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Making a Difference in a Globalized World: Short-term Missions that Work

Laurie A. Occhipinti

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Every year, an estimated 1.6 million Americans participate in short-term mission trips, spending over one billion dollars—figures that have increased exponentially in the last two decades. About one third of U.S. congregations sponsor such trips each year. While they are referred to as “mission” trips, many trips focus not on conversion or evangelism, but on service projects—building a playground, providing medical care, or serving free meals to the poor. Short-term mission participants have a genuine desire to transform conditions of poverty, yet they don't always know how to go about it; many people involved in short-term mission work virtually reinvent the wheel when they design and plan their service projects.

Making a Difference in a Globalized World: Short-term Missions thatWork is a guide to leaders of such trips. The book presents clear insight and research from anthropologists and development professionals, and encourages individuals to lead mission trips that make a greater impact on the communities that they are serving.

The text provides:
- a framework for planning short-term mission trips;
- foundation for planning;
- personal anecdotes and case studies;
- and practical suggestions for volunteer opportunities.

This handbook is a vital resource for any potential mission volunteers or organizers.

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