

# Future Missionaries

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Believers enjoy hearing reports from the mission field. It is refreshing to learn that the same God we know here -- is alive and active everywhere around the globe. God uses the testimonies of those who have gone to the front lines, to inspire and encourage those who remained behind.

Missionaries need an affordable way to communicate with their current and future support base. The Internet is well suited to this purpose.

Americans can tend to forget how prosperous and privileged we are. We have been given much by the grace of God. And we are accountable to share a part of that with our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Their only hope is found in Jesus. Due to the exchange rates and simpler life style a little money goes a long way over there.

## Overview of the Missionary web Hub site

- Short-term missions are a vital part of the whole subject of missions. Every year hundreds of believers go to a mission field for one week up to a few months. They may go overseas or remain in the USA.
- For each person that goes, there are many others who pray and give money.
- In order for people to be motivated to pray or give money then they need to understand the needs on the mission field. The short term missionary may need to educate their potential supporters in terms of basic understanding about the country, people and needs.
- A web site for the team could do this job in a very effective way. The home page could have a simple summary like a typical appeal letter. Plus there could be various legs that offered the other details like the following using text, pictures, audio and perhaps streaming video. Examples of what could be on those legs includes:
  - Flag of country where going
  - Map of country where going
  - Description and history of the country as related to missions
  - Description of the people that will be serve
  - Description of the people who will be working with there
  - Schedule of events

- Description of how ministry will take place
- Pictures of the team members that are going
- Pictures of those people who will be working with (if available)
- Pictures of those that will be ministering to (if available)
- Separate leg to profile each team member (optional)
- General and specific prayer requests
- Testimonies of how God has already answered prayers
- Total budget and where at in the process of raising the funds
- How to make out the check and where to mail it
- How to use credit card over the web or with the sending group
- When the short term mission team returns they are usually full of testimonies and excitement. This can be captured on audiotape and uploaded to the web site along with the new pictures and text. Therefore those who prayed and gave money can feel inspired and encouraged. This simple report to supporters will help to pave the way for future going and supporting.
- Some who go on a short-term trip later feel led by God to go to the mission field full time as a career. And those who fell led from prayer, study or hearing a missionary --will often go on a short-term trip to confirm the call of God as well as gather information.
- On the Four Bridges web hub for Missions there can be the following information:
  - All kinds of links to missions related sites as well as books, videos, audiotapes, seminars, workshops and courses related to missions. These materials can be used by intercessors and donors as well as those considering or going to the mission field.
  - List of all the major mission organizations
    - Name, web address (URL), <http://fourbridges.org/Links.html> (see listing near bottom of the page) phone, address, contact persons
    - Overview of their mission, vision, values, programs, countries, peoples,
    - Indexed and searchable by places they go, peoples they serve, programs they offer, kinds of workers they need, types of thing they need donated,

- Four Bridges works with the prospective missionary to match them with the suitable mission agency. This is a delicate “dance” and we hope to be used by God in this process.
- If and when a match is made, then Four Bridges works with the missionary in the processes of raising their initial support. This is done in conjunction with the policies and procures of the sending agency.
- The missionary provides us with the data needed to create their profile web site. (See a list of possible points to be addressed under Profile web site.) This is a short and long version of what they communicate with prospective supporters. There is text, pictures and audio of the Past, Present and Future.
- After they are on the field, the missionary sends their updates to the Four Bridges offices. This can be done by email, phone, fax, mail, pictures, audiotape, videotape, visit, etc.
- The information includes
  - Testimonies of answered prayers
  - New prayer requests
  - News about the ministry
  - News about their family
  - Upcoming events
  - Needs for designated donations
  - Other items that typically appear in a newsletter from a missionary
- These materials go to the Four Bridges staff and volunteers. Then they are put into the formats and templates that were previous decided. Key materials are added to the missionary’s web site and an email link is sent out to those who have expressed an interest in being kept informed. There is an email and print newsletter sent out that gives the highlights and points to the web pages that give the details.
- Each month many new people go to the missionary’s profile web site from a link on the Missionary Hub site.