



Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trips

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If you were to go on a 10-day vacation to Africa, your trip might center on witnessing the natural beauty of its jungle, plains or exotic animals. Your daily itinerary might be a checklist full of things to see and do.

But if members of your fraternity or from your region were to go on a Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trip to Africa with Franciscan Mission Service, things would be different.

Your trip would center on learning about the economic, social and environmental realities faced by the local people. Your days would include encounters with different ethnic groups, local youth and teachers, fair trade and artisan cooperatives, and human rights advocates, in addition to seeing the natural wonders. You would take part in daily prayer, guided reflection and social analysis to help you process your experiences and deepen your understanding and awareness of different cultures, customs and realities.

You wouldn't be crossing things off a checklist, you'd be crossing borders. And that is what makes short-term mission different from tourism or travel.

Franciscan Mission Services has been facilitating long-term mission experiences for 20 years. We know that not everyone is called to serve for that length of time, so our short-term trips to South Africa, Kenya and Washington, D.C., allow others to experience the transformational impact that crossing borders can have on their faith and

their understanding of the world.

Following St. Francis' example, FMS is committed to "treading lightly" in host countries and to approaching the people they meet with respect as listeners and learners, as opposed to seeing the negative aspects of the realities they will face and then trying to find ways to "fix" or make them better. In Kenya, for instance, your visit to a volunteer testing clinic to interact with teenagers who are living with HIV/AIDS will foster a better understanding of the pandemic and how it affects children and families.

Franciscan Mission Service's philosophy is based on the popular education model and the "Pastoral Circle" approach of "see, reflect, act." This model asks you to be observant, to reflect and ask questions as you face new and puzzling realities, and then to consider how this new information will impact your behavior. Such social analysis will help you to better appreciate God's work and to better discern your responsibility as a Christian in building the kingdom of God on earth.

This group learning and common experience is an excellent way for fraternities to strengthen relationships among their members while connecting with the poor abroad. The experience of mission also gives participants the potential to transform North American societies and churches and to act as advocates for peace, justice, reconciliation and care for creation.



To start planning a Short-Term Mission and Global Awareness Trip for your group, contact :

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