



# Summer Mission Blitzes

**M**any followers of Jesus in the United States go on mission trips during the summer months. The majority drive into Mexico. However, an increasing number travel to help a career missionary as they serve among an unreached people group.

When serving as Missions Committee chairman, I led our church to adopt an unreached micro-people in Guatemala. A micro-people has a population of 100,000 or less. A local missionary, my church's pastor, and I climbed steep mountain trails to survey work among never-before-reached and very oral people.

We arrived on brick-making day and everyone it seemed was slathered in thick tan clay. Because we were unexpected and they wanted to honor outsiders, we were ushered into a concrete structure that served as meeting hall and school. The missionary and pastor gave their testimony. I had the opportunity to tell three Bible stories.

When volunteers have only about 20 minutes with a people, I believe they should tell their conversion story in three parts – their life before meeting Christ, the steps the Lord led them through to repent and believe, and examples of obedience since taking that step of faith (such as baptism). But when volunteers have several hours to invest in a village before moving on, at least three related Bible stories can convey the Gospel. Storying Pioneers Jim Slack and J. O. Terry suggested this to me years ago and I found that it has worked well.

“Catching Fire” that I publish uses the three evangelism stories I’ve found work very well. It covers The Fall (Gen. 3), Golden Calf (Ex. 32), and the Life of Jesus (composite). Then I carefully crafted my own testimony making sure the steps are simple and flow as a story.

Another training resource that is being used is “Go Story,” a training course for mission volunteers. There are 13 Bible stories that fit into a matrix. Each volunteer learns all 13 stories, but they master five. The five that are mastered correspond to the religious culture of the people among whom they are working. Muslims, for instance, have a different five than say, Mormons.

Camps are learning to use Bible stories, too. It has been good to consult with several ministries working with children that integrate Bible stories into their week-long curriculum. I would like to think that campfire stories will include “power” stories from God’s Word rather than “ghost” stories! Pray for these camps on Thursday night. That’s usually when a Gospel presentation is made. It’s when they “draw the net” after a week of dialogue and presentations.

Wherever your summer is spent this year, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you into all Truth (John 16:13) and be sure to let others in on the Good News, too!