

## Library

# Twenty things I would do as a long-term missionary

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In my missionary experience in Australia, we did some things right with good results. But we also made mistakes that we could have avoided with better training. I learned some of the lessons the hard way: trial and error – success and failure. Other lessons were learned by observing the success and failure of others. I hope they will be of benefit to you as you embark with Christ on the magnificent adventure of bringing the gospel to the corner of God's world you have chosen.

Become part of a well-trained and psychologically screened team which includes persons with a wide range of ages, abilities and spiritual experience.

1. Raise enough money to take advantage of local mass-media.
2. Learn the language and the colloquialisms. Be careful to learn what words not to use!
3. Primarily focus on persons with no active religious affiliation.
4. Develop and utilize prayer as an evangelistic tool.
5. Study groups (both religious and otherwise) who are reaching large numbers of people. I would then adapt any methods I found scriptural and ethical.
6. When dealing with other religions take a persuasive, rather than confrontational, approach.
7. Strongly focus on children and their families.
8. Strive to evangelize all socio-economic levels in my area of focus.
9. Ensure that each new convert was discipled by a mature Christian.
10. The concept of spiritual reproduction would be thoroughly ingrained in each new convert.
11. Emphasize integration into the fellowship and life of the body.
12. Use every effort to surface and train local leaders.
13. Utilize the gifts, talents and abilities of spiritually mature women.
14. Connecting with those who are seeking would be a priority. This would be a matter for serious prayer and creative thought.
15. Become involved in my community as a leader and volunteer. Join a service club and participate in school and community organizations.
16. Concentrate on my own work and area instead of being a critic of the work of others.
17. Create and participate in brotherhood gatherings (camps, lectureships, seminars, etc.).
18. Live on an economic level commensurate with the people I am trying to reach.
19. Be careful not to reproduce the American church model. I would strongly endeavor to plant a church that effectively engages its cultural context.

