

***The Living God***  
***is a***  
***Missionary God***

***When man works,***  
***Man works;***  
***When man prays,***  
***God works.***

***Prayer changes things ...***  
***Prayer changes situations ...***  
***Prayer changes people ...***

# Mission Flock Time Commitments

Before you commit to a mission trip, it is a good idea to understand all time requirements involved. To ensure that your participation on a WCC mission team does not become burdensome, please carefully consider the following time commitments prior to, during, and after your mission trip.

Signing up for a mission trip is not just a 7, 10 or 14-day commitment. There are many aspects of team building that happen long before you depart Oklahoma City or set foot on foreign soil. We want to make sure you and your team members are prepared for the ministry ahead.

- Team Meetings: Meet 1-2 hours weekly until departure  
**(Sundays: prayer and devotional, during 2nd service + some special planning meetings)**
- Trip Preparations: May meet 1-2 additional hrs. per week until departure  
Cultural and Language Study  
Passport, Vaccinations, and other requirements  
Team building activities  
Local community service projects (1 per month)
- Length of mission trip: 7 days, Saturday to Saturday
- Post-trip Debrief: 1-2 hours one time



# \$\$\$ FUNdraising \$\$\$

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While a portion of your funds may be raised through self-initiated support letters and phone calls, fundraising events are great times to spend with team members and raise the necessary funds to top off your account.

The WCC **Silent Auction** will continue to be a major fundraiser. All donations are to be new merchandise, services, merchandise gift cards, restaurant meals, community event tickets, etc. Proceeds will be spread across multiple mission trips throughout the year. All missionaries will receive a Solicitation Letter on WCC letterhead to provide to businesses when requesting a donation. Make as many copies as needed.

Following are some additional fundraising ideas:

1. **Support Letters** -- personal communication (relationships!) makes the world go round . . . or YOU go round the world. ☺
2. **Car Wash** -- get a suntan, have fun (waterfights anyone?)
3. **Tournaments** -- everyone love tourneys. Whether it's golf, ping-pong, volleyball, skate boarding etc.. If you build it, they will come!
4. **Candy bars** -- we LUV our chocolate...AND candy bars practically sell themselves.
5. **Throw a party** – host a Home Interiors party, candle party, jewelry party or any other party and invite your friends. Have fun building even more relationships.
6. **Restaurants** -- contact a restaurant and negotiate for one night of proceeds going to the mission trip. Then get all your friends and neighbors to eat at that restaurant on the special night!
7. **Food** -- take orders, then get together and make tortillas, or some other specialty food. Host a Mexican or other ethnic food/meal at the church and sell tickets.

## BE CREATIVE!!

All fundraisers must be approved in advance by Mission Leader.

# Writing Your Support Letter

For some missionaries creating a newsletter is the primary effort made toward raising and maintaining a support base. For the receiving person, it should be informative, personal and inspiring to be effective. As senders, our support partners, friends, and relatives are very much a planned part of God's overall mission goal. Our God is a missionary God. His plan to reach all nations and all people groups is too big for just those who go. There are prayer partners, senders, mobilizers, financial supporters as well as the goers. All are equally important. All are part of His mission body. The more that we communicate how our supporters are a valued, overall part of the mission, the more likely they are to support us through prayer and funds. Our objective is to express love and appreciation, keep friends and supporters informed of our ministry, and minister to them spiritually.

## **Things to consider before writing:**

1. Keep it short (**1 page max**)
2. Write as if sharing with a friend with whom you want to share your heart
3. Include financial deadlines
4. Have good space between paragraphs
5. Use WCC letterhead and envelopes if you can
6. Model your letter after a good sample letter
7. Have a friend proof read, then give to mission team leader for a final edit
8. Pray over each letter before you send or hand out

## **What to write???**

1. Remember the primary objective of your letter is to raise Prayer Support!
2. Start by sharing what God has been doing in your life
3. Include what you believe God is leading you to do in the future
4. Explain this opportunity and why you believe you should go
5. Include some details about the trip (interesting country facts, length of trip, number of people going, types of ministry you will be doing, etc.)
6. Let them know the cost of your trip and the need for prayer (request they seek God's direction in how to support you)
7. Thank them for being a part of your life
8. Explain how they can give towards your trip, for example: mail a check in an enclosed pre-addressed envelope to WCC with your name in the memo line of the check. All checks should be made payable to Westmoore Community Church.

## **After you return**

1. Make sure to send Thank You notes to all your supporters!
2. Mail a follow up letter shortly after you return sharing highlights and/or photos of your trip

## Sample Support Letter A

Dear Friends,

God is good! If I had to summarize the last year of my life it would be this: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). My lifelong goal had been to attend the United States Air Force Academy. Everything seemed perfect until I was disqualified for asthma. I was crushed. The plan I had made lay in pieces before me. Again, God is good! He is the one who determines our steps for His purposes. I had to pick myself up and ask what God wanted me to do. After months of uncertainty, God provided a place for me at the XYZ Academy.

I am now a freshman and absolutely love it. Without a doubt I know this is where God wants me to be. With all my heart, I want to serve God and live for Him. I am learning to how do that now.

God has been molding my life and character in monumental ways over the last few years. I am learning so much about my relationship with God and others. For the first time in my life, I am discovering what Jesus meant by, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Now I have an opportunity to go to Valle Hermoso, Mexico, as a missionary. My home church, WCC, is planning this one week trip in June specifically for high school students. I will be on a team with approximately 12-15 other high school Seniors. Our goals are to lay the foundation for a new church just starting up, worship and spend time with Mexican teens in the community. It will be a tremendous opportunity to share my faith while growing spiritually. I am SO excited I wish we could leave today!

As I learn to follow God and seek His direction for my life, He is guiding me and providing for all my needs. The cost of the trip is \$500. Please pray for me as I prepare for this trip. And, please ask God to show you what to do about this opportunity -- whether that is prayer or financial support, or both. If you feel led to support me financially, please use the enclosed envelope and make all checks payable to Westmoore Community Church. It would be helpful if you could include a note with my name and Mexico with any support you send. Thank you so much for your love, support, and interest in my life and in the lives of others.

In Christ,

## Sample Support Letter B

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I have graduated and finished my student teaching. I am now substituting while trying to find a permanent teaching job for the fall. It is a strange but exciting time in my life. I am no longer dependent on parents; this seems like the last string to be cut before reaching full adulthood. It's a liberating yet fearful time, but I am confident in the provisions and purposes of the Lord.

I have had a lot more time lately without having my days filled by homework. The Lord has been teaching me a lot through the way I use this time and how it affects me from day to day. He has taught me a lot that I should be doing, showing me ways to better serve Him and truly give Him myself and my time. God has been teaching me a lot about dependence and has given me a huge peace about my uncertain future. I'm really not even concerned about getting a job for the fall. If I end up doing something besides teaching, then I know I will be exactly where He wants me at the moment and where I can bring the most glory to Him.

This summer I have an incredible opportunity to go on a mission trip with my church to the beautiful South American country of Uruguay. I have been so intrigued by this trip and God increases my desire to go. I was drawn not just by the beautiful location, but by the purpose and focus of the trip: evangelism through children and youth ministries. We will also work with children at a Down Syndrome Center. I am a little nervous about the evangelism aspect of this trip though. It kind of freaks me out and that's why I feel like God wants me to go! I know I will be stretched and grow tremendously in my faith. I am really excited about it!

I would really appreciate your support for this trip, whether it's through prayer or financially. The dates of the trip are July 22-29, so send some prayers my way that week. The cost of the trip is \$2,500 and I am confident the Lord will provide. What I would ask more than anything is that you would pray for me, that the Lord would condition my heart to be selfless and be moldable to His purposes and not mine! If you feel led to support me financially, please use the enclosed, pre-addressed envelope and make all checks payable to Westmoore Community Church. It would be helpful if you could include a note with my name and "Uruguay" with any support you send (you could also include this information on the check memo line). Thank you so much for your friendship, support, and influence. You are amazing!

Many Blessings,

## Financial Policies

1. All contributions received by WCC staff will be treated with the utmost integrity and responsibility. We commit to effectively steward all financial donations in order to increase the effectiveness of every dollar received.
2. Any monies raised above and beyond direct team expenses will be applied towards other related expenses of the WCC Missions Program.
3. Donations received will be used solely for the purpose of sending teams to an international ministry through the Missions program. Monies will cover expenses such as planning, travel, housing, meals, team supplies, and other related administrative expenses.
4. In the unusual event that a team member does not go on his/her trip, contributions will remain designated toward the WCC Missions Program as mandated by the IRS.
5. Receipts for tax purposes will be made available to any and all donors upon request in accordance with IRS regulations.

## Passports

If you don't have a passport, you need to begin the application process immediately. Certain countries require that passports are sent away in order to obtain a necessary visa. Because this needs to be done well in advance, apply for your passport promptly. For more information on obtaining or renewing passports, visit the following webpage: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/index.html>

### Passport Application Fees (as of 1/15/2009):

New Passport -Adults	\$100
Renewal of expired Passport	\$ 75
New Passport Card -1st time applicant	\$ 45
New Passport Card - Passport holders	\$ 20



### Some local US Post Offices with a Passport Office:

<a href="#">Sooner Station</a> 200 36th Ave. NW	Norman OK 73072	(405) 366-6036
<a href="#">Norman Main Post Office</a> 129 W Gray St.	Norman OK 73070-9998	(405) 321-0281
<a href="#">Stockyards Station</a> 1101 S Agnew	Oklahoma City OK 73108	(405) 234-8230
<a href="#">Reno-Meridian Post Office</a> 4901 W Reno	Oklahoma City OK 73137	(405) 942-3679
<a href="#">Oklahoma County Court Clerk</a> 320 Robert S. Kerr Ste 409	Okla City OK 73102	(405) 713-2262

# Immunizations

Along with safety, health is one of our top priorities. Many countries throughout the world require that travelers have certain immunizations in order to obtain visas and stay for any length of time. All missionaries sent out from WCC must be up to date on all required immunizations listed on the Center for Disease Control website. All recommended vaccinations will be left to the discretion of each individual missionary.



Because vaccinations vary greatly in price and some require several shots to be taken in succession, missionaries should begin the process immediately. Waiting until the last minute could impact obtaining any necessary visas, as well as put your health and peace of mind in jeopardy.

For more information on immunizations visit <http://www.cdc.gov>

**Cleveland County Health Department** will give you information about any of the immunizations listed below. Call 425-4372 for questions. To schedule appointments (for overseas vaccines) call 425-4362.

## **Pricing for Immunizations and Other Preventions:**

Typhoid (valid for 3-5 years)	\$49
Yellow Fever (valid for 10 years)	\$75
Twin Recs (Hepatitis A and B combined)	\$46 x 3 (series of 3 shots)
Meningococcal	\$68
Tetanus	free
MMR	free
Malaria (obtain Rx through Dr)	\$50-\$150 (taken orally)

# Guide to a Healthy Mission Experience...

1. Avoid gossip and slander at all costs! Go directly to the team member or leader when you have problems with them.
2. Do not pursue or cultivate romantic involvement of any kind with your team members. Pairing off and alone time is not, and will not, be allowed.
3. Do not pursue or cultivate romantic involvement of any kind with the nationals while in-country. Pairing off and alone time is not, and will not, be allowed.
4. Alcohol, drugs, pornography and sex are not permitted.
5. Do not go outside your lodging complex alone. Team members must ALWAYS communicate with their Team Leader before leaving to go anywhere. Women must always be accompanied by men.
6. Questionable TV shows, movies, and music should be avoided.
7. Only Christian music is allowed on the trip.
8. Avoid any questionable activity that could jeopardize or hinder the witness or ministry of the team or contact. The Team Leader should contact the office with any questions in this area.
9. Dancing is left up to the discretion of the team leader. No lewd or sensuous dancing.
10. Do not leave a sick team member alone.
11. All clothing worn on the trip must be modest and respectful of the culture of the country ministering to. (Including bathing suits ... no two piece suits for girls or Speedos for guys.)

**The Mission Team Leader and WCC Staff reserve the right to send anyone home who does not comply with behavioral or lifestyle policies listed in this manual. This will be done at the expense of the missionary involved.**



## Safety Protocol

All current mission sites have been approved by WCC Pastoral Staff and the missions leadership team based on prayerful review of current political and social conditions.

Missionaries are to travel in groups and are never permitted to walk alone, anywhere, for any reason.

Missionaries are to avoid labor or political gatherings and street demonstrations.

Avoid traveling at night. All bus, train, and public travel should be during daylight hours. Night travel of short distances may be permissible after evening ministry events as long as public transportation is not used.

Missionaries are not to visit bars or nightclubs of any kind for any reason.

Do not accept food, drink, or gifts of any kind from strangers.

ATM machines are to be accessed only during business hours at large protected business establishments.


Money exchanges should be taken care of by the in-country contacts or by the team leaders at protected money changing establishments. Street-market money exchanges are not to be used by missionaries (only the contacts should complete these transactions if they so choose).

Missionaries are to abide by any safety restrictions issued by in-country contacts.

The team leader holds the on-site responsibility for the safety of the team. Consequently, it may become necessary for the team leader to over rule a decision of a contact if the team leader feels that the safety of the team is in jeopardy.

Do not take photographs in or around airports, military installations/checkpoints, or bridges.

Missionaries are not to visit any area or institution where there are known cases of infectious diseases, threats of terrorism, or civil conflict of any kind.



# What to Bring



Packing can be tricky . . . how to prepare for a place you've never visited before . . . think less rather than more . . . think modest, we are guests in their country. Ladies, minimum or no jewelry (preferred) and forget about make-up, it will melt off in 5 minutes anyway.

Remember, you must be able to walk long distances with the entire luggage you bring. You never know when you'll have to run to catch a plane. You can only check one 50 lb bag on international flights (your 2nd checked bag will be team supplies provided by your team leader . . . applies to most trips). You don't need to wear clean clothes everyday of your trip (those on longer trips will have the chance to do laundry). Everybody smells a little funky while on a mission trip. Your Team Leader will advise you of specialty items you may need to pack, such as sleeping bags or mosquito nets.

For Starters:

1. Sleeping Bag, pad, or mat (check with Team Leader)
2. Pillow
3. Sunscreen
4. Work Gloves (if doing construction)
5. Bible
6. Small notebook/journal/pen/pencils
7. Extra socks and underwear (2 things you don't want to run short on)
8. Appropriate shoes (boots or safety shoes for construction)
9. Shower shoes (flip flops)
10. Anti-bacterial hand sanitizer
11. Wet wipes (you may not be able to shower everyday)
12. Small flashlight
13. Personal water container or canteen to carry with you at all times
14. Camera
15. Sunglasses
16. Pepto Bismol (tablets to keep with you at all times)
17. Imodium (or other anti-diarrhea tablets to keep with you)
18. Other personal toiletries (chapstick, baby powder, toothbrush/paste, comb, shampoo, rinse, soap, towel, wash cloth)
19. **Appropriate** church clothes for the country in which you are ministering. 1-2 sets are good. Most countries require nice dress slacks and shirt for men. Ladies - shoulders, knees and bellies to be covered. (check with Team Lead)
20. Small amount of spending money



## Debriefing...

OK, so you have gone on this incredible trip having seen God move in ways that you couldn't even imagine just a couple of weeks ago. You feel closer to Him than ever before. Jesus taught you so much each and every day of the trip. But, where do you go from here? The process of returning home and re-entering American culture is an important aspect of a complete, purposeful mission trip. Too many times, we neglect this last step of the process. Without the right mental preparation and follow-up routine, returning home from an amazing trip can be one of the most painful experiences you will face.

Also, sadly, our human nature is to go back to what is comfortable. So, following a trip of amazing ministry and serving God with every moment of our time, within a couple of weeks we can go right back to our old (normal) routine of everyday life. The purpose of a WCC mission trip is to have an **eternal kingdom effect** through short-term trips. That purpose is accomplished through shifting the focus of our service back to the community we live in. Most of us will spend more than 11 months of the year here in the States.

***God is an eternal God.  
He desires to see  
the permanent life change  
that a short-term mission trip can have.***

So, what do we do with this passion that God has given us to serve while on our trip? We direct that passion to the people of our community here at home. Our friends, family, and neighbors right here in Oklahoma need the love of Christ just as much as the children of Mexico, Uruguay, or wherever you travel! So, preparation to re-enter your home country and culture (which is referred to as debriefing) will be a commitment of every team member on every team. If you commit to going on a trip, you also commit to meeting for a short time period following your trip.

During this time of meeting, as a team you will support and encourage each other. You will also organize and participate in service projects in and around Oklahoma City to share the love of Christ that you witnessed around the world only weeks earlier.

Through this process, God's true purpose of changing lives through short-term trips will be realized. God is going to change the face and heart of Oklahoma City through these trips around the globe!

## **Practical Debriefing Tips...coping with Reverse Culture Shock**

Not everyone will be as excited to hear about your trip as you are to share with them. With this in mind, try to keep your description of the trip brief and to the point. Be very specific. Have a few key stories you can share quickly to give people a taste of your overall experience. Be intentional with what you share. Don't just say "it was amazing". Let people ask you to share more, rather than you unloading a 6-hour blah-blah-blah version of every day on the trip. It is great to have a 3-4 sentence brief description of your trip ready to share. This will allow you to get the main highlights of your trip across without losing your listeners' attention and will alleviate frustration on both sides.

Stay connected with your team members after the trip. You and your teammates now have a very special relationship and have the ability to relate to each other in ways that others cannot. Things may come up in your heart that only they understand. You will want them waiting in the wings if you start to struggle with something. Sharing your struggles and getting prayer support will go a long way during your adjustment period.

Your emotions may be all over the place in the next few weeks. Allow God to use this time of emotional openness to shape your heart and give you insight into His missionary plan for you in the future. Draw close to Him and don't allow your emotions to consume you. Don't be surprised if you feel one or more of the following:

- a) apathy toward normal everyday activities
- b) anger towards excess and materialism in this country
- c) a deep longing to return to the country you just left
- d) loneliness because no one really seems to understand what you've just experienced
- e) regret for something you didn't do on your trip
- f) lingering anger or resentment toward someone on your team
- g) guilt for having so many nice things
- h) animosity towards your home church for not doing more

Seek out opportunities to share your experience with groups. God has given you an incredible responsibility to share with others the experience He has given you. Remember your experience (like your life) is not your own ... it's God's! He wants to use it. God wants to use it to bring glory to Himself, to challenge others, to encourage the church, to open peoples' eyes, to stir up more prayer. Give back by sharing with others.

So, somewhere between the interesting food and passing through customs, it probably hit you that you're home. Don't let the first few weeks after your trip catch you off guard. For some, adjusting to life back home can often be more difficult than adjusting to a foreign culture. If you are not careful and strategic about re-entering the United States, reverse culture shock may diminish this truly amazing experience. Stay close to God, your team, and your church. Continue to pray and discuss your struggles openly with those you know will pray for you.

## MY TO DO LIST !!

\_\_\_ Turn in Missions Application & \$100 Deposit by February 8th

\_\_\_ Complete and turn in the **Medical Release Form**

\_\_\_ Give **Recommendation Form** to appropriate persons  
(applies to youth unaccompanied by either parent)

\_\_\_ Review and meet all financial deadlines.

\_\_\_ Attend all scheduled team meetings and activities  
unless cleared with team leader.



**Rip out sheet and check off as you pack . . .**

<b>Travel/Overnight bag</b>	<b>In - country bag</b>
<p>Bible</p> <p>Recommend putting all of this in one bag that can be accessed easily:</p> <p>Bedding – sleeping bag or air mattress, sheets, pillow</p> <p>Pajamas or shorts/t-shirt</p> <p>Toiletries (pack to be easily transferred to in-country bag)</p> <p>Dress clothes for church: (dress or skirt for women, khakis/polo shirt for guys) change of underwear, shoes</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>Work clothes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-one or two pair long (below knees) shorts or capris, jeans</li> <li>-one pair tennis shoes/work shoes</li> <li>-one or two old t-shirts</li> <li>-work gloves</li> <li>-hat</li> </ul> <p>VBS clothes: (bring to church daily to change into. Should need only two of each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-capris or jeans, think respectful &amp; appropriate for country visiting</li> <li>-light wt. shirt (no tank tops. Shirt must have sleeves or capped sleeves. No white t-shirts--cannot be plain)</li> <li>-tennis shoes or sandals</li> </ul> <p>Evening services: (can be the same thing worn Sunday night)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-dress or skirt and blouse for women (shoulders covered)</li> <li>-khakis and polo for guys</li> </ul> <p>General stuff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-changes of underwear</li> <li>-socks</li> <li>-bath towel, washcloth</li> <li>-toiletries- toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc</li> <li>-large water bottle or thermos for water (32-64 oz.)</li> <li>-container of wet wipes (for wiping hands, forehead, excess sweat)</li> <li>-fanny pack for money, credit card, ID, etc.</li> <li>-sunglasses</li> <li>-aspirin, Imodium, bug spray, sunscreen</li> <li>-pajamas or shorts/t-shirt for sleeping</li> <li>-camera/film</li> <li>-anti-bacterial hand gel</li> <li>-gift for host family, approx cost \$15.00</li> <li>-alarm clock (battery operated, just in case)</li> </ul>

**Put your name on all bags (and on your water bottle)!**