



Be Open

“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:18-19

Many times we come into a new experience, such as a mission trip, with preconceived ideas of how it will be based on what others have experienced, what we have read about, or maybe even our own past experiences. However, it's good to remember that every mission trip is a new experience. If you have gone to Haiti with But God Ministries, you may have a general knowledge and understanding of the way things work, but your experience in the MS Delta will be different. As hard as it is to comprehend, the culture in the MS Delta is different from anything else you may have experienced. And that's okay!

God gives us many different life experiences that are meant to be shared with others. I imagine your mission team, like every other mission team, is made up of many different personalities, skill sets, and life experiences. When viewed properly, those differences can make a team amazing, and that team will impact the people they are serving. Each of you has a story to tell. I've heard people say that they don't really have a great, interesting testimony to share. I disagree with that! Any story of life change is a story worth sharing. Whether you were delivered from a deep depression, strong addiction, or were saved as a young child, you have a story, and God **expects** us to share it with other people!

You are not a part of this mission by accident. God works in ways that we cannot understand, and as Paul tells us in Romans 8:28, *“God works all things together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purposes.”* God is the One who draws hearts to go on mission. He is the one who gifts and equips teams for certain projects. And He is the One who is glorified when we work together in unity as a team to see His will and plan played out and accomplished!

I encourage you to keep an open mind. Set aside whatever thoughts or ideals that you have coming into this mission experience. Open your heart and hands to the Holy Spirit's leading. Embrace the new. Share your past experiences. Watch God do new things in and through you!

Further Reading:

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

Small Group Questions:

What are some ideals or expectations that you currently have regarding your trip to the MS Delta?

What are some things that you are uncertain or anxious about?

What unique experiences, skills or giftings do you have that you feel will be beneficial for this particular mission?

Are you willing to share your story -the good, the bad, and the ugly- with others when the opportunity arises?

If you are not confident sharing your faith, write out your testimony and began sharing it with friends so that you can become more confident in that.