

## The Three-Crisis Rule

The team leader, as well as team members, would do well to keep the three-crisis rule in mind for all foreign travel and large group activities. The rule is simply this: Assume that three things will go wrong no matter how well you plan. Adopt the attitude that contingencies will arise. Who know what they will be? Someone may become ill, the bus may break down or the rooms at the hotel may have been given away.

When you begin the trip with this attitude, you are preparing to be flexible as well as facing the fact that you cannot always be in control or trust in your own strength. Encourage one another to practice the mental attitude of accepting both the major and minor changes in plans that inevitably occur with foreign travel. If nothing goes "wrong" with your team, fine...but you will have missed some rewarding opportunities to see the Lord work. Difficulties give you the opportunity to discover your inner resolve. And in the face of adversity, the hidden strengths and talents that emerge in some can surprise the team.

In our culture we value efficiency and production. Other cultures put more emphasis on relationships. Whether taking a mission awareness tour, conducting a Vacation Bible School, planting trees, giving vaccinations, or building a school, most team members have objectives in mind. They plan to visit eight mission projects, plant 3,000 seedlings, or raise the walls on a church. Having goals is commendable and gives team members a sense of direction. Completion of these goals, however, is not the most important objective of a mission tour. It is through good relationships that you will lead people to Christ. Establishing warm relationships and communicating the love of Christ is the team's primary goal. Make your best preparations, then go with the flow. The prepared volunteer goes expecting the best, but accepting the possibilities of setbacks and disappointments.

### Discussion Point:

Discuss some of the potential stresses the team may face on the field. Encourage each team member to make a decision that no matter what happens, the team motto will be, "Go with the Flow."