



A return on God's investment by Peter Jordan

Jesus told the story of a master who had to leave on a trip. While he was gone, the master entrusted the care of his possessions to his servant. Unfortunately, the master was delayed on his trip, and the servant began to act up. When the master finally returned and saw what the servant was doing with his possessions, he had the servant punished. In concluding this parable, Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48

When a person invests money in the stock market, in a building project, or in a trust fund - even in a savings account - that person expects to get a return on that investment. They anticipate that their investment will make a profit.

What has God given you as a result of your missions exposure and experience? What has he entrusted to you?

You will have stepped out and walked by faith. In the process, you have seen the reality of God, much like Peter did when he stepped out and walked on the water.

You also have had the unique opportunity of seeing and experiencing things firsthand that others only read about... or see on television. You may have lived in a foreign culture among people who think and act differently than you. As a result, you have changed; you are not the same person you were when you left for the mission field.

What is God's return on all that He has invested in you during your time on the mission field? How can you take the experiences of the mission field and see them multiplied for the kingdom of God? How can you transfer to others in your church what God has invested in you during your time away?

Be an Advocate.(one who speaks on behalf of another; pleads for, defends, recommends publicly. You can become an advocate for the people group - or nation - where you have served.

Be Informed.

Continue to take an interest in the people with whom you worked while on the mission field.

Be an Intercessor.

While on the mission field, you probably felt the reassurance of knowing others were praying for you. The work of the missionary and the work of the intercessor go hand in hand.



Be a Giver.

While serving on the mission field, you were probably the recipient of other people's generosity. Once home, one of the best ways to keep your heart tied to missions is through financially supporting other missionaries - and encouraging others to do the same. (Where your treasure is...)

Be Supportive.

Missionaries often need people back home to help with their financial matters, to send newspaper clippings, church bulletins, familiar food items, to copy and send out their newsletters - and hospitable people to stay with when they return home.

Be Part of a Missions Board.

You will have fresh insights and up-to-the-minute experience and enthusiasm to offer a missions board. (Some churches have their own structure and requirements, so it may not be possible to be a member. However, you can pray for those on the board and offer to serve them in any way they may need help.)

Be a Recruiter.

God may have called you home so you can be instrumental in sending ten more people to the mission field to take your place. You can mentor other Christians in how to become a missionary.

Stay Linked.

Don't expect too much communication from the people with whom you served. They will continue to grow and change, and understaffing is endemic to missions - (Jesus said so! The harvest is ripe, but the workers are few...) You can initiate communication.

God would like to see a return on His investment in you...so be worthy of that investment, and be a Missionary for Missions.

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