

Whom Shall I Send?

And then I heard the voice of the Master: 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' I spoke up, 'I'll go. Send me!' **Isaiah 6:8**, *The Message*

The road to help the needy in Guatemala is long, winding and rough and it begins long before you arrive in this Central American country. The Lord calls us to serve in many ways and short-term missions are just one way we can respond. When asked by Wayne Curry to lead a mission to Guatemala, my initial response was, "Why me?" I had no theological background, I had never been on a mission trip before, I had no standing within the organization of the church. I was only a humble servant of God and yet, as I have found, this is all that is necessary to bring solace and hope to the indigenous Mayans.

Mission trips have a way of changing people. When we respond to God's calling to help the lost, the least and the last, we receive far more than we can ever give. The love and overwhelming gratitude expressed by the Mayans for our help has a way of enriching our lives with the understanding that we are doing God's work on Earth. Our efforts are said to be life-changing and life-affirming. Knowing that a family now has a safe, warm place to live, running water, and no longer has to sleep on a dirt floor allows you to see why doing short-term missions is a blessing. Seeing a child with who previously suffered from a rotten tooth smile without pain after its extraction is heartwarming. Seeing a Mayan family treated by a doctor for the first time in their lives is a humbling experience for a mission team member. It is an opportunity to realize the very basic needs that go unmet for so many people in the world.

God works in mysterious ways. Me, go on a mission? What can I do? I don't have any skills! How about the rest of us? We have our love. We have our will to do good on Earth, to reap more than what we sow. We have our love of God. "Here I am Lord, send me." As Paul wrote in **Galatians 6:9-10**, "... let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all ... "

Prayer: Dear Lord, give missionaries the resources they need to do the work to which you called them. Bless them. Meet their ministerial and personal needs to overflowing. Provide richly their emotional, spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Go before them in glory and behind them in power; surround them with your faithfulness. Amen.

Frank Leonard

Additional Scripture Readings:

Psalm 124

Genesis 9:1-17

Hebrews 11:32-40