SHORT TERM MISSION RESEARCH: INITIAL FINDINGS

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Some initial findings in my research into short-term mission trips.
Category: Short-Term Mission

I've just started a research project looking at short-term mission trips offered by British mission agencies. The ultimate aim is to assess to what extent the offerings align with what is termed "voluntourism". I'll publish a report sometime in the next couple of months.

In the meantime, I thought I'd share some provisional figures from my research.

Of 45 mission agencies offering short term mission trips:

- 12 (27%) say overtly that those taking the trips will be involved in evangelism in one way or another.
- 19 (42%) say overtly that the trip is tied into long-term mission work either through local churches or long-term missionaries.
- 5 (11%) say that short-term mission is a pathway to long term service with the agency.

These figures will be revised as I dig deeper into the research, but they won't change a great deal. In addition to these issues, I'm also looking at the extent to which short-term trips are advertised as "Christian tourism", the way that local people are presented in agency publicity and other issues of concern.

Watch this space.