Amazingly enough, fifty or so years ago, short term missions would have meant only going for five-six years, possibly ten. Seventy-five years ago, missionaries simply went. There was little thought of returning. Old mission station cemeteries are mute testimony to this. Today the situation is much different and tomorrow will doubtless be even more different.

To begin with, point your search engine toward www.mislinks.org. This is a great beginning point for all research in missions. As you do, pause and thank God for all the sanctified techies who put this stuff together and maintain it for us. Under this umbrella site, go to PRACTICAL MISSIONS and under that find Short Term Missions. Here I recommend the following, just to shorten your search:

1. Check out the Gateways sites, particularly Overseas Short-Term Mission Trip Resources Directory and ShortTermMissions.com.
2. Under HELPS, check out Culbertson’s Short-Term Missions resources and links for a good overview. The Standards of Excellence article is very worthwhile, as well as the Alliance for Excellence in Short-Term Missions article. (For an Adventist version you may also want to go to http://news.adventist.org/data/2001/0987598403/index.html.en and read a Code of Best Practices for Short-Term Missions).

Under the Insurance links, I suggest you take a look at the einternationalhealth.com site.

The Travel Helps (MFinder.org) site is full of great mission-friendly travel organizations. And the Workbook: Send Me! from Urbana.org is worthwhile also.

3. The ARTICLES section is worthwhile, particularly the Mission Frontiers January 2001 issue. Check out also the Short Termers and the Future of American Missions article. Read also the articles Making the Most of Short-term Experiences, and the Ten Commandments for Short-Term Missions.

Seven Reasons Why You Should Never Go on a Short-term Mission Trip! may be good prophylactic reading, for some never should go!

Debriefing after the trip is one of the most important parts of short-term missions. Be sure to print out the article The Keys to a Quality Debriefing.