

# ReSOURCES

## MISSION RESOURCE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

**You are doing important work that God has created for you to do.** It can get complicated and messy, and there are often questions that you don't know how to answer. Here are just a few you may have encountered\*:

- Where can we find a model that will help keep our missions leadership aligned?
- How do we encourage our church to give to missions?
- How can we be a good sending church?
- What are some sound principles for missionary care?
- How can we evaluate the missionary care we provide?
- What preparation do missionaries need?

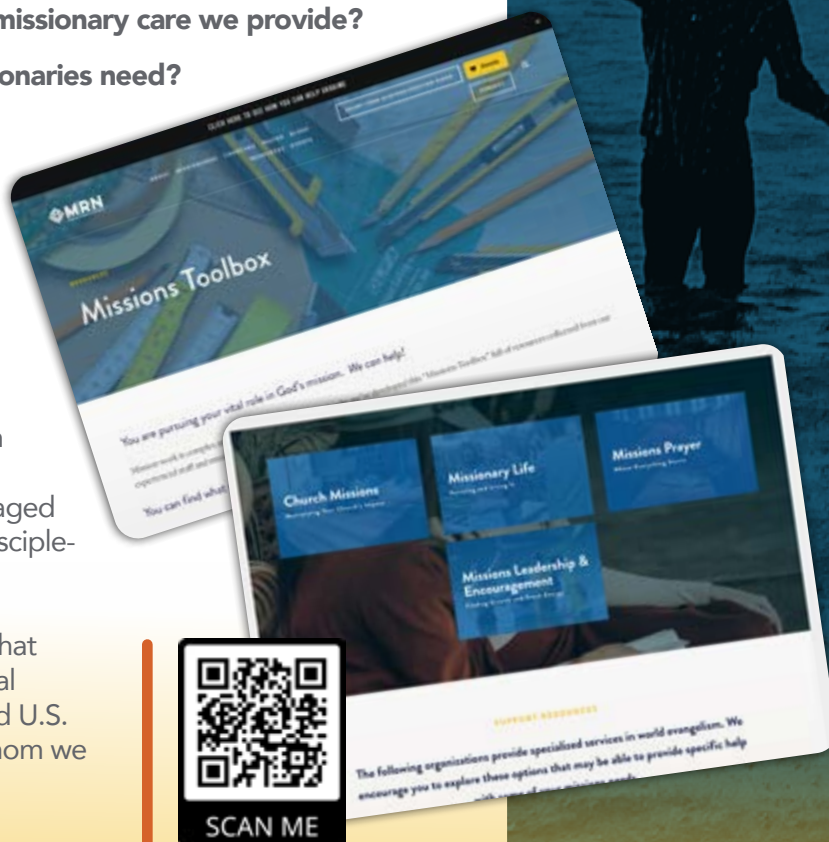
### We can help!

Our team brings together decades of mission experience in all areas of mission work to provide expert guidance and perspectives for your missions questions. Mission Resource Network (MRN) staff have been missionaries on the field, family members of field workers, engaged in church mission leadership, disciple-making trainers, and more.

MRN also brings relationships that can inform and serve you: global church and ministry leaders, and U.S. churches and ministries with whom we collaborate.

We can help with whatever questions you have. We have a few significant tools that have recently been released, as well as an updated library of resources on our website. Keep reading to find out more!

**YOU HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN GOD'S MISSION. WE HELP YOU FULFILL IT MEANINGFULLY.**



*\*Note: articles relating to each of the listed questions can be found by scanning this QR code or visiting [www.mrnet.org/resources](http://www.mrnet.org/resources)*

*You can be part of this and other exciting Kingdom work. Scan here to make a gift!*



# Note from the President



Dan Bouchelle

When I was growing up, we had a common expression: "I call shotgun!" The person making this statement was "claiming" the front passenger seat on a trip in a car. It was a great place to be – you might even be able to help navigate or find the best music for the drive.

At MRN, we still love to ride shotgun. It's our natural position. We rarely lead things; most of the time, we are supporting leaders.

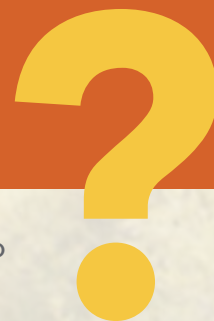
In our work with the global church, we are often cultivating relationships and partnerships that can advance God's kingdom. At times, people come to us asking for help, which is great. But even when we are the ones who initiate a conversation, we are pursuing a support position as others drive. One of our standard questions in conversations with global leaders and churches is, "What is God

calling you to do and how can we help you with that?" We do this because it's what serves the mission best in every role (mission worker, church, or ministry). Equipping others and encouraging them to lead is how the kingdom expands exponentially. While we can't do everything or help with every vision, we want to "ride shotgun" to provide the networking, strategy coaching, mentoring, or leadership development resources that help kingdom leaders fulfill their calling.

You are doing some amazing work in God's mission. This issue of *Resources* describes a variety of ways we try to ride shotgun with you and others like you. So, how can we help you advance what God is calling you to do?



## We're on a mission from God. OK, now what do we do?



You may have asked yourself this very question. We all know we are called to be part of the beautiful story God is writing, but we may not know the best "next step."

**This book could be the next step you and your church need.** Written by our President, Dan Bouchelle, the conversation begins with seeking to recapture a healthy understanding of what in the world God is doing. You will be encouraged to find ways to accept God's invitation to join his sweeping mission to redeem and restore all his creation.

Secondly, you will explore how to rediscover the "God of Mission" and the "Mission of God." Then you will examine what God has been up to all these years, where he is going, and what our role is in this massive project. Finally, you will see that God's mission is as big as the universe and as long as eternity yet is so small it can be advanced on a short airplane ride or by giving a cup of cold water at just the right time.

You can reimagine your own role in God's kingdom work or jumpstart a conversation at your church around how to be more centered in what God is doing. **Scan the QR code (or visit [mrnet.org/store](http://mrnet.org/store)) to get a copy for yourself, or enough for your mission team.**



SCAN ME

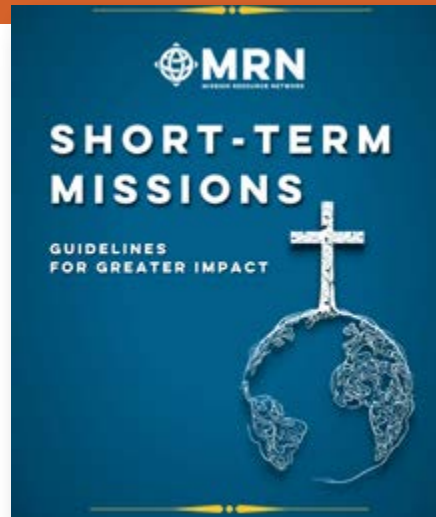
# Strategic **SHORT-TERM MISSIONS**

## Do Short-Term Missions Need to Change?

During the early months of the pandemic shutdown, Jay Jarboe and his team decided this was a good opportunity to seek perspectives from partners across our nation and around our globe on some general missions questions.

They formed twelve “Listening Groups” involving sixty-three people from fifteen nations.

Interestingly, there was a lot of unexpected feedback around Short-Term Missions (STM). Because the pandemic had eliminated the ability to engage STMs, space was created to allow some fresh consideration of the impact of STMs and how to improve what they are able to accomplish.



MRN felt it was important to honor these global perspectives by exploring how STMs impact those who go, as well as those who receive. The findings were collected into a “Short-Term Missions” position paper

that shares helpful guidelines from this intense examination of how we can all be better partners together through STMs.

This STM position paper is a free tool that you and your church can use as you begin to restart – and maybe reset – your STMs. To get yours, visit [mrnet.org/stm-paper](http://mrnet.org/stm-paper) (or just scan the QR code).



If you have questions, Jay Jarboe would be glad to talk to you. Email him at [jay.jarboe@mrnet.org](mailto:jay.jarboe@mrnet.org) or call 817-267-2727 x308.

## A SHORT-TERM MISSION ILLUSTRATION



One youth group of less than 20 teens raised a total of \$30,000 for an STM trip to Haiti. They spent a week at an orphanage painting rooms, cleaning and clearing the playground, and playing with and loving on the children. The teens felt good about helping, and the kids enjoyed these doses of extra attention. One staff member at the orphanage, though, sighed as she said, **“The money they raised to come here could have funded over half our total budget. Think of what we could have done for the children if they had given us those funds.”**

Examples like this can raise important questions about how we can merge the benefits of missional growth and exposure for our members with a service that provides serious value to our brothers and sisters.

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1903 Central Dr. | Ste 410 | Bedford, TX 76021

mrnet.org | missions@mrnet.org | 888.641.2229

# WHAT DO THESE PICTURES HAVE IN COMMON?

They show joyful responses to God's wonderful grace. This happens because of people like you, who are committed to fulfilling your call to share the hope of Jesus with a broken world.

Find your missions tools within these pages, and even more on our website at [mrnet.org/resources](http://mrnet.org/resources) (or scan at right). And you can reach out by email to [missions@mrnet.org](mailto:missions@mrnet.org) to find out how we can help you with just what you need.

