

Organizing for Your Son or Daughter's Mission



Going to Work

- Determining priorities on paper, preparing a systemized way to handle paperwork, and calendaring are essential to successful mission preparation.

Items to Buy and Take

- There will be bigger investments to purchase, clothing to buy, alter, and otherwise prepare, and additional useful items to consider. It takes time, patience, and diligence to choose wisely even as you keep within the carefully set parameters determined by the mission.

Considering Financial Needs

- It is essential to understand pre-mission, mission, and post-mission financial needs, prepare for them beforehand, and plan carefully as purchases are made and preparations begun.

Preparing Useful Kits

- Gathering useful supplies and containing them in an orderly manner will facilitate the transition period from home to the Missionary Training Center and on to the mission field. From First Aid Kit to Office Kit to Spares Kit, kits can help make a mission more productive and organized.

Packing for Easier Travel

- Getting everything essential into the suitcases, knowing what to leave out, keeping the weight within set standards, and still providing for potential mission needs is a necessary skill.

Starting Out Right, Right Away

- Well-established personal habits, social skills, budgeting and shopping skills, housecleaning habits, and laundry skills will help the missionary be more fruitful in the mission field.

What It Will Be Like

- The mission experience is unique. Missionaries and parents can do their part to make it joyful and fulfilling on both ends. There are also specific needs for the returned missionary including re-clothing, education, housing, and transportation.

Housecleaning Methods: Working Your Plan



Why You Don't, Why You Should, and How You Can Keep a House Clean

- You don't because it's unending and even well done housework is invisible! You should because there is nothing like an orderly home. Break the work down into small projects, work out a plan, and tackle it each and every day. Soon your house will be in order. Housework can't be done according to mood; it must be done according to need!

Housecleaning Habits to Establish

- Wear a cobbler's apron with two large pockets. Put on a sturdy pair of shoes. Play some upbeat music, set the timer, and go to work.

How To's for Keeping the House Clean

- Teach your family to put things away themselves: close cupboard doors, pick up their toys, and push in their chair after meals. These small tasks make a tremendous difference in the home's appearance and help make housework everyone's job.

What to Do/What Not to Do to Maintain Your Home

- Keeping it simple helps to more easily maintain a home. There must be lots of throwing away, giving away, and putting away to keep things neat and orderly.
 - Set standards on how much "keeping" is enough. Use the 22-tie rule.
 - When time for housework is limited, focus first on picking up, fixing meals, doing dishes, cleaning the bathroom(s), completing the laundry, and neatening up the entry.

Housecleaning Solutions Make it Easier

- A housecleaning tote container full of cleaning cloths, cleanser, cleaning solutions, a toilet brush, scrubbing pads, old toothbrushes, and a sponge makes for a nicer cleaning session. Convenience always makes the job faster and easier!

Food Purchases—Minimize Grocery Shopping



Purchase Non-perishable Food in Bulk

- Once a Master Menu is in place, non-perishable food can be purchased for a whole year's needs. This includes canned goods, boxed items, and bagged staples. For example, serving an item once a week means 52 of them will be needed for a year.

Prepare an Inventory of Current Supplies

- Make a list of needed food supplies by taking an inventory of cupboards, pantry, refrigerator, and by reviewing grocery receipts for the past several months.

Prepare a Shopping List and Calculate Expenses

- From the inventory make up a shopping list, calculate how many of each item will be needed for a year, and calculate the total cost. (If funding is limited, try to save 10% each week on groceries until there is sufficient means to begin purchasing items in bulk.)

Cherry Picking - Shop the Easy Way

- Without a wallet, visit three favorite stores, writing down the price of those items to be purchased. Come home and compare prices. Then return to each store the next day and purchase their cheapest items in bulk. It is usually better to use high-quality products at their best possible prices than to spend time and energy every time the store offers a new product on special. This method gets the best possible current prices, saves a tremendous amount of time, and avoids week-to-week decision-making.

Learn to Store the Food and Rotate It Properly

- All food items should be date-stamped and put in the rear of older food. Put a rubber band around the last can or jar of everything. When this marked item is brought out of storage, it is time to add it to the grocery list. Food can be stored in sturdy boxes or sealed plastic buckets. If space is limited these containers can go under mattresses, along a wall, or in a closet.

Home Storage—A Better Way to be Self-Sufficient



Go to Your Cupboards instead of the Store

- Time, trouble, fuel, and repetitive decision-making will all be reduced with one shopping trip a year for non-food items. Examples include toothpaste, shampoo, dish soap, laundry soap, and toilet paper.

What and How Many Will Be Needed?

- Inventory the non-food items that are regularly used around the house, review recent receipts, and then estimate how many of each item the family will need for a year.

Prepare a Shopping List, Calculate Costs, and Evaluate Savings

- Prepare a written shopping list, noting the amount of each item needed, the estimated cost each, and the total funding needed. Consider using the "cherry-picking" method mentioned above to get the best prices in a reasonable period of time.

Storage and Rotation: Where and How

- Date stamp all items and store, putting older stock in the front, newer items in the rear. Buy non-food items first and then find storage areas later. There always seems to be room once the items are home.
- Figure out a system to remind you it is time to restock this item if you run out before the next annual shopping trip for home storage items. Try to always have a 10% stock overlap.

The Best Price Box

- The truly efficient shopper has a method to keep track of the best-ever prices. The information kept includes items, size, brand, price, store where purchased, and date. This is done by keeping a written or electronic record and trying to duplicate those prices or even beat them during the next shopping trip.