



Social Media

Social media can be a blessing and curse all in one. Let's start by saying **"be smart."** You shouldn't be spending more time on social media or your phone than you spend looking at the faces of people passing by you. Don't be on your phone, social media, and computer, whatever thing is in your hand, so much that you miss the people the Lord has taken you to, and has given you to share Him with!

Social media is GREAT! It is a perfect way to connect to people back home, and other summer missionaries while you are on the field. We encourage you to post pictures of people you are serving so friends and family can be praying! We encourage you to say what you are doing so that people can be praying! **DON'T BE DUMB...** if you are in a more secure country **DO NOT** post where you are, and what you are doing!

Be especially careful how you communicate on social media. **You are representing your church/ministry, whether you want to or not. And for any Christian: you are representing Christ.** **Be sure to ask your local supervisor if there are any social media guidelines you need to follow.**

Do post about what you are doing; a picture is worth a thousand words, but don't share too much. If you meet a girl named Suzie Q, and she shares her story with you it is not your job to share her story with the world. When you post **ALWAYS** have permission to post that person's picture and **ALWAYS** ask them what information you can share. One great tip is to post their picture (with their permission) and just say something like "So excited to meet this new friend" or "had a great day with Suzie Q". People back home will have a face to pray for and that is all the world needs.

Make sure you protect yourself and your personal information. Having things like your phone number, and address on your **PUBLIC** profile isn't the best idea. Yes, only your friends can see it, but when you add new friends you meet on the field they now have all that information.

SIMPLE DO'S AND DON'TS

- **DO...** Set Boundaries... Social media can easily hijack your time and mental energy, becoming a major distraction. As someone said, "When you've got five minutes to fill, Twitter is a great way to fill 35." Be careful.
- **DON'T...** Spend too much time on social media ...or on your phone, or watching Netflix...
- **DO...** Be positive, affirming, uplifting, and earnest (rather than negative, cynical, critical, and ironic). Talk about Jesus and tell how He is working in you. Tell of your failings and victories. Share your new discoveries.
- **DON'T...** Post when angry and irritated. Rants and harsh language are never a good choice- it's a very poor witness. Not only that, there is a significant chance you will regret something you said in anger. Even if you go back and delete, it was posted and was public.

On Facebook and Instagram be sure to post stories, updates, and pictures to encourage and let other SMN missionaries know how to pray for you. Our Facebook pages are **SendMeNow** and **Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministry!** If you have not liked our pages you should do so!

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