

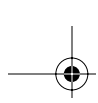
Introduction

As a husband and wife team we have directed short-term missions for fourteen years. We think it is the greatest privilege of our lives. We have seen people transformed for the kingdom with fresh force and power—both those short termers we have taken and those nationals who have hosted us. We've been changed too. We're excited to present what we've learned in the school of hard missionary knocks in this book.

We have written a book from our experience. Because of that, a few disclaimers are necessary. Some may think our stories are broad-ranging global encounters. But we are aware of how limited our experience is. We are hoping to direct an Asian short term, but we use few stories from Asia. Though we have directed (and dearly love) domestic short terms, our stories focus more on foreign short terms. But we do feel the principles of this book are applicable to Asian, domestic and most any crosscultural situation. It may require some translating, but, hey, you're going on a short term so you might as well get started. Also we need to point out that there are many definitions of short terms. But when we talk about short terms, we are focusing more on trips measured in months and weeks, not years.

This is not a how-to book either. We're not focusing on visa applications or what shots to get. There are thousands of travel guides that cover those issues and usually the directors of short terms have specific guidelines for their programs too. We want to present a book that helps us understand foundational principles of short terms. That's the focus of the first six chapters of





this book. Chapters seven through eleven look into developing critical crosscultural skills, and chapters twelve through eighteen deal with specific needs short termers have. We hope this is helpful; it comes from our heart.

One other note: this book is by both of us. We both led the groups of students on the various trips we took, so the ideas and experiences you find in these pages are from the two of us. We also shared in the actual writing of the book. Sometimes one of us would draft a chapter and the other would revise. Sometimes it was the other way around. But for ease of reading, we have chosen to have the book written in Mack's voice. He is the "I" you will read about in the following pages, unless otherwise indicated by context.

