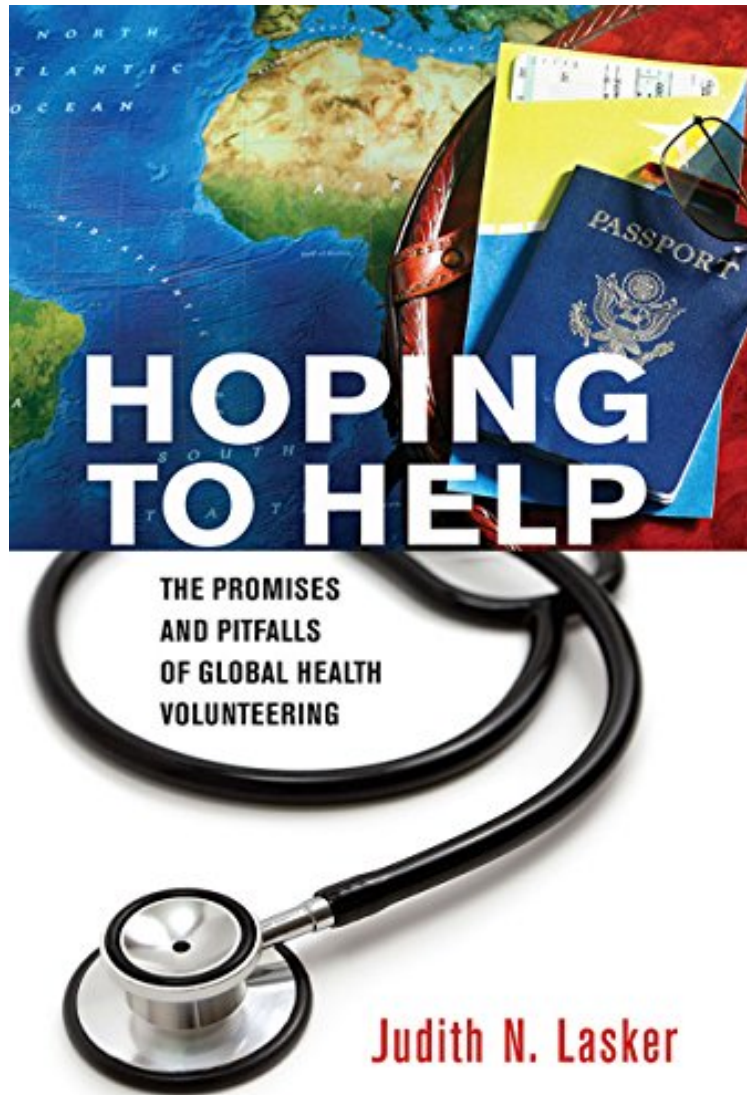


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Hoping to Help: The Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work)

Judith N. Lasker

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Judith N. Lasker : Hoping to Help: The Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hoping to Help: The Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must read for folks planning global health volunteer

opportunities. By Shailendra Prasad I really enjoyed reading this book. Dr. Lasker has done a masterful job of coming up with a wealth of references and communicates her message with remarkable clarity. This makes for a very engaging read. I strongly recommend this book for anybody involved in planning global health volunteer activities. I particularly suggest the important caution that the author poses to us in mentioning the pitfalls of global health volunteering. This is also a good book to suggest to energetic students who want to "do good" in the world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Read By Customer I loved the book and the characters. Fortunes Neck captures a period of time and offers a cast of characters that could be described as ordinary New England folk; yet the simplicity and plain spoken dialogue draws the reader in to a world that is both ordinary and profound. I loved the characters and the window into their worlds that the author provided. Sometimes I laughed out loud and sometimes I found myself nodding in agreement thinking he hit the nail on the head there. Mr. McDermott's voice, his characters, and his story draw you in and at the end I found I was reluctant to leave such company. Looking forward to his next story! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. helping whom? By Deborah Y Felio helpful though limited research comparing mission organizations and mission trips - long term/short term; one time and regularly scheduled; volunteer and paid; specialized/skilled and non skilled persons. Examines who these trips are really for and how to possibly increase effectiveness of all who are thinking about going, and even those who have been, before going again.

Overseas volunteering has exploded in numbers and interest in the last couple of decades. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people travel from wealthier to poorer countries to participate in short-term volunteer programs focused on health services. Churches, universities, nonprofit service organizations, profit-making "voluntourism" companies, hospitals, and large corporations all sponsor brief missions. *Hoping to Help* is the first book to offer a comprehensive assessment of global health volunteering, based on research into how it currently operates, its benefits and drawbacks, and how it might be organized to contribute most effectively. Given the enormous human and economic investment in these activities, it is essential to know more about them and to understand the advantages and disadvantages for host communities. Most people assume that poor communities benefit from the goodwill and skills of the volunteers. Volunteer trips are widely advertised as a means to "give back" and "make a difference." In contrast, some claim that health volunteering is a new form of colonialism, designed to benefit the volunteers more than the host communities. Others focus on unethical practices and potential harm to the presumed "beneficiaries." Judith N. Lasker evaluates these opposing positions and relies on extensive research—interviews with host country staff members, sponsor organization leaders, and volunteers, a national survey of sponsors, and participant observation—to identify best and worst practices. She adds to the debate a focus on the benefits to the sponsoring organizations, benefits that can contribute to practices that are inconsistent with what host country staff identify as most likely to be useful for them and even with what may enhance the experience for volunteers. *Hoping to Help* illuminates the activities and goals of sponsoring organizations and compares dominant practices to the preferences of host country staff and to nine principles for most effective volunteer trips.

"Many scholars have discussed the theory behind global aid and the various perils in its execution. Dr. Lasker, a professor at Lehigh University, delivers instead a straightforward, data-driven review of a small health-related fraction of the enterprise, aiming to answer a few basic questions: 'Do volunteers help or hurt?' she asks. 'In what ways?' It turns out these questions cannot be answered, at least not very precisely. Still, anyone contemplating a volunteer stint is likely to be interested in Dr. Lasker's results, which amount to a sort of de facto best-practices manual." Abigail Zuger, M.D., *The New York Times* (April 25, 2016) "This book is highly relevant to all healthcare professionals, particularly students considering an elective overseas, or dental professionals thinking about using a couple of weeks of annual leave to 'help others' abroad. . . . The publication is a triumph of social analysis and commentary, which rigorously appraises and summarises the existing body of evidence on the topic. . . . overall it is a deeply compelling read that will give you plenty of food for thought, and perhaps change your plans, practice or even your life. I would wholeheartedly recommend it." A. E. Jones, *British Dental Journal* (August 12, 2016) "The space where international health volunteering and good intentions collide can get very messy. *Hoping to Help* cleans up the mess. This book should be required reading for anyone interested in volunteering abroad in any capacity, health service or otherwise." Brandon Blache-Cohen, Executive Director, Amizade Global Service-Learning "Hoping to Help makes a clear and new contribution. The issues Judith N. Lasker examines are increasingly pressing for universities across the United States, as the trend toward internationalization is accompanied by unexpected perverse incentives and adverse impacts such as those Lasker raises. This high-quality book will appeal beyond the global health community to study abroad, service learning, and civic engagement programs, as well as church organizations and civic groups." Eric Hartman, Kansas State University "Hoping to Help has many important implications for potential international volunteers as well as universities, nongovernmental organizations, and religious organizations in particular." Benjamin Lough, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign "Hoping to Help is an important read for anyone interested in global health or participating in a global health experience. Judith N. Lasker does an excellent job of framing the

issues tied to global volunteering into a larger historical context that adds a deeper understanding as to how we have evolved to the situation we have today. She looks at the issue from many stakeholder perspectives, including, most important, that of the host community."Tricia Todd, MPH, University of MinnesotaAbout the AuthorJudith N. Lasker is N.E.H. Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Lehigh University. She is coauthor of *When Pregnancy Fails, In Search of Parenthood*, and *Equal Time, Equal Value*.