

# Short-term Mission Trips

---

## HOW DO I BEGIN?

### **Prayer...**

It is the foundational building block of your participation.

### **Purpose...**

Why go on a Short Term Mission trip? What is the purpose of the trip? Listen and God will give you His plan.

### **Pick...**

What team has God called you to? How will he use your gifts to benefit this team?

### **Process...**

Review the Guidelines and Training Manual materials. Read the FAQs for further information.

### **Patience...**

Wait on the Lord's leading. Then be patient with the Missions Team as they process your application. You will be contacted for an interview and/or placement on a team.

### **Participate...**

You can do this by being a team servant, well trained, flexible, and mature. Begin to raise the needed support. Be a student of God's word and be ready to be used for His will.

---

## SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP FAQs

### **Will I need a passport?**

Each trip is different, but generally a passport will be needed. You can find out more detailed information at <http://travel.state.gov> and download a passport application. To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of 7,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship (A birth certificate is required - no copies - must have original raised seal), and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices.

You'll need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time; if your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession; if your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago; if your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16; or if your currently valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

### **Are immunizations required?**

If traveling outside of the US, check with the CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> for the latest information about shots and medications that you may require. Please be mindful of the need to get any medications and complete shots in the specified time before leaving for the trip (generally 4 – 6 weeks before your trip).

### **How will I pay for the trip?**

Each person is required to raise the necessary financial support for his or her trip. Prayer support should also be a focus in preparing for the trip. Your support is due 60 days prior to the departure date. (This due date is to cover payments made for the trip in advance, i.e. airline tickets, lodging and transportation.) You cannot transfer donations from one trip to another. Each member of the mission team is required to do his or her part to raise the needed support. Without that support, the team may have to cancel or delay the trip.

### **What will the support I raise cover?**

It covers travel expenses, food, housing, visa or exit expenses, ministry expenses and ground transportation. You will be responsible for obtaining a passport and for covering the costs of personal needs (i.e. shots and medications) and souvenirs.

### **Will I need extra insurance?**

In addition to your personal insurance, TTOP will provide individual international insurance during your trip. The main purpose for this is to cover emergency medical evacuation costs and for emergency reunion expenses for family.

### **Will there be special training?**

A Mission Training Manual is available. Other meetings will be scheduled on team/trip basis.

### **What part do Short Term Missions play in the TTOP long-term vision?**

Short Term Missions are a part of the process that TTOP uses to accomplish our long-term vision to know Christ and make Him known. Short Term Missions helps us to partner with churches and agencies in many regions, helping us to further spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all nations.

---

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Short-term mission trips should be planned and thought out well in advance of the departure date. Those who believe that they are called to go on the trip should pray and ask God to provide the necessary funds for the trip. Team members may find it necessary to send out support letters to family and friends to ask for prayer and financial support. This process should be done with enough time to finish collecting all necessary funds at least one month from departure date. In some instances, the church may have money in the missions budget to assist with an approved mission trip.

At other times we may ask the church body to give toward a mission effort. While we want to involve the church body in these opportunities, past efforts have shown that church-sponsored rummage sales, car washes, donut sales, etc. to raise funds for trips are usually not effective, and often create more confusion than mission funding. While team members are free to raise money with these methods on their own, we will generally not permit these activities to take place at the church, nor should the church's name or resources be used to advertise any fundraising activity of this nature.

Prayer, faith and trust in God to provide are the best indicators if God has truly called an individual to a particular trip. When God is in it, He will provide all the necessary resources. *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).*

## **Sample Team-member Support Letter 1**

Dear Friends and Family,

I am writing to share with you the exciting opportunity that the Lord has provided for me this summer.

I have the opportunity to serve on a short-term mission team to South Dakota to minister to the community of Native Americans. The team is composed of members from Truth Tabernacle of Praise in Tucker, GA. We have called the team "Dakota Sonshine". Details of the trip are as follows:

When: July 20-29, 2001

Where: Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Reservation  
Sisseton, South Dakota

Cost: \$1,500.00 per team member. This covers travel, food, lodging and materials. Each team member is responsible for arranging 100% of his or her own support. 50% of my support is due by June 15<sup>th</sup> and the remainder is due by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Purpose: The first and foremost reason for going is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Indian people. WE will be doing service projects such as building a storage building, visiting rest homes and running VBS for the children on the reservation. WE will assist the Pastor of the local church to establish a puppet team and help train others to carry on the ministry.

Prayer Needs:

1. That God will open up the hearts of the people.
2. To make an impact for God's glory!
3. Team unity
4. That I will be open to what God wants to teach me.

I am so excited about this trip! Will you please prayerfully consider sharing this opportunity with me as the Lord leads you to pray or give? Financial support is essential to my going on the trip, but your commitment to pray is of equal or greater importance!

If you are able to give to this trip, please mail contributions to: Truth Tabernacle of Praise, PO Box 870068, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. All checks must be made out to Truth Tabernacle of Praise with "Dakota Sonshine" placed in the memo section of your check. Please do not put my name. You may also mark the envelope with "Dakota Sonshine" if you wish. A contribution statement will be mailed to you shortly after your contribution is received. You will need to keep this statement for tax-deduction reporting.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in partnering with me in our attempt to fulfill the Great Commission!

In Christ,  
John Smith

## Sample Team-member Support Letter 2

Dear friends and family, Can you envision a land where cows are holy, animal sacrifices are a weekly occurrence and human cremations take place daily? I want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God has presented to me. During March 28 - April 10, I will be going to Bangkok and Nepal with a team from Truth Tabernacle of Praise. Our two-week trip will focus on Hindu and Buddhist cultures in this area of the world that is often referred to as 'the heart of darkness.' The purpose of our trip is fourfold:

- First, we will be allowing God to work in our lives through the personal enrichment that comes from this type of a mission trip.
- Second, this Prayer Journey will help us focus our individual prayers by traveling to a foreign land and praying 'on-site with insight.' We will pray for the Hindu and Buddhist people that God may open their eyes and hearts to the message of Jesus.
- Third, we will be visiting an 'unreached people group' of which less than 1% is Christian. Truth Tabernacle of Praise has adopted the Newar people group and is assisting in bringing them the gospel. We will be working with some Newar churches to help them grow in their Christian walk.
- Fourth, we will encourage local Christians in Bangkok and Kathmandu. Our presence will bolster their spirits and support their work. We will visit many small villages in Nepal where we will develop relationships with the Christians there.

I'm excited about the opportunity and experience that lie ahead. I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this requires financial support from a number of people. I need to raise \$3,000 by March 20th. If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful.

And, most importantly, I also need your prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading in ministry in these countries. Without prayer, nothing will happen.

If you would like to be part of this mission through your financial support, send a check to: Truth Tabernacle of Praise, PO Box 870068, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Please make your check payable to Truth Tabernacle of Praise and write "Nepal" and on the memo line – please do not write my name on the check. All contributions are tax deductible.

While money is important, it comes in a distant second to my need for your prayer support. Since prayer support is so important to the success of this mission, I would like to know if I could count on you in that area. Enclosed is a bookmark that you can put in your Bible, on your bathroom mirror, on the "fridge", or anywhere else you will see it at least once a day. Please pray daily for the areas listed.

Because they haven't heard,

(Signed)

---

# Short-term Mission Trip Guidelines

In order to obtain the maximum impact for each Short Term Mission Trip team members are requested to read and comply with the following guidelines:

- I will remember that I am a representative of Christ and Truth Tabernacle of Praise (TTOP). I will attempt to display the spiritual values, moral conduct and likeness to Christ that TTOP embraces.
- I will seek to live an exemplary life of holiness and obedience to the commands of God found in the Bible.
- I will display a positive attitude and a servant's heart toward others and give good reports.
- Respect the culture and be aware of the host's distinctive practices of the Christian faith.
- Fulfill the requirements of mission training, field policies and debriefing.
- Raise the necessary financial support for the trip and request others to pray. I understand that my support funds are due 60 days prior to our departure date. Each team member is responsible to cover funds not raised by that date. TTOP is not responsible for covering the expenses of a team member.
- I will submit to the leadership of the Team Leader during training and on the mission field.
- I will refrain from any activity that may be construed as a romantic interest toward a national.
- I will make the necessary lifestyle adjustments in order to adapt to the culture of the community where the team is sent. This includes refraining from abusive language, drinking alcoholic beverages, using or possessing illegal drugs, smoking and disrespectful attitudes. It may also include altering eating habits, dress and interaction between males and females.
- I will not express my political opinions while on this trip due to political instability and anti-American sentiment found in many countries.