

Preparing a Greeting

A Guide to Use as You Prepare Your Greeting to Your Sister Church

Each team member will be asked to give a short greeting at the first church service and perhaps in other meetings as well. You may want to try some of your Creole phrases. The Haitians will love it that you tried! However, your time is limited, so an RMI interpreter will be on hand to help you and to interpret for you. Don't forget, speaking through an interpreter can be a bit distracting. The key thing to remember is to speak in short phrases then pause, letting the translator talk. Then you can proceed with the next phrase. Once you get used to it and get into the rhythm, it is easy.

Guidelines

- Write out your greeting.
- Keep it short. Around two minutes is an appropriate amount of time.
- Follow Paul's greetings he used in the beginning of his New Testament letters.
- Give your name and perhaps have them say it back to you.
- Give information about yourself: Are you married? How many children? Where do you live?
- Be warm and enthusiastic about your visit.
- Give greetings from your church.
- Tell about your involvement in your church - Sunday school teacher, etc.
- Tell about your occupation, in simple terms.
- Share your testimony briefly.
- Share a favorite Bible verse.

Avoid

- Use of items, expressions, ideas, clichés and idioms that would not be understood in a third world country and in a tropical setting. For instance, do not talk about subways, escalators, corporate management, skiing, etc. Be kind to your interpreter!
- Giving simply the name of your occupation, but rather give a simple explanation of what you do.
- Giving too many details and long stories.

Example

"I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. My name is _____. I am married and have 3 children: a boy, _____, who is 9 years old, a girl, _____, who is 5 years old and a girl, _____, 2 years old. My wife, _____, sends her greetings. She is at home taking care of the children. I work as a policeman in my town of Cornfield, Ohio. God has protected me as I work to keep the town safe and in order.

My family and I have attended Cornfield Bible Church for 6 years. I bring greetings from the men's group of the church and from my Sunday School Class. I would like to share my favorite verse with you this morning. Isaiah 26:3 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is staid on Thee.' I am very happy to be here to visit you this week. Thank you for your love."

Of course you will need to fit it according to your needs and situation.

Even those of you who are extremely bashful and are not used to doing a lot of public speaking will feel at home here. You will be glad you came prepared to share your heart with these warm people. This is your chance to let those in your Sister Church get to know you. Your simple words, given in love, will mean a great deal to your new Haitian family!

