

A WORD TO THOSE WHO SEND

A worker needs a local church that will stand by him with advice and practical support. The congregation also needs those who are sent in obedience to the great commission to enrich the life of the local church.

It is wonderful to be involved in a short-term or ongoing mission outreach. The formative effect in a young person's life is remarkable. It gives him/her

Sending short-termers can be a real investment in their lives.

the opportunity to experience a foreign culture and unusual conditions. It also teaches him/her how to handle responsibility. Young people who return from this type of outreach often become more extensively involved in the work of the local church on their return, and find direction for their own future. Enabling someone to have the opportunity to take part in an outreach such as this can be a real investment in his/her life.

You as pastor, parent or spiritual leader of such a young person, have the responsibility to guide him/her. Do encourage young people to take part in outreaches. However, you should try to judge the young person's maturity and motives for becoming involved in such an outreach. He/she would probably appreciate the balanced advice of an older person. It is also clear from the Word that those who go should be sent by the local church. Thus it is good to involve the Church and let workers preparing to go on such an outreach tell the church about it. Feedback should be given when they return (Acts 13:2,3). The local church will grow in insight on hearing how the Lord has used them.

The local church has the opportunity to grow – God will also bless those who send.

If you are satisfied in the Lord that a certain young person's involvement in such a mission is good and right, the question of financing him/her needs to be carefully considered. This involves estimates of costs and of the feasibility of raising the funds. Part of the task of sending people out into the mission field is to make it financially viable for them to go (3 John 5-8).

May the involvement of young people in mission outreaches be a wonderful experience for you as a local church, spiritual leader or parent. God does not only pour out His blessings on those who are reached, but also on those who go, and those who send them.

-- EDITORS