

DISCONTENT AMBASSADOR.



Therefore, if anyone is united with the Anointed One, that person is a new creation. The old life is gone, and a new life has begun! All of this is a gift from our Creator God, who has pursued us and brought us into a restored and healthy relationship with Him through the Anointed (Jesus). And He has given us the same mission, the ministry of reconciliation, to bring others back to Him. It is central to our good news that God was in the Anointed making things right between Himself and the world. This means He does not hold their sins against them. But it also means He charges us to proclaim the message that heals and restores our broken relationships with God and each other. So we are now ambassadors of the Anointed One, the Liberating King; God has given us a charge to carry through our lives—urging all people on behalf of the Anointed to become reconciled to the Creator God. He orchestrated this: the Anointed One, who had never experienced sin, became sin for us so that in Him we might embody the very righteousness of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21 (the voice, emphasis added)



This passage reveals the joy that comes with being a proclaimer of God's Good News. We have been reconciled to God and, therefore, have the opportunity to invite others into this same relationship. We are ambassadors of Christ. We have been given a charge to urge all people –on behalf of Christ –to accept His love and grace in our lives. During your mission trip, it may be disheartening and difficult to trust that God is working

in the community. The grim reality and conditions may leave you discouraged and unsure of where to even start when trying to help. The problems in the community may overwhelm you. We encourage you to become a discontent ambassador –to allow your frustrations or discouraging experiences in a community to propel you into action. Become a proclaimer of hope and truth in the midst of pain and suffering.

WHAT MAKES A DISCONTENT AMBASSADOR?

1. CHRIST-CENTERED.

While on your mission trip, community members will know that you are working with a Christian Organization. The community will closely observe how you act and what you say, whether to others in your church group, or to an individual you have never met before. Everything we do must be Christ-centered. As an ambassador of Christ, we represent His name and His kingdom in everything that we do. Take your responsibility as an ambassador seriously and with joy! We represent a living and loving God.

2. COMMIT TO PRAYER.

The most effective way to support a community long-term is to invest and commit to prayer for that community. As stated above, you will read some grim statistics while preparing for your trip. Even more, you may become discouraged by the reality that exists within the community while on your mission trip. Allow those feelings to help you channel every ounce of energy into prayer for God's message of reconciliation and love to reach the community.

3. DON'T STOP.

Allow each experience, each encounter, and each story you hear, to propel you into action even after your mission trip has finished. Continue the story of the community and share it with eagerness. This eagerness can spread awareness of what has happened, but more importantly what is happening within the community. Pray for the families that you met after the trip and find ways to become involved in the community long-term. Move forward with momentum, allowing your feelings of discontent toward the present state of the community to inspire action and continued involvement.

KEY TAKEAWAY

We are ambassadors of Christ. On your weeklong trip, you will have the opportunity to share and represent Christ's love to a community- how incredible! In your preparation and experience, trust that God is actively working to bring hope to a community that may be experiencing depression, addiction, unemployment, destruction. Don't be disheartened, but instead become a discontent ambassador that is even more motivated to share the love and hope of Jesus! **As Discontent Ambassadors, we recognize that we hold a significant responsibility. Our responsibility is to carry Christ's name in a way that honors Him. His strength is our momentum to continue sharing love and hope, when situations are grim and hopeless.**

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be an ambassador? What specific words can you say, or actions can you take, to represent Christ in a way that honors Him during your mission trip?
2. Share a time when a feeling of frustration or discontent immobilized you. How could you have taken positive action to address these feelings, as opposed to having done nothing?
3. Do you think being discontent with a situation or experience can inspire positive action? Can this discontent motivate us further to share Christ's love?
4. What situations might you come across during your mission trip that will be difficult to see and experience? How can you encourage each other as a team?
5. How can you be praying for the community before arriving this summer?