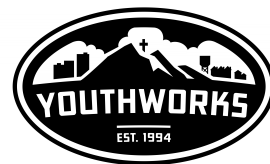


# EXTRA PREP FOR YOUR BEYOND MISSION TRIP



SUMMER 2014

## Minneapolis, MN

We are excited you have chosen to go on a Beyond mission trip with YouthWorks. We encourage you to take extra time setting expectations and preparing to enter Minneapolis, MN. The following are just a few recommendations for additional resources to help your students be prepared. *These resources are meant to supplement, not replace, regular mission trip preparation.* (For our general mission trip preparation resources, look under “Fundraising, Recruitment & Meetings” on the checklist under <http://www.youthworks.com/prepare-for-your-trip>.) These resources will help your students understand the community better as well as understand some concepts central to mission trip service.

## RESOURCES

**WHEN HELPING HURTS** by **Steve Corbett** and **Brian Fikkert** contains an excellent discussion on how to help the poor in a healthy way for both parties. This book may be a little heavy for most teenagers, so we recommend choosing a few sections to study closely. Chapter 2, for example, contains an excellent discussion on what “poverty” actually means. Another option for this book is to give it to your leaders. It will greatly benefit their understanding of service and value of listening and learning from the community you are going to.

**UE5: OUTLOOK an Urban Entry Video** builds on interviews and stories from local and national leaders to bring together 5 consistent lessons for volunteers: Look Inside at your Expectations, Look Up to Local Leaders, Look Out for God’s Activity, Look Around for New Relationships and Look Forward to Taking it Home. We specifically want to draw your attention to some of the bonus material on the disc:

- Culture Matters
- 3 Principles for Crossing Cultures
- The Danger of Fix-It

You can watch a preview of the video on the Urban Entry website: <http://urbanentry.org/videos/ue5-outlook>

**International Association for Refugees** is a great organization and website to go to in order to understand the refugee problem and situation better before you head to Minneapolis. We will take a deeper look at what refugees face as they move to another country and how they assimilate to culture. Their web address is <http://www.iafr.org>

**Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town** by [Warren St. John](#) – Set against the backdrop of an American town that without its consent had become a vast social experiment, Outcasts United follows a pivotal season in the life of “the Fugees” and their charismatic coach. Warren St. John documents the lives of a diverse group of young people as they miraculously coalesce into a band of brothers, while also drawing a fascinating portrait of a fading American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. At the center of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the soccer field while holding together their lives – and the lives of their families – in the face of a series of daunting challenges.

***Rain in a Dry Land*** – This PBS documentary chronicles, in their own poetic words, the first 18 months in America of Arbai Barre Abdi and her children and Aden Edow and Madina Ali Yunye and their children. Beginning with "cultural orientation" classes in Kenya, where they are introduced to such novelties as electric appliances and the prospect of living in high-rise apartment buildings, the film follows the Muslim families on divergent yet parallel paths as they learn that the streets in America are definitely not paved with gold, especially for poor immigrants. The families' sponsors – Jewish Family Services in Springfield, Massachusetts and World Relief in Atlanta – have pledged six months of support, which gives the families a daunting learning curve to take themselves from the 19th Century to the 21st. For more, visit [http://www.pbs.org/pov/raininadryland/film\\_description.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/raininadryland/film_description.php)

## **DISCUSSION STARTERS**

**Listening and Learning** will be a big part of the Beyond experience. Use creative methods to help students understand the value of listening to others. Here are a few questions you might use to get this discussion going:

- When is the last time someone really listened to you? How did it make you feel?
- Why might it be important to listen to someone you want to help?
- What are some reasons taking time to listen and learn about someone else might be hard?
- On your mission trip, you'll be taking time to listen and learn about the community. Why might learning about the community be different than, for example, learning about a group of people in history class?
- "Listening is a type of service." Why do you think this statement is true or not true?

**Sharing the stories you hear** might be a great outlet for your students. Beyond simply sharing about their own experiences, discuss with students how they might pass along the stories of the community. Help students start thinking about this now so during the trip they can pay attention, knowing they will be sharing what they are learning. Give students ideas of how they will capture the stories they hear through:

- Writing things down every day.
- Taking pictures.
- Talking about what they've experienced intentionally each day.