MISSIONARY CONFIDENTIAL: WHEN SYMPATHY TURNS DEMEANING

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Category: Short-Term Mission

This post from Missionary Confidential is well worth reading and pondering upon. I suspect that it could also be applied to some evangelistic work in the UK, too.

> *Just over a year ago, I read â€œFollowing Up on Your Mission Tripâ€ and was jolted by the honesty of this:*
> *â€œI first became aware of the hurt we can unwittingly inflict when some co-workers of mine had stones thrown at them in a Mexican neighborhood.Â The same kids who in years previous had attended our Vacation Bible Schools had become sick of being â€˜dissedâ€™ by American youth groups whose leaders, whether out of ignorance or presumption, had no plan beyond four days of ministry, a trip to the beach, and a quick adios to their new friends. The locals had caught on to the shallowness of their commitment and vented their hurt rather eloquently.â€*
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> *Wow.Â Canâ€™t imagine this got reported back to the sending churches.Â When Iâ€™ve heard mission reports about difficulty with the nationals, itâ€™s usually chalked up to â€œresistance to the Gospelâ€ â€"which, of course, it can be.Â But would someone honestly tell a congregation, â€œThe locals became annoyed at being seen as a project, not as peopleâ€ ?*