

# Transformational Missions Engagement

by Clayton Bullion, Texas BSM

## 5 Key Elements

1. **Vision & Direction:** We work among the most trainable, moldable, sendable demographic on the planet! They can go farther and longer than most others can. They have more time off than any other group within the church. As mobilizers amongst this generation we have the privilege and responsibility to keep the lost and the nations forever on their radar. The average college student doesn't land on your campus thinking that God has called them to something bigger than themselves. Cast a strong vision for missions involvement and keep it in front of your students throughout the semester.

2. **Multiple On-Ramps:** You should have various missions options for your students at various times throughout the year. Remember: the one who sows sparingly reaps sparingly. If your missions strategy is one trip a year doing only one kind of ministry you will miss so many of your students. No matter how little, or big, our staff is we can all have multiple options for our students. Here is how: Go Now Missions. It's the missions arm of the BSM. Check them out at [gonowmissions.com](http://gonowmissions.com). Your BSM can also offer specific trips to stretch and impact your students. Do you have a lot of nursing students? How can you do a medical mission trip? Are your students from urban settings and have a heart for inner city ministry? How can you set something up for them to go? The Go Now Missions office will be a great help in this!

3. **Power of the Invitation:** It's one thing to announce from the stage, "we're doing a mission trip! Sign-up!" It's quite a different story to know about the mission project and your students and personally approach your students and say, "Hey John, I was looking over this trip and I think you'd be a really good fit for it because \_\_\_\_\_. Would you pray about coming?" Students need someone to help paint the picture of them being there and doing that. If you want ten students on a trip, then a good question to ask is how many students do you need to personally invite in order to have ten go?

4. **Training:** Students don't know what they don't know. Most of them have never raised money for a missions project. They may need some team dynamics training, cross-cultural training, and training on how to connect with prayer and financial supporters. Be sure that your students are well prepared for their missions project. Schedule a couple weeks of training leading up to your missions project. An unprepared team can have a bad experience and that could kill your missions momentum. Go Now Missions has some great resources available.

5. **Debriefing:** When your students get back make sure you set aside some intentional time to help them process their experience. Some of your students will be struggling with culture stress and acclimating back to their surroundings. As a general rule the more impactful the trip was for them, the more difficult the transition back can be. Nothing can put a bad taste in other students' mouths for missions faster than a bitter, arrogant summer missionary who hasn't processed his / her culture shock! As your students adjust be sure to create a place for them to tell about their experience! Remember: Students are the best recruiters for student missions!