

BETWEEN YOU AND ME...

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Escaping the Ordinary

"Is short-term missions really worth it?" It is a question I encounter regularly. I have read numerous arguments from proponents and detractors, spent hours discussing the pros and cons, and have even written articles on the value of short-term missions. So, when the question is posed, I am normally able to give my standard answer (which I really believe) of the value of investing in the missionaries and the senders of tomorrow.

Yet at the start of another summer filled with City Challenge groups and a SWIM training, I found myself wondering again if it was really worth the time, effort, and money to send young people on short-term mission trips. Does it really make a difference in their lives? Does it really make a difference in the lives of the people they connect with on their outreaches?

Many of you reading this know the answer to these questions is yes! You have seen first-hand how God used you to bless various people you interacted with on outreach. You experienced God using your short-term mission experience to alter the course of your life - to forever ruin you for the ordinary. Your life is different because those around you believed it was worthwhile to invest in your life.

Yet you may find yourself several years beyond outreach and firmly entrenched in what seems to be a rather ordinary life. What happened to the clear sense that God was calling you to the mission field long-term? What happened to the resolve you had in re-entry that life would be different from now on?

Sometimes the circumstances of life take us down roads that we never expected to walk. Yet we can know with absolute certainty that the God we serve here and now is the same one we saw at work in that time of our lives when we dared to take a step of faith and go where He called us to go. The same God that called us to leave the path destined for the ordinary can give us the grace to live counter-cultural, extraordinary lives that impact the lives of those around us. He calls us to be radical kingdom builders wherever we happen to find ourselves living. If you have learned that lesson and are applying it, your short-term missions experience was worth it.



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