

## Preparing Your Personal Testimony

During your Crossroads Mission Trip, you will most definitely be asked to share your personal testimony. It could be in front of a church service, in a Bible Study, or maybe in front of your team. Please be prepared to share a 3-5 minute story about your walk with the Lord. This page will give you some helpful tips!

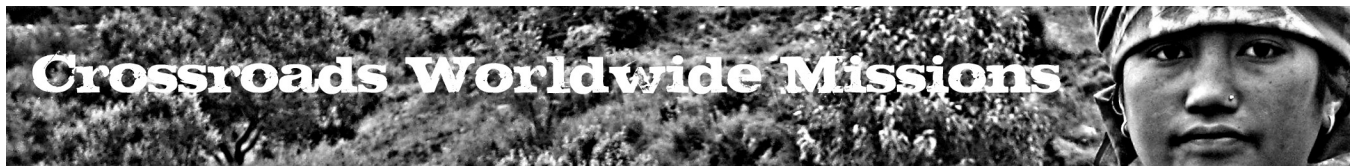
### The Do's and Don'ts of a Personal Testimony

- ❖ DO:
  - Write out your testimony. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5-6)
  - Choose a theme: one area of your life that Christ has changed- ie, peace, freedom, victory over sin)
  - Be creative. Remember, you are telling a story and as such you want to be captivating.
  - Follow a three point outline depending on your spiritual experience
    - Life before knowing Christ (what was missing?)
    - What you came to know about Christ (be specific)
    - Who God is and how he has changed you.
  - Practice giving your testimony to others and get feedback. Edit as necessary
  - Memorize your testimony- it will make it easier when you are nervous and uncertain of what to say
- ❖ DON'T:
  - Wing it.
  - Use "churchy" words such as "saved," "righteousness," "walk with God," etc without explaining. Your audience may feel uncomfortable if they don't know what these words mean.
  - Be too wordy or vague.
  - Mention church denominations in a critical or derogatory way.
  - Give the impression that the Christian life is perfect.
  - Make your testimony all about you- we are testifying about the truth of Jesus Christ!
  - Talk about really personal issues (sexual past, etc) without first consulting your team leaders.

### Writing Your Testimony

Although there are no rigid rules on how to write a testimony, it may be a good idea to follow some guidelines. You don't need/have to answer every questions, but these are questions to get your mind going!

- ❖ Before you received Christ
  - What was your life like before you accepted Christ? Be honest and specific.
  - What did you believe about God? Where did you get those beliefs? How did they fall short?
  - How did God work in your life to draw you towards him?
- ❖ How you received Christ
  - How did God change you and give you the faith to trust in Christ?
  - What are the specifics of the Gospel message? Lay this out clearly.
- ❖ After you received Christ
  - What have you learned about God that has changed your life? Give specific examples.
  - How is the truth of Jesus Christ in your life helped you deal with struggles.
  - Have a good ending that ties your theme and main points together for the audience



## Tips on Communicating Through a Translator

You are possibly going to a place with a language barrier. Thus, you will be sharing your testimony through a translator. Here are some key things you can do to ensure that your message gets communicated effectively:

- 1) Speak loudly enough that you can be clearly heard by the translator.
- 2) Speak slowly.
- 3) Think your ideas through ahead of time so you can say it in short simple sentences.
- 4) Stop after every sentence to allow your translator to translate.
- 5) If you are talking about technical subjects and you wonder if they know what you mean, test their understanding by asking them a question or two about what you just said.
- 6) If your translator gets stuck and doesn't know the word for something you are trying to say, it's often best to try and reword your sentence. If he/she still doesn't understand, it's good to move on in the conversation so as not to embarrass your translator. If it is an important point, come back to it later.
- 7) Avoid using slang, idioms, or illustrations which are not found in that culture.
- 8) If possible, talk with your translator ahead of time and give him an outline or an idea of what you are talking about.
- 9) Speak to your audience or to the individuals you are communicating with, not the translator.

Adapted and quoted from the Moody Bible Institute Cross-Cultural Training in Ministry Manual

---