean coastline in the east. Guatemala has three major geographic regions. There are narrow, tropical areas along the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines. The highlands are volcanic mountains that cover most of the southern half of the country. This area is cool, with some peaks as high as 14,000 feet. Finally, the sparsely populated northern half of Guatemala, called Petén, consists of lowland tropical jungles.

Guatemala was the ancient home of the Mayan people, and the Mayan ruins throughout the country are favorite tourist destinations. Natural wonders including rainforests, volcanoes, and beautiful mountain lakes such as Atitlán also attract visitors from around the world.

Half of the approximately 14 million Guatemalans live in urban areas. Most of the people and all of the major cities are in the highlands or along the Pacific coast. Almost one-third of the population lives in or near the capital, Guatemala City.

The majority population of Guatemala, almost 55 percent, is Maya—descendants of the various indigenous Indian groups. The next largest group is the Mestizo (mixed Amerindian-Spanish) at over 40 percent. The official language of Guatemala is Spanish, but it is not spoken by many of the people—even as a second language.

Bible Needs

The New Testament is available in all 23 of the languages of Guatemala, but only eight of these have the entire Bible. Bible translation continues in the other 15, as well as in the 30 additional dialects. Even a printed Bible in a particular language, though, does not guarantee that God's Word will be accessible to everyone who speaks it. Some people are illiterate and need to be taught to read their own language. Others, influenced by a tradition of oral communication in many Guatemalan cultures, have little interest in reading the Bible. Thus, an unprinted format is used to make the Scriptures more acceptable to these cultures.

Medicine Need

Each volunteer has been asked to bring in with them:

- 1 bottle of adult vitamins
- 1 bottle of children vitamins
- 1 bottle of children cough suppressant
- 1 bottle of infant vitamins (drops)
- 1 bottle of prenatal vitamins
- 1 bottle of Ibuprofen

Safety, Health and Security



- Please Note, Volunteers are not allowed to drive while in Guatemala.
- The most important health advice is to be careful with hygiene and with what you eat and drink. Do not eat foods that have not been cooked thoroughly. Do not eat lettuce or strawberries. Avoid fruit unless it can be peeled, and eat raw vegetables only if they have been cleaned with a mild bleach solution. Do not eat from street vendors or other places where the cleanliness is in doubt.
- Drink water only if it is bottled (Agua Salvavidas is a safe brand), boiled, or otherwise purified. All bottled and canned soft drinks are safe, not so with all fountain drinks. When you order a soft drink, you most likely will be given a tissue to clean the bottle. Also brush teeth with bottled water.
- Extensive medical care is available in Guatemala City, but may be limited elsewhere. Public hospitals frequently have shortages of basic medicines and equipment. Also, medical facilities in Guatemala expect payment for service at the time of treatment. You will need to be able to pay your bill and work out reimbursement from your medical insurance later.
- Always wash your hands prior to eating anything and use hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid dehydration.** Drink lots of water during the day. It is very important to avoid dehydration, particularly for teams going to lowlands. You should bring powdered Gatorade to put in your bottled water, especially if you will be in the lowlands/coastal areas. Water alone is not sufficient to maintain hydration.
- Bring sunscreen and bug spray with DEET.
- Dramamine (handy for the trips in those packed vans when you might get the motion sickness) and something for diarrhea.
- Be careful when crossing the street. Check both ways and then check again.
- Security should be taken seriously in Guatemala. Although the majority of visitors will not have a problem, crime does exist, and occasionally foreigners are victims of it. Guatemala has a difficult history—a peace accord in 1996 ended 36 years of armed conflict. The effects of that conflict linger, however. Social institutions are still being rebuilt, a large portion of the population is impoverished, and weapons are easily available. Crime often turns violent.
- When traveling in Guatemala, be extra careful about displaying cash, electronics, purses, computers, cell phones, or other valuables. Keep your belongings close to you and under a watchful eye. Do not carry things that you do not need. Be aware of people and events around you. If something does not look right, avoid the situation if possible. If confronted, however, do not resist, as this could make the situation worse.
- It is best to avoid traveling, especially off major highways, at night, even in a private vehicle, both because of crime and traffic accidents. Road rules are taken lightly in Guatemala. Avoid traveling alone, especially to remote locations even in the daytime. Ask your host for advice and follow it carefully. For more guidelines and information, check the U.S. State Department Web site.
- Do not go out alone (3 or more is recommended).
- **No flashy jewelry.** It is best to leave at home. Even inexpensive substitutes call unwanted attention to you.

Basic Sensitivity Issues

- Never make **promises** to bring a Guatemalan to the USA to speak in your church, or to work, or to visit.
- Do not **exchange email addresses**. This could become destructive and divisive to the work.
- **Dress Code**-Modest, no shorts, except in room.
- Watch **your testimony**. You represent Christ.
- **No drinking or smoking**.
- You should not take pictures of children without permission, and be very careful in your interaction with them. There have been rumors of children being kidnapped by foreigners that have caused many Guatemalans, especially in rural areas, to fear for children who come into contact with strangers. On occasion, innocent contact has led to mob violence. It is best to avoid photography or any other behavior that could be misinterpreted.
- Manners. Ask permission to take pictures in towns, villages, and the countryside. Taking pictures can be offensive to the local indigenous population

Money

The local Guatemalan currency is the quetzal. The exchange rate has recently been around 7.73 quetzals to one U.S. dollar (as of 4/11/2016).

You can use credit cards in many places, but you will probably want to take \$40-200 cash for personal use, like souvenirs or extra cokes or snacks (take 20's, 10's, 5's and about \$20 of your total in 1's). These bills should be new or almost new and clean (no marks or writing). When you change US dollars to quetzals (rate is about 7.73 qs to \$1) the banks are really strict about the condition of the bills. Call your bank ahead of time and tell them what you need, normally you can't show up the day you need them and get acceptable bills. On your free day you can use your credit card in most stores.



ATM's are not always readily available. If you do go to an ATM exercise caution when you are withdrawing cash.

Call your debit card or credit card company before you go to tell them that you will be travelling to Guatemala. This way, your card will not be denied because the company suspects fraudulent charges. Bring your credit card company's phone number. Be sure to bring the local phone number, NOT the 1-800 number. The 1-800 number will not work from a Guatemalan phone, so you will need to look up and bring the phone number that you can call from Guatemala.

Leave unneeded "billfold items" at home. The only ID you need is your passport. Consider taking only one credit card. If you want stateside health insurance and driver information on you, take copies and leave original at home.

Dress

Most places in Guatemala highlands are like spring weather in Tennessee, light clothing during the day and water resistant windbreaker at night. Only in Quetzaltenango, (8000') and a few mountain villages



would you ever need something heavier. It is better to do spring time dress for highlands and summer dress for lowlands. Bring layer/windbreaker and umbrella for highland nights and umbrella for lowlands.

Another concern is theft (see Safety, Health and Security section). It is wise not to take clothes, electronics, computers, cameras, or other items that would make you appear affluent and could attract thieves. If you need some of these things, consider how you might pack them to make them less visible to strangers. Do not bring jewelry.

Work clothes are appropriate if you will be doing any kind of construction. Consider layered clothing for the changing temperatures. Closed toe shoes or boots with good tread are best for hiking. Good quality does not need to be flashy, however. If you are doing medical, scrubs are great and appropriate. No shorts, unless in room.

Dress should be conservative and modest. Women can wear pants. A skirt or dress for church services. Jeans are okay to wear, except for church attendance, as long as they are modest. Shorts should not be worn, unless in room.

No need for an adaptor of any kind. The voltage is the same as in the US.

It is wise not to advertise your status as a tourist any more than necessary.



Weather

For current and accurate weather predictions, www.accuweather.com is the best source. Check this prior to your trip to determine how you will need to dress.

You will see cooler temperatures in the highlands. Lowlands will not see cool temperatures, day or night, not even in December-January.

Make sure to bring sunscreen, umbrella and/or poncho, and a light jacket.

National Holidays (in bold)

January 1: New Year's Day

January 15: Day of the Black Christ is celebrated in Esquipulas

February or March: Lent processions begins throughout Guatemala

March/April: Lent and Easter week processions throughout Guatemala. The largest processions occur in Antigua Guatemala on Good Friday.

May 1: Labor Day

May 2 and 3: Day of the Cross is celebrated with colorful traditions at Lake Amatitlan near Guatemala City.

May 9: Jueves de Ascencion is celebrated with traditional music, flowers and prayers at Lake Chicabal. Please be very respectful of this tradition and do not take photographs.



June 30: Army Day

July 25: Town fair in Antigua Guatemala, with parades, music and other festivities.

July 27: Annual Rabin Ajau beauty pageant is held in Coban, with traditional dances and ancestral music.

August 15: Guatemala City celebrates the day of our Lady of the Asuncion; also several other towns, like Solola, where you can see the brotherhood of the Lady of Asuncion passing through the streets of the town with their icon on their way to the church. Guatemala City only

September 15: Independence Day. National holiday to commemorate Guatemala's Independence from Spain in 1821, the largest holiday fair is in Quetzaltenango.

October 20: Revolution Day. Guatemala celebrate the overthrow of Dictator Jorge Ubico in 1944 and the beginning of 10 years of revolution government known as the "10 years of Spring."

November 1: All Saints Day. Celebrated with unique traditions throughout Guatemala; giant kites are flown in the cemeteries of Santiago Sacatepequez and Sumpango near Antigua Guatemala. Many Guatemalans feast on a traditional food known as fiambre. An unusual horse race is held in Todos Santos Cuchumatán.

The town fair in Chichicastenango culminates on December 21 with traditional dances and music. Nativity scenes, hand-made Christmas ornaments and small procession known as "posadas" create a joyful atmosphere during December.

December 25: Christmas Day

SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

Your spiritual preparation would be incomplete without a personal testimony—the simple story of how you became a Christian and the difference it is making in your life. We'll take the next few minutes to give you some suggestions on preparing your testimony.

Remember to keep it short and simple so it can be translated and shared with the nationals in your country. Don't use long words, jokes and idioms. They don't translate easily. Stay away from such topics as divorce, smoking and drinking which many nationals view as inappropriate and offensive behavior. Also stay away from the topic of money. It's okay to say that God provided all the money for your trip. Just don't refer to specific dollar amounts. The cost of your trip may be much more than the annual income of many people overseas. Keep your testimony short—no more than one-typed page.

- Begin by telling about yourself: your name, where you live, your job and why you're in the country.
- Next tell a little about your life before becoming a Christian. Then share how you became a Christian—how your life changed after accepting him as your personal Savior. Use Scriptures that are meaningful to you here.
- Explain what being a Christian means to you today. How does it make your life different? How do you live each day? What does it mean to you personally?
- Finally, explain how others can have a similar experience. You need to clearly and simply present the steps to salvation and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are listening to you or reading your testimony should have opportunity to respond. Remember to thank them for allowing you to share.

Remember, you are going overseas to build relationships with new friends that will enable you to share your testimony with them. Your testimony is uniquely your own. No one can share it but you. You can help others see that Christ can make a difference in their lives, too.

It would be a good idea to prepared a one page testimony and get someone to translate it to Spanish for you and make 25 copies. You will have opportunities to witness along the way. You can give one to baggage handlers, table serves, hotel employees, and Guatemalans with whom we find ourselves. Start off with "My name is _____. I am a guest in your beautiful country. Can I share with you the most important thing that has every happened in my life?"

So, stop what you're doing now and take time to work through your testimony. If you've never shared your testimony before, ask your pastor to go over what you have written. On the next page is a sample outline you may find helpful.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY OUTLINE

1. **My life before receiving Christ**

Include: Your separation from God because of sin

Your inability to overcome sin by yourself

Christ as the only remedy for sin

Consider: Your religious background

How you became aware of your need for God

How you became aware of sin in your life

How you became aware you were not a Christian

Was it over a long time and series of events, or a short time and a single event?

2. **How I received Christ**

Include: Your confession of sin

Your repentance

Your acceptance of God's forgiveness

3. **How Jesus makes my life meaningful**

Include: Recent experiences of God's work in your life

Consider: Your vision of God's purpose for your life

How you deal with life's experiences as a Christian

The joy and peace you have as a Christian

Evangelism Training for Volunteers to Guatemala

Adapted from Materials by Ray Fairchild, Missionary to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Purpose of this Training: To equip short-term volunteers with the basic information needed to share the Gospel in Guatemala.

The Objective of this Training is to:

1. Help you overcome your fear of witnessing
2. Provide you with the basic outline of how to present the Gospel
3. Help you develop a style of witnessing that fits your personality and you feel comfortable with
4. Understand some obstacles Guatemalans have in understanding the Gospel
5. Give you some basic Biblical principles of Evangelism
6. List some resources you can use to further your study

The Goal of this Training is that after the training you will be able to:

1. Present the basic outline of the Gospel presentation in 15 seconds.
2. Explain in simple terms the basic elements of the plan of salvation in less than 10 minutes.
Remember, witnessing through an interpreter takes twice as long.
3. Locate and briefly explain eight verses of scripture in your Bible.

The Basic Elements of Gospel Presentations

There are many evangelism training or witnessing training materials available today. Some examples are: The Roman Road, Evangelism Explosion, Continuous Witnessing Training (CWT), Four Spiritual Laws, Steps to Peace With God, FAITH, Touching Hearts, The Bridge, Share Jesus Without Fear, the More Life guide. The More Life Guide is also available in Spanish called Mas Vida. As well at the More Life App that includes a Spanish version on the app.

The various presentations of the Gospel listed above have some elements in common and some differences. These approaches include and explain the following basic elements of the Gospel:

1. God loves
2. Man is a sinner
3. Christ died and was resurrected
4. Faith & repentance
5. Sinners prayer

It is not necessary for you to memorize word for word what you will say when witnessing, but it is essential to learn a basic outline and the basic elements of the Gospel.

The Learning Procedure

You can learn to share the gospel in layers. That is, rather than learning all about God's love and then going on to point two and learning about it and so on, you first learn just the skeleton of the whole outline. Then you can begin to add layers or details to each point of the outline.

Learning to share the gospel this way will help you to be able to witness in one minute, five minutes, ten minutes or thirty minutes. You can also begin to witness immediately.

1- The Most Basic Layer (using The Gospel in Hand illustration):

One easy way to learn the gospel presentation is called "The Gospel in the Hand". This involves giving each finger a part of the gospel.

1. The **thumb**. God loves us. Make thumbs up sign. In almost any country in Latin America this means everything is OK, great, good news, all is good. It is good news to know that God loves us.
2. The **index finger**. Man is a sinner. The index finger is the pointing or accusation finger
3. The **middle or tallest finger** represents Christ. Christ must be lifted up.
4. The **ring finger** represents faith, repentance and commitment
5. The **little finger** represents prayer or inviting Christ into your life.

Take a few moments and practice starting with the thumb and going to the little finger. The thumb=God's love; index=sin; middle=Christ; ring=faith and repentance; little=prayer.

2- The Next Layer

Let's add another layer to the presentation:

1. God loves you and wants you to experience LIFE.
 - a. Life means to know God personally NOW. John 10:10
 - b. To live with God in heaven for eternity. 1 John 5:13.
2. Man is a sinner and cannot save himself:
 - a. "All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." Roman 3:23
 - b. "The wages of sins is death." Roman 3:23
3. Christ died and rose again for our salvation. He took the judgment (penalty, wages) of our sins upon himself and died in our place upon the cross. Romans 5:8.

4. In order to receive a person must:
 - a. Repent. Romans 10:9
 - b. Put their faith in Christ only. Romans 10:10

5. Sinner's Prayer: Inviting Christ in your heart.
 - a. Christ is knocking at the door of your heart. Rev 3:20
 - b. You must call upon the Lord inviting Him into your life. Rom. 10:13

3- The Advanced Layer

Let's add another layer to our presentation:

1. God loves

Remember you can vary between personal pronoun forms. You can say "God loves us", "God loves you", or "God loves me."

- How would you explain the love of God for human being as it relates to the gospel?

You could say something like this: God loves us. When God created man and woman, he put them in the garden where there was no pain, no violence, no sickness and no death.

The evil, pain, suffering, and violence we see around us today were not in God's plan. Even after Adam and Eve sinned God continue to love them. He provided for their needs. God wants you to experience a full and abundant life (John 10:10). God also wants you to be in fellowship with Him and live with Him in heaven for eternity (John 17:3)

- Do you have any questions about Gods love for you?

2. Man is a sinner and cannot save himself

The Bible says in Roman 3:23, "That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

Sin means to disobey God. The basic attitude of sin is "I will do it my way", "No one will tell me what to do." It is not how many times a person's sins or how serious he feels the sin is, a little lie is as much a sin as a big lie. Stealing a nickel is as much a sin as stealing \$50,000. The law may say one is a felony and the other misdemeanor, but before God they are both sins.

- Do you agree with what the Bible says about the fact that all people are sinners?

The Bible also says that the consequence of sin is death. (Romans 6:23) Just as a person works to receive a salary, so does the person who sin, receive the consequences of that sin.

The Bible tells us in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death. The basic meaning of death is separation. Death happens when the spirit is separated from the body. Death is separation from God now and forever in Hell.

We must pay the consequences for our sins. There is nothing we can do personally to pay for our sins. Human law prescribes punishment for crimes. When caught, a criminal who robs a bank and kills someone must go to jail. Some criminals will escape capture, but no sinner will escape the judgment of God. All will be caught and all will be judged.

3. Jesus died and rose again

The good news is that God continued to love us while we were sinners and Christ died for us.

Remember the verse, “the wages of sin is death”? All sinners must die. Jesus came and lived a sinless life so why did he have to die? He died in our place. All the judgment our sin deserved, God placed on Jesus. He took the wages of our sin upon himself. Romans 5:8

4. Faith and Repentance

At this point the gospel presentation can take many directions.

Let me give you the basic definitions of three words, “Repent”, “confess”, and “faith”.

Repentance-means to change direction. If you are going one direction and you decide to go another direction that is repentance. In relation to God, repentance means that you stop trying to save yourself your way.

As an Illustration, suppose you are going the wrong way on a one way street, what do you do? You stop, turn around and go the right way. Any direction away from Jesus is the wrong way. When you find yourself going away from Jesus you stop, and return to Jesus.

Confess-means to agree with God that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself.

Faith-Faith is believing what God has said. Faith is not just a feeling, it is an action word. Faith in God is expressed in obeying God.

5. Praying

- Would you like to express your faith in God by calling on the Lord right now and ask God to save you?

Roman 10:13 says, “Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Jesus also says in Revelation 3:20 that He is at the door of your heart knocking, wanting and waiting for you to open the door and invite him in. While we have been talking I trust that Jesus has been talking to you personally in your heart.

When someone comes to the door of your house and knocks outside what do you do? First, you check who was there and what they want. Then you open the door and invite them in. In this case, it is Jesus who is knocking at the door of your heart. He wants to come in and forgive you of all your sins and give you eternal and abundant life now

- Would you like me to show you how to open the door of your life?

We have what is called a prayer of invitation for Jesus to enter someone's' life.

A suggested prayer for salvation:

“Lord, I confess that I am a sinner and cannot save myself. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I ask Jesus to come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. Thank you Lord for saving my soul and giving me eternal life. In Jesus name Amen”

I personally like to hear the person pray by themselves. If the person begins to pray something like this: “God help me to be a better person...” I know they do not fully understand the gospel. This is a delicate area. Just because a person says the right words does not mean they understand what they are doing. This is why it is so important for the local church to do adequate follow-up.

Some Common Misunderstandings of the Gospel in Guatemala

1. The myth that God will not really punish sin

The idea that all are equal under the law, as we know it in the United States, does not apply in much of Latin America. For example, in many places if you have a high school education you are treated differently. If convicted of a crime you may go to separate, more relaxed, prison.

If the law is broken and you know someone in the legal system you might be able to work your way out of a conviction. Many people sincerely believe they will be able to talk their way out of being punished for their sins.

2. The substitutionary death of Christ

For many of you who were raised in the church, the Biblical view of the substitutionary death of Jesus is the only one you know. Many people in Latin America believe in “the example view” of the death of Christ. That is, Jesus' death on the cross was only an example of how to suffer. When asked why they thought they would go to heaven I have had people say they have had a lot of suffering in this life. Peter did tell us that Jesus left us an example of how to respond to suffering, but this does not mean that if we respond positively to suffering we will earn salvation.

3. Misunderstanding of Repentance

Repentance is sometimes confused with penitence, a promise, or vow. Penitence is something I do to demonstrate my sorrow for my sins. A promise or a vow is made either to receive grace from God or because I have already received grace. For example, if God will heal my child I promise I will walk up the steps of a church on my knees.

4. Jesus IS the only way

We, too, have some problems in our stateside culture with this truth. However, in Latin America the difficulty in accepting this is even more pervasive and it has a slightly different twist. Faith in Jesus is much like a financial portfolio. The more diversified my investments are, the less likely I am to suffer a major loss. The more options I have in my religious portfolio, the better my chances of having what God wants. They might see accepting Christ as one more way to be in God's good graces.

Developing Your Personal Presentation of the Gospel

Individuals who learn one of these methods can become highly attached to their particular method. This is normal. In personal evangelism you tend to develop a habit of using similar words every time you present the Gospel. Habits can be good. You do not have to be so concerned with what you will say as you focus on the person. Also, the more you witness the more natural it becomes.

Do not worry about saying everything word for word. From this point forward the presentation becomes more and more flexible and takes on your personality.

Now that you know the basic elements of the gospel how are you're going to present them?

It would be helpful to spend some time learning who you are. Find out what works for you. Any biblically sound approach is good if it fits you and your target group.

Paul said "I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22 NAS). Paul did not change the facts of the gospel. He did, however, adjust the presentation of the message in order that the hearers might better understand the gospel.

The gospel does not change. The manner of presentations can change

Be able to adapt the gospel presentation to meet the needs of the person you are witnessing to. After returning to the church from a witnessing training experience the man I was training made an interesting observation. He said "you say the same thing every place we go, but you never say it the say way."

Some Principles of Evangelism:

1. The man of peace

Jesus told his disciples when they went into a city to look for the man of peace. This is the person who is open the gospel. Pray that God will lead you to the man of peace. (Luke 10:6)

2. One sows and another reaps

Jesus said, "I sent you to reap that where in ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors." John 4:38. Paul said that some will plant, some water, but God gives the increase. 1 Cor 3:6-7. If you lead someone to Christ recognize that others before you have sown the seeds of the gospel. When you go into a home, remember you may be there to sow for the first time, to water the seed, or God may let you reap the harvest.

3. The more that is sown the greater the harvest

Paul said, "that if you sow sparing you will reap sparing." 2 Cor 9:6. Guatemala is open to the gospel. Thousands of volunteers are sharing the Gospel and more people are being saved than ever before.

4. A person needs to hear the gospel several times to make a valid decision

Studies have shown that a person needs to hear the gospel about seven times before they fully understand the gospel. This is one reason why it is important for you to share the gospel in your own unique way.

5. Be prepared to share the Gospel

Peter said to always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you for a reason to hope in you (1 Peter 3:15). You might say "no one ever asks me about the gospel". It just might be that you have never prepared yourself to share the gospel. If you will take a few hours and prepare yourself to share the gospel, I am confident that God will give you opportunities.

6. Love for the lost

There are only two kinds of people in this world. Lost people and saved people. People who have eternal life and those who don't. Pray that God will give you a love and a concern for lost people.

7. Need for Wisdom

"He that wins souls is wise" Proverbs 10:30. Every witnessing experience is different and requires wisdom from above. One of the wisest personal evangelists I know is a member of a church we started in the Northeast Brazil. Her name is Maria Pereira. She is a type of LVN. Sister Maria lived next door to a lady that was sick. Maria began to minister to that lady. The sick neighbor knew that Maria was a Baptist. She accepted Maria helping her physically, but emphatically stated she did not want Maria's religion or her Bible. She had her own religion and was not going to change. In the sick lady's bedroom, hanging on the walls were various pictures of the saints. One day after Maria had given her a shot she pointed to one of the pictures and asked who it was. The sick lady said that it was "Saint Nicodemus". Maria said that it was a beautiful picture. She said that she had read the story of Nicodemus many times but had never seen a picture of him. The sick lady responded that she had the picture of St Nicodemus, but had never heard a story about him. She asked Maria to tell her the story of St Nicodemus. Maria told the story from the third chapter of John about how Nicodemus needed to be born again. The same thing happened with the picture of Saint Lazarus and the other saints on the wall. Within six months the lady who did not want anything to do with becoming a believer accepted Christ.

Resources:

1. Evangelism Explosion-by Dr. James Kennedy. An important book on how to do personal evangelism. The illustrations in the book are worth the price of the book.

2. Touching Hearts-by Dr. Ralph Neighbour. If you can only afford one book get this one. Call 1-800-735 5865. You will learn about reaching people open to the gospel, relationship evangelism, and ministry evangelism. The bridge approach is used to share the gospel

3. Share Jesus Without Fear-available at your Lifeway Book store. This is an excellent approach to evangelism for those who can read. Unfortunately, many of the people we work with in the urban poor communities have limited reading ability.

4. Tracts-secure a copy of: The Four Spiritual Laws, Steps to Peace with God, FAITH and How to Have Eternal Life. Read though each of these tracts several times.

5. The Evangelism Cube-Please get one of these evangelism aids and bring it with you to Brazil. They are an inexpensive practical way of sharing your faith. Read though the instruction pamphlet several times. We are asking every volunteer to be willing to leave the evangelism cube with us. This is a way you can multiply your ministry. Brazilians are learning how to use these cubes as they watch the volunteers use them and are becoming very effective in evangelism.

Personal Note:

My prayer is that this brief introduction to evangelism is helpful. There is obviously a great deal more to learn about sharing your faith on the mission field. I am confident, however, that if you will invest at least three hours learning the basic elements of the gospel you will be well on your way to effectively sharing your faith on the mission field.

Yes, YOU do make a difference as a volunteer. We are so pleased that you have felt led of the Lord to make the investment in personal missions to spend a week of your time as a volunteer. We are doing everything possible to prepare the churches to receive you so that lives can be changed for eternity.

God Bless You,
Ray Fairchild

Help that Hurts

By Jerry A. Rankin, Retired President of IMB

We are in an era of increased involvement in international missions. Partnership and volunteer projects continue to multiply, and that is good. It is our desire to mobilize the resources and potential of churches, associations, state conventions and every Baptist entity to reach a lost world for Jesus Christ.

Americans are often unprepared for the poverty and economic disparity they find overseas. It is commendable that many respond with a compassionate desire to help out of the abundance of their Western affluence. Many are blind to the dangers of a valid spiritual ministry degenerating into material assistance, and how creating dependency can be detrimental to the health and growth of a church.

We are firmly committed to indigenous methods in our work of evangelism and church planting overseas. This means that mission efforts must produce churches that can exist, grow and multiply within their own culture and economy without any dependence on foreign resources. Over many years of missionary work around the world, missionaries have recognized it is a mistake to try to accelerate growth by an infusion of financial aid to build churches and support pastors.

The result is usually a welfare mentality. Well-intended financial assistance too often creates dependence and handicaps the initiative and faith essential for spontaneous growth. One thing inevitably occurs when Americans subsidize the work of churches and pastors on the mission field. Potential growth is stalled because of a mind-set that it can't be done unless an overseas benefactor provides the funds.

The congregation loses a sense of ownership and therefore ceases to be responsible since others provide for the financial needs of the pastor or the church. Jealousy often develops among the pastors and churches who don't receive assistance towards those who develop a pipeline of support from the U.S. through their contacts with volunteers and others. Cooperation between churches diminishes since they no longer need to work together in mutual support, encouragement and interdependency.

In the long-term, support breeds resentment especially if the support is not sustained indefinitely because it creates a patronizing dependency. The donor is under illusion of assisting the church just until it can grown to self-support, but that seldom happens. People are deprived of growing in faith learning to depend on God and discovering that he is sufficient for all their needs.

Subsidy propagates a Western model of a church that sees a building and a paid pastor as essential rather than encouraging a reproducible biblical model of the church as gathered believers responsible to and for their own leadership and facilities.

The work of the missionary is undercut in his effort to minister in a spiritual partnership since he is seen as uncaring in not providing the same material and financial aid. Explosive growth in China, 50 percent annual church growth rate in Malawi, 73 churches established in Cambodia in the last four years and similar advances around the world would never have occurred if a pattern of subsidy and dependence had been created. Unfortunately, well-intentioned help on many fields has handicapped long-termed potential growth.

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Language Helps

Greetings

¡Hola!-Hi!

Buenos días.- Good morning

Buenas tardes.-Good afternoon.

Buenas noches. Good evening.

Hola, me llamo Aarón. Hi, my name is Aarón.

Mucho gusto.-Pleased to meet you. (casual)

¡Encantado!-Delighted to meet you! (male)

¡Encantada!-Delighted to meet you! (female)

¿Cómo se llama usted?- What's your name?

Hasta mañana.-See you tomorrow.

Hasta luego.-See you later.

Hasta pronto.-See you soon.

Nos vemos.-See you later.

Que te vaya bien.-I hope all goes well with you.

Communication

¿Habla inglés?-Do you speak English?

Hablo un poco de español.-I speak a little Spanish.

No hablo español pero entiendo un poco.-I don't speak Spanish but I understand a little.

¿Cómo se dice ... en español?-How does one say ... in Spanish?

Por favor, repítalo en inglés.-Please, repeat it in English.

Weather

¿Qué tiempo hace?-What's the weather like?

¿Cómo está el clima?-How's the weather?

Hace calor.-It's hot (warm).

Hace frío.-It's cold.

Hace sol.-It's sunny.

Hace fresco.-It's cool.

Hace viento.-It's windy.

Está nublado.-It's cloudy.

Llueve.-It's raining.

Truena.-It's thundering.

Obtaining Help

¿Puede ayudarme?-Can you help me?

Perdón por las molestias.-Sorry for the inconvenience.

¿Dónde está el baño?-Where is the bathroom?

Venga conmigo.-Come with me.

¿Existe peligro?-Is there danger?

Days of the week

lunes. Monday

martes. Tuesday

miércoles. Wednesday

jueves. Thursday

viernes. Friday

sábado. Saturday

domingo. Sunday

Months and Seasons

enero. January

febrero. February

marzo. March

abril. April

mayo. May

junio. June

julio. July

agosto. August

septiembre. September

octubre. October

noviembre. November

diciembre. December

la primavera. spring

el verano. summer

el otoño. autumn

el invierno. winter

Numbers

uno-1

dos-2

tres-3

cuatro-4

cinco-5

seis-6

siete-7

ocho-8

nueve-9

diez-10

Family

La familia (the family)

mi means **my**

mis means **my** (plural)

Mom-madre

Dad-padre

Parents-padres

Daughter-hija

Son-hijo

Brother-hermano

Sisters-hermanas

Grandmother-abuela

Grandparents-abuelos

Grandson-nieto

Granddaughter-nieta