



GO
MAD!

MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

A MISSION TRIP DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

FROM THE AUTHOR

Go MAD??????

What does it mean to Go **MAD**?

The Bible makes it clear that we're to **Make A Difference (MAD)** for good in our world, starting with the people we live next to and reaching out to those who live all over the globe.

Our theme verse is Hebrews 13:16.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Go **Make A Difference** by doing good!

Be kind to everyone you meet and do some good!

Go **Make A Difference** by sharing who you are and what you have with others!

Give a smile, encourage, pitch in and share your talents.

Go **Make A Difference** by sacrificing your time, talent and money!

Be generous and hang in there, even when the going gets tough.

Go **Make A Difference** by pleasing God!

Live the life God always wanted you to live. Do good, share with others and be willing to make a sacrifice. That's your mission in life!

When you Go **Make A Difference** for God, you and the world will become different, too, in some very positive ways. In fact, you will slowly but surely become more and more like Jesus in the way you relate, love and serve. So,

Go **MAD**

and have a perfectly **MAD** mission trip!

Rev. Dr. Frank Nelson, author



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PRE-TRIP DAY 1

Today's Date _____

GO MAD ≈ GO!

Key Verse: *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
(Hebrews 13:16)

MAD Quote: *"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work."* —William Arthur Ward

MAD Reflections (Write responses on the MAD Notes page.)

1. I chose to GO on this mission trip because...
2. Some reasons God may want me to go...
3. I can Make A Difference during the mission trip by...
4. Some of my hopes for the trip. . .
5. Some of my fears...

MAD Scriptures (Circle words or phrases that speak to you.)

- *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.* (John 15:16)
- *As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'* (Matthew 10:7)
- *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* (Matthew 28:19-20)

If time permits... read John 15:8-17 and take notes on the MAD Notes page.

MAD Prayer

Dear God, as I get ready to go on this trip, may it be a good experience for me and may I help to make it a good experience for everyone else. Show me the many ways I can make a positive difference in the lives of others. Please give us the health and strength we will need to do good and share with others. Amen. (Next, write your own prayer on the MAD Notes page by completing these phrases: *Dear God, today I thank You for... Please forgive me for... Please help to...*)

MAD Actions (During the next 24 hours how will I **M**ake **A** Difference?)

- Choose to do a random good deed for someone you know. Who will it be? What will you do?
- Begin to memorize the theme verse for this journal. It's today's key verse from Hebrews 13:16. Write it down on a piece of paper and refer to it often as you prepare for the trip.



MAD NOTES

A place for new insights, scripture verses, songs, stories, experiences, sketches and commitments.



MAD MISSION DAY 3

Today's Date _____

GO MAD ≈ SERVE!

Key Verse: *Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.* (John 12:26)

MAD Quotes: *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." —Gandhi*
"I wondered why somebody didn't do something. Then I realized, I am somebody." —Anonymous

MAD Reflections (Write responses on the MAD Notes page.)

1. During the past couple of days _____ stands out as a person who has been quick to serve others.
2. In the past couples of days _____ has served me by...
3. I have served _____ by...
4. I think God has helped me to have a better attitude about . . .

MAD Scriptures (Circle words or phrases that catch your attention and speak to you.)

- *Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* (Mark 10:43-45)
- *Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For whoever is least among you all is the greatest."* (Luke 9:48)

If time permits... read Philippians 2:1-11 and take notes on the MAD Notes page.

MAD Prayer

Dear God, it might be nice to be great in the eyes of others, but teach me instead to be great in your eyes. I want to learn to measure my greatness, not by the standards of the world, but by your measure of loving service to others. Open my eyes to the needs of the people here, and then open my heart to care and respond to the needs. Instead of expecting others to serve me, teach me to take the serving initiative, so that I can love people the way Jesus did. In his name I pray, Amen. (Next, write your own prayer for serving on the MAD Notes page.)

MAD Actions (During the next 24 hours how will I **Make A Difference**?)

- Set a new goal to take a serving initiative by being the first to say, "I'll do it."
- List three people you will try to serve during the next 24 hours. Write down one thing you will plan to do to serve them.
- Find a time to say thanks to the person you thought of in #2 above.



WHAT'S YOUR MAD STORY?

“How was your mission trip?”

Family, friends and others will probably ask you that question when you return home. The following questions will help you respond to their questions by organizing some of your thoughts. You'll find that the “Elevator Speech” on page 45 will help you summarize the MAD story of your mission trip experience so you can tell it in less than 30 seconds (the time it takes to get from one floor to the next in an elevator). Once you have written your speech, practice saying it over and over.

Three words that describe my experience include...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I'm most thankful to God for...

GO mad Go Mad MAD mad Go mad Go mad

Three ways we/I made a positive difference include..

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If I could change some things about the trip, what would they be?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

POST-TRIP DAY 3

Today's Date _____

Go MAD ≈ CARE!

Key Verse: *Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them?* (Psalm 144:3)

MAD Quotes: *"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care."* —Mandy Hale

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." —Dr. Seuss

MAD Reflections (Write responses on the MAD Notes page.)

1. A person who cares about me and wants the very best for my life is...
2. Some of the people I care about include...
3. I have a hard time caring for people who...
4. Do you agree with Dr. Seuss above? Why or why not?
5. Describe your emotional high point and low point during the past 24 hours.

MAD Scriptures (Circle words or phrases that speak to you.)

- *Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:37-40)
- *Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* (Matthew 6:25-26)
- *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* (1 Peter 5:7)

If time permits... read Matthew 6:25-34 and take notes on the MAD Notes page.

MAD Prayer

Dear God, I confess that sometimes I don't care enough for the world you have created and for all the people in the world. I hear the news and want to care, but the images and the faces seem so far removed from my world. And yet, I believe that you care for each and every person in the news. Everyone needs someone to care for them, so teach me to reach out and care for the people near me. Thank you that Jesus cared enough to sacrifice his life for the sake of the whole world. In his name, Amen. (Next, write your own prayer on the MAD Notes page expressing to God thanks, praise, confession and request for help.)

MAD Actions (During the next 24 hours how will I **Make A Difference**?)

- On the MAD Notes page complete this phrase 5 times: "I care about..."
- Think of someone you know who is sick, depressed or discouraged. **Make A Difference** in his/her life by contacting him/her with a message of encouragement.

