



The 24x7 mission trip

Reaching out, whether on foreign soil or in our own backyard.

by **DOUG BROWN**
Lead Pastor



If you look at the missions display in the east hallway, you'll find the itinerary packed with opportunities.

During summer and early fall, teams from LSCC will be flying and driving to locations ranging from Arizona to Asia for a wide variety of purposes.

It's exciting for me to be a part of a church that is reaching across cultures and national boundaries with the message of Christ. Yet this is not what outreach normally looks like.

Think about it this way. If you sign up for a two-week mission trip, that represents only about 3 percent of your entire year. That leaves the other 97 percent for "normal" living. While I hope that everyone can go on an international mission trip, it's easy to see that it's just as important – if not more so – for the other 97 percent to be lived with a mission.

Jesus: "You can't come"

In the New Testament, we read about Jesus healing a man possessed by many demons. The newly freed man wanted to accompany Jesus on his ministry journey.

"Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you'" (Mark 5:18-20).

Jesus told the man that his next mission trip was to be at home, among those who knew him.

I'll admit that it's usually more exciting to get a passport and a plane ticket and encounter new cultures across an ocean or a border. For a few days, we get to "leave it all

behind" and focus only on ministry.

Yet while these international experiences are deeply impactful and transformational, they are rare for most of us. That's why it's important to couple them with a 24x7 mission mindset.

Yes, if you are able, take that trip! Short-term mission experiences help us reach new people and build convictions that help us share our faith at home. But whether you go or not, remember that God still wants to use you right here, right now.

I believe
it is more
challenging to
be a missionary
in your own
backyard.

Where it starts

I believe it is more challenging to be a missionary in your own backyard than it is when you are on an "official" mission trip. We can become dazed by our routine, forgetting that we are children of God and Christ's ambassadors wherever we are.

The key is to begin each day asking God to make us sensitive to opportunities around us. If we are open to it, a trip to the grocery store may hold a divine encounter. A tough day at the office or factory may give us an opportunity to display Christ-like character. Over lunch, we may learn about the needs of a co-worker and offer prayer. We are "on call" 24x7 to live and share our faith with people who desperately need God.

So, if you've never been on a short-term trip, please ask God about participating. If you've been before, consider going again. But realize that the trip is just one part of the mission that we are called to live out every day.