

## Why Go on a Faith Outreach?

There are many reasons for going on a Faith Outreach, but the primary reason is to experience God's Kingdom and to share this with others, while trusting that our basic needs (food, clothing, shelter etc.) will be looked after, usually without us knowing how this will be the case (hence the faith part!).

If we have doubts as to whether 'God' may be little more than a theological construct, then stepping out in faith, away from familiar surroundings and comforts, can be a great way to shatter this misconception, as long as we remain genuinely open to being proved wrong.

Our Christian work can (ironically) get in the way of us being a Christian. This can lead to periodic burn-out. Faith Out-reaches are a great way to get back to our first love (Revelation 2:4) and to "forsake all" (Luke 14:33) again by forcing us into greater dependency on God: They can provide us with a great opportunity to remember why we're doing what we're doing... which can re-ignite our inspiration on many levels.

## Practical Considerations

Finding people (even just one other person) to accompany us on a Faith Outreach is advisable. Being in a community of people who have dedicated their lives to listening to God and following him is helpful in this regard. However, for people who do not live in such a community, and who may have a job and other responsibilities, it may just be a case of factoring in some time (e.g. a few days) and co-ordinating with others, whether friends, family, or ourselves.

Another highlight of Faith Outreaches is the strengthening of emotional and spiritual bonds between the people who go on them. Witnessing these treasures first-hand can help us develop an earnest expectation for any future Faith Outreaches we go on, which can help us through any challenging times we may face on those too.

## 'Seek First The Kingdom' (aka Being Useful!)

Being useful has more to do with following God's promptings, rather than necessarily doing something... although it often does result in us helping people out in some way. The main issues to get clear are, what are the needs of the situation, and how are we being called to best fill these?

There have been some Faith Outreaches where we have felt led to focus more on 'inreach' time together, working on interpersonal relationships. However, often the spirit has prompted us to do some form of 'reaching out' to people together, hence the term 'Faith Outreach'. There are many forms this outreach has taken in the past, and it's likely there will be many different forms that future Faith Outreaches take as well: Experimentation, openness and flexibility are key here.

There is a time to draw on the experience of what has worked well in the past... however this can also get in the way of things working well in the present, if we are not open to hearing God saying something different to us. There have been times when God has left it up to us to decide the means through which we help people, and how we set about communicating this opportunity to them... although in other circumstances we have found that God has given us clear pointers about a particular approach to take.