

SHORT-TERM MISSION GUIDE



Mission

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Dear Short-term Mission Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in Short-term Missions at Trinity Church. Mission trips are a great way to see the world, learn about a different culture, use and develop your spiritual gifts, serve people in need and experience God using you in a powerful way.

This guide will help sort through some important questions you may have before deciding to go on a short-term mission, like:

“How do I know God is calling me to go?”

“How can I pay for this trip?”

“What are the financial policies?”

“How do I get a passport?”

“How do I get a visa?”

“Do I need immunizations?”

“Will I be trained before I go?”

“What about safety and security overseas?”

For questions about a specific mission trip, please contact the team leader of that trip (see information cards at Mission information kiosk).

God is calling and mobilizing ordinary, everyday followers of Jesus Christ to do extraordinary things for the cause of the eternal kingdom of God. Simple steps of faith will lead you to Christ-honoring activities as you trust and obey.

“HOW DO I KNOW GOD IS CALLING ME TO GO?”

A checklist may help as you're contemplating a short-term mission trip. For some, the trip is a new idea. For others, it's been in your mind for years. Whatever your situation, put your thoughts down on paper.

- Is God calling ME?** This is the most important question you can ask. If God is calling you, you will sense His leading. You should feel peace about going. There may be obstacles in your way, but think of your first interest in this mission trip. Was there a clear vision for what God could do through you? Ask the Lord to show you His will on the matter.
- Is the trip objective consistent with my gifts, talents and abilities?** Test your sense of calling with Scripture, your skills, and with your previous experience of spiritual gifts.
- Would my church be supportive of my decision to go?** Check with people in your congregation and other believers. They may have insight into whether you are making a decision based on your emotions, or whether it is from God. After you turn in your application, you will need to arrange an interview with the Short-Term Mission team, who will provide feedback and official approval for your participation.
- Will my friends and family support me?** While it is not essential to have their approval, it certainly helps to consider the advice of those close to you and discuss your interest with them. Good communication on your part will strengthen your relationships.
- Is this the best time to go?** You may have the right message, but is the timing right? The two are not always the same.
- How will I pay for it?** If the Lord wants you to go on this trip, He'll provide for all your needs. Make a list of potential sources of support and ask the Lord for His plan. Remember: **Where He guides, He provides!**
- Do I have enough information to make a good decision?** Talk to someone who has already been there, and ask them what the experience was like for them. Do a little research on this mission field.

TRIP RESEARCH

As a foreigner in another country, you might feel more comfortable if you research the following subjects, keeping in mind the country, region, or city you'll be visiting.



- History
- Current Government
- Past & present relations with the United States
- Economy (local currency, exchange rates, etc.)
- Social systems (family structure, views on dating and marriage, etc.)
- Population (country, region, and city)
- Education system
- Dominant religions/local, regional & religious holidays
- Arts (crafts, dance, music, theatre, etc.)
- Forms of recreation (regional sports, adventure, gathering places)
- Transportation system
- Health risks
- Geography (land, seasonal climate, and weather)
- Forms of greeting and gestures
- Manners and customs (meal times, table etiquette, local diet)
- Appropriate dress
- Work habits (hours of doing business, professionalism, types of labor)
- Tipping and other forms of compensation

Keep in mind how your gender plays a role in customs and courtesies between men and women in most countries.

“HOW CAN I PAY FOR THIS TRIP?”

When God calls someone to join Him on mission, He will always provide for any need, including financial support. You will need to begin building a support team made up of people who will offer you prayer support, financial support and emotional/spiritual encouragement. The first step is finding out who these people are and asking them to be involved in what God is doing in your life.

You may be in a position which allows you to completely fund your trip with your own personal resources. Though that is a great blessing, please consider allowing others the opportunity to support your mission trip. If not for your own trip expenses, perhaps the funds could go toward the mission project or even others on the team who may struggle to rally support with their friends and family. Regardless, you need a support team that will pray and encourage you as you embark upon your new adventure.

No one can stand alone...you need others in the body of Christ for your ministry to be effective. There are those who are eager to join your team for support, and you don't want to deprive them of the blessing of giving to God's work! Remember – it is God's work! Those who pray and give need to see themselves as a part of your team, united with the common cause of making the mission as effective as possible. On a team, everyone has a responsibility, so those who pray and give are just as important as those who go and serve.

Who should be on your support team? Everyone you know! This may include friends from school, work, church as well as relatives and neighbors. Don't make any decisions based on income or financial status of any kind. If they are not currently involved in mission work at all or not even Christ followers yet – great! This may be a witnessing tool God uses to speak to someone. However, you should pray for the Lord to lead you to whom you will ask. He will guide the people whom he wants to support you. His ways are higher than ours, so trust Him!

BASIC STEPS TO SUPPORT DISCOVERY

Building your support team takes time, energy, and hard work. The best place to start is with prayer. Hard work does not make things happen in the kingdom of God – God will make it happen!

- **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would lead people to be involved and for you to discern who to ask
- **Brainstorm** names of potential support team members
- **Develop** a spreadsheet with the contact information of support team members for communication purposes
- **Send** a personal letter to invite others to join you in this mission
- **Write** thank you notes to all those that support you in any way



THREE AREAS OF SUPPORT

1. Prayer Support – this is your primary need. Satan will be working to distract and frustrate you because you are about to enter his territory when you serve the Lord on the mission field. You need as many people as possible who will diligently pray for you and the team. Ask them to pray at least once a week before you leave and daily while you are on the trip. Here are some specific things to ask for prayer:

- The people you will be serving
- Team unity
- Boldness in sharing the gospel with others
- Your health
- Your family at home
- Safety in travel
- God to be pleased with your service

2. **Financial Support** – This type of support should be secondary to prayer; however, it is important to challenge people to give. By giving, believers are able to be involved in the advancement of God's kingdom while they exercise their dependence on the Lord in their finances. In this way they are able to serve as senders by giving to kingdom causes. God will lead different people to give in ways you can't imagine. Because of this, do not depend on wealthy people to support you. The widow on a fixed income or the person who makes minimum wage may just turn out to be your greatest contributors. Recall the story of the widow's mite? (*Mark 12:41-44*).

3. **General Support** – There are many other ways that friends and family can support you. The following are some ideas:

- Provide some personal expenses for clothing, souvenirs, etc.
- Take care of your home, pets, or plants
- Provide supplies for your project
- Write notes of encouragement for each day you're on the field
- Give you a small package filled with items of encouragement like: bookmarks, music CDs, poems, notes, scripture, etc.
- Take you to the airport
- Welcome you home upon arrival
- Allow you to share your experiences and pictures



OTHER WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS

If financial support does not come in as anticipated, there are alternative ways to raise financial support. Here are a few suggestions:

- Hold a yard sale
- Sell items online that you no longer need
- Rent yourself out for yard work, house work or errands
- Take orders for any homemade items you can sell
- Speak to a Bible study group or mission group in your church
- Challenge youth in your church to contribute supplies
- Ask businesses to donate supplies

TRACKING CONTRIBUTIONS

When you send the support letter out, provide a self-addressed envelope (with your home address on it). The check should be written to Trinity Church, but sent directly to you. Be diligent in keeping up with financial contributions. Use a spreadsheet or database to record contact information and amount given (Microsoft Excel works great!). As you receive checks or contributions, keep them in a special place. Record the amount in your database so that you have dual records in case the checks become missing. As checks come in, bring them to the church for deposit (*put the checks in an envelope with your name, mission trip name and total amount of all checks enclosed*). You may want to keep copies of checks for your records.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SUPPORT TEAM

There are **five** phases of support team building. Keep in mind you are building a team, and communication is the key. There are several mailings involved, so use your database software for generating letters and labels.

PHASE 1 - INFORMATION LETTER

This is the initial Prayer/Financial Support Request letter. You need to send this letter as soon as you are approved for the trip (*at least 3-4 months before the trip date*). Later in this guide you will find examples of this type of letter.

Be very specific and mention the following items:

- Where you are going
- What organization you are going with
- Why you are going
- What you will do
- How this fits into your life plans
- How much support you need
- What the support is for (airfare, food, lodging, in-country transportation, project expenses, etc.)
- How they can contact you (phone, address and email)
- The gifts are tax deductible
- Where to send the support (to your home address)
- The date by which you need your support raised (several weeks before your actual deadline – if possible)
- How the check should be made out

To: Trinity Church

Memo: Mission to: (country name)

Concentrate on excellence in your letter to future supporters. Use quality paper, not just copy paper. Make sure you use the person's name in the introduction, and by all means do your homework and do not misspell their name. Sign the letter in colored ink other than black and leave a little room at the bottom to make a personal note. Think of ways that they can be more involved, like inviting them to special prayer times or information meetings so they can join you in the preparations. Ask them to help you shop, pack, or borrow something from them for the trip. Make your letter very personal and be transparent about what you feel God is doing in your life. You may wish to include a Bible verse. Have someone proofread the letter for

grammar, spelling and punctuation. Make it easy to read with spaces and headings. *IMPORTANT: Limit the letter to one or one and a half pages.*

Items to include in the envelope:

- A self-addressed return envelope with your home address on it. *(The return envelope should come back to your address with a check made to "Trinity Church".)*
- A commitment card to indicate the level of support *(these are provided from the Mission department)*
- An item to keep as a reminder to pray for you *(a bookmark or magnet with your mission trip description, a picture of you or of the place you will be going, etc.)*

PHASE 2 - THANK YOU NOTES

When support comes in, respond promptly with a personal handwritten thank you note. Realize this is a special gift! This warrants some thoughtful communication on your part.

PHASE 2.5 (IF NECESSARY)

If support is not coming in as anticipated, you may want to send a reminder postcard, e-mail or make a personal phone call to those who have not responded. Most people will put the return envelope in a basket with utility bills and other payments and simply forget to send it out. The letter may become lost in the mail, picked up by someone else, or placed in a wrong pile in the home. Or they may just be procrastinating, not realizing that you have important deadlines to keep. This is just a gentle reminder to those people who really feel led to support you. Use the note to communicate how much money you have raised so far and what you are doing to prepare for the trip. Do not use this as a guilt trip.

"Other than the letter itself, the absolute best way to raise funds is a personal follow-up call. Granted, most people are able to send letters and simply wait for responses via mail, but when that does not work within two to four weeks, a phone call is the best way to move forward. Many are reluctant to make such a call from fear of being "pushy", but a polite non-pressure call can make all the difference. Some advantages of a call: it makes your appeal much more personal; it confirms whether they received and/or read the letter; it provides a natural forum for the recipient to ask questions; it serves as a reminder to the recipient; it enables the missionary to more quickly determine the intentions of the recipient; and it provides a personal way for the missionary to gather prayer requests."

– From an experienced fund raiser

PHASE 3 - FOLLOW-UP PRAYER LETTER OR E-MAIL

Send one more communication before you leave to follow-up with those who have committed to support you with prayer, finances or other help. Mention specific prayer requests, itinerary and other details about the trip.

PHASE 4 - POSTCARDS AND A GIFT FROM THE FIELD

Take a set of labels with you on the trip to send all of your supporters a postcard from the mission field. People love to get foreign postcards with international stamps. Remember to put **USA** on the label since you will be sending it from another country. Also remember to get a small gift (coin, picture, sticker, flag, etc.) for each of your supporters to send with a debrief letter after you return.

PHASE 5 - DEBRIEF LETTER

When you return, send out a letter with at least one story of your adventure and something you learned about yourself on the spiritual journey. Add a sheet of copied pictures and possibly a small gift (*see above ideas*). This is also a good time to include an invitation to a mission trip gathering where you can share pictures, experiences and maybe even a taste of what you had while on the field. Give them the opportunity to see who they were able to minister to by being on your support team.





OTHER NOTES ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Remember that personal face-to-face conversation is always best when communicating about your trip. You can communicate your passion, commitment, and excitement better when speaking in person. Your voice, tone and body language add power to your appeal and you can get instant feedback as to how others are receiving your message and request.

Most Christians are going to invest in someone's mission trip because they have "caught the vision" of the good things that can happen (and not because they think you are in some kind of desperate need). They are hoping their money will result in changed lives, so when speaking and writing, emphasize vision over need.

OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS

You may feel uneasy about asking people to support you. The enemy will try to discourage you in the process, causing you to think of yourself as a beggar or one not worthy of support. Hopefully some of these examples may be helpful:

- **“I just can’t bring myself to ask for money.”** Remember, you’re not asking for yourself, but for the mission. You don’t get to keep the money; they are giving through you, not to you! Ask yourself two questions: “Is the project a good mission investment? Has God called you to go?” If both answers are yes, then act out of humility and obedience, and let God provide the blessing.
- **“I don’t know enough people.”** You may not know a large number of people, but the people you do know most likely have a very strong relationship with you and would like to support you.
- **“The people I know aren’t interested in Christian mission work.”** You should allow them to decide that. You’d be surprised who responds and gives to a particular cause. Do you not believe that God will bless the mission? Then it stands to reason that He will bless others also.
- **“This will cost me a lot of money in postage and paper”.** You’re correct, but you may be able to raise more than twenty times the cost. Think of the personal investment you will make as “sowing seed” and the support you’ll receive as a “multiplied harvest.”
- **“This plan has risks – it may not work for me.”** It’s possible this plan won’t work well for you in your circumstance. However, it is also possible that it might work better than you ever imagined. The only way to fail completely is to do nothing at all. Why not take the risk, make the investment in time and money, and learn from the experience (no matter how much support comes in)?

TRINITY CHURCH FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. A 20% deposit is required by the application due date to secure a place on a mission team. The funds raised for a mission trip are non-refundable. You must allow enough time in your preparation to build a support team and raise funds needed for a deposit. The deposit alone is evidence of your sincerity and commitment to the mission trip. You must have 100% of the total cost submitted one month prior to the trip date in order to purchase plane tickets, secure lodging and to pay other expenses.
2. If you raise more than the required trip cost, any excess funds will go into a mission fund to be used in the following manner:
 - a. Excess funds will be used to assist other mission team members needing support in order to meet total team budget expenses
 - b. If the mission team meets the required budget expenses, then excess funds can be applied to the mission project for ministry supplies
 - c. Any excess funds not used for this mission trip will be rolled over into a general mission fund for future mission projects.
3. All funds given for mission trips must be given to Trinity Church with no personal designations (no strings attached) to be considered tax deductible.

Principle: When building a support team, you are raising money for Trinity Church for a specific mission project, not for personal use. The I.R.S. does not recognize gifts to or for individuals.

When you ask for support, do not say "I need \$1,000 to go on my mission trip to...", but instead say, "I am raising funds for Trinity Church and the mission to _____ (country). My portion of the team commitment is \$ _____."

4. If for any reason you are unable to fulfill your commitment to go on the

mission trip, you will be responsible for all pre-paid expenses incurred on your behalf (i.e. airfare, lodging, training expense, etc.). Additionally, it is your responsibility to communicate to your support team regarding your inability to participate in the mission and to assure them that the funds will be used for the intended purpose.

5. If you have difficulty raising funds for your portion of the team commitment before the due date, you must make an appointment with the mission pastor to discuss your specific situation. You must show adequate effort in raising funds before assistance is given. If no reasonable effort has been made to raise funds and if you are unable to pay the trip cost balance by the due date, then you will forfeit your place on the team.

IRS GUIDELINES

According to the I.R.S., your donation is considered tax-deductible only if it is “given unconditionally and without personal benefit to the donor;” and that it is given to a qualified non-profit organization “without any personal benefit to any individual within that organization”.

Due to these I.R.S. qualifications, if for some reason you are unable to go on the mission trip, Trinity Church is unable to refund your donations. However, you can be assured that the funds will go toward the intended project. The church must have “full discretion as to the use of funds so as to insure that they will be used to carry out its functions and purposes.”

Trinity Evangelical Free Church is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of California. All donors who give \$250 or more will receive a confirmation of their gift by January 31 of the following year in accordance with I.R.S. guidelines. For gifts of less than \$250, the cancelled check is sufficient proof for the I.R.S.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER - ONE

Sample Support Letter

Dear Friends and Family,

Please take the following multiple-choice test to learn what is happening this summer.

- 1) This summer I will:
 - a) Quit my job and sell sun tan lotion in Hawaii
 - b) Go to Bulgaria on a mission trip in June
 - c) Get married!
 - d) Do nothing

Answer: b (Why didn't any of you pick c?)
- 2) While in Bulgaria, I will:
 - a) Study the compose of wheat bulgar for baking
 - b) Help remove communist statues from big buildings in a single bound
 - c) Work with SEND International teaching English for the purpose of relationship evangelism and church planting
 - d) Be in Bansko (a small resort town)
 - e) c and d

Answer: e (I will be with an English team assisting the church in Bansko.)
- 3) The cost of my trip is:
 - a) Nothing, I am a lottery winner
 - b) \$1,800.00
 - c) \$4,500.00
 - d) \$25.00

Answer: b
- 4) Would you consider:
 - a) Helping me iron my clothes before I go
 - b) Joining me as a pray partner
 - c) Joining me as a financial partner
 - d) Calling my Mom and telling her it is OK for me to travel on an airplane
 - e) All of the above

Answer: e (But especially b and c. I desire to have partners in this ministry. Please prayerfully consider if God would have you be a part.)
- 5) To make a financial contribution:
 - a) Make check payable to "Trinity Church"
 - b) Designate Bulgaria Mission Trip
 - c) Mail to me at above address
 - d) All of the above (Support Deadline is June 1)

Answer: d

God Bless,
Joe Missionary

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER - TWO

Sample Support Letter

Dear Friends and Family,

I am writing to share with you the fantastic opportunity that the Lord has provided for me this summer. I have been chosen to serve on a short-term mission team to the Fiji Islands. The team is composed of Trinity Church members and we will be working in tandem with AFC International.

When: August 1-16, 2009

Where: The Fiji Islands

Cost: \$1900.00 per team member. This covers airfare, food and materials. Each team member is responsible for raising 100% of his/her financial and prayer support.

Purpose: The first and foremost reason for going is to share the message of Jesus Christ with the Fijian people. We will be working with Bible College students in Latoka, Fiji. We will be going into schools, which are primarily Hindu, where we will share Christ through drama, music, and testimonies. In addition, we will organize Backyard Bible Clubs for children. It is the hope of the Christian leaders to use these means of outreach to start a church.

Prayer needs:

1. That God will open the hearts of the people we minister to
2. Team Unity
3. That I will be open to what God wants to teach me

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

If you would like to be involved, please make a check payable to Trinity Church and mail it to me in the enclosed return address envelope. In the memo section of the check write: "Mission to Fiji"

Thank you and may God bless us as we serve Him together.

In Christ,

Joe Missionary

PS: My support is due June 1.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER - THREE

Sample Support Letter

Date

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «FirstName»,

You may be aware, since January, El Salvador in Central America has experienced one major and two minor earthquakes ranging from 6 to 7.6 on the Richter scale. This has destroyed or damaged over 184,000 homes, killing over 700 and injuring over 4400 innocent people. The devastation has been described as worse than when Hurricane Mitch hit in 1998. To put this in perspective, the earthquake last month in the Northwest was rated 6.8 and was estimated to have caused over 1 billion in damage. The first earthquake to rock El Salvador during January was rated 7.6, think of the devastation (the great earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco was an 8.0).

This year as in past, Trinity Church is sending a delegation on a short-term mission trip. Last year we built 10 homes in 10 days with the help of others from the Peace Corp and Habitat for Humanity. Like last year, I will be one of those attempting to help the people of El Salvador by building additional homes. This year 22 people from Trinity Church will live and work in El Salvador from April 7th through April 16th, joining many others from around the world to build for the people.

This is a task that can only be accomplished with your help. To send each team member the cost is \$1000 plus the building supplies. Our church has already raised a significant amount of money for the supplies but any additional funds would be beneficial.

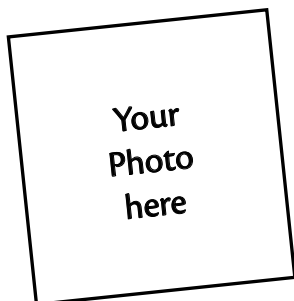
I have enclosed an envelope and pledge form hopefully for your use. Please make your tax deductible donations out to Trinity Church and write on the memo line "El Salvador Mission". Return your donation to me by March. If you cannot participate monetarily, I understand and I just ask that you pray for us while we are in El Salvador. Either way I will update you with pictures upon return.

Love in Christ,

Joe Missionary

SAMPLE BOOKMARK

Joe Missionary



Mission trip to

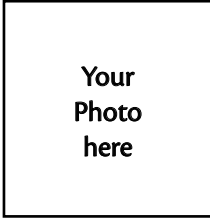
COUNTRY NAME

Pray for:

- **Holy Spirit's** Guidance
- **Our** Spiritual Readiness
- **Adjustment** to time zone
- **Overcoming** language and cultural barriers
- **Our** sensitivity to their needs
- **GOD** to be glorified

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8

SAMPLE BUSINESS CARD MAGNET



Country Name

Date of Service

Please pray for me
& the other volunteers

Trinity Church, Redlands, CA

SAMPLE COMMITMENT CARD

(provided by Trinity Church)



Mission Commitment Card

- I will support your mission by praying for you daily.
- Enclosed is my tax deductible gift to the Mission Trip.

Name

Make checks payable to:
"Trinity Church" with Mission to _____ in the memo.

[] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$100 [] other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ (o) _____ (c) _____

Email _____

“HOW DO I GET A PASSPORT?”

A passport is an official booklet that tells who you are and establishes your country of citizenship. It is issued by the government and is valid for ten years for adults. Passports must be valid six months past your intended departure. If it expires while on a trip you may be refused entry back into the United States. See the post office website for special rules on minors.

To apply for a new passport you will need to go to your local post office and apply in person. The processing and application fee along with shipping and photos usually costs around \$100. It takes approximately 6-8 weeks to get a passport, depending on the season.

Before applying, you will need the following items:

- **Birth certificate** – A certified copy of your birth certificate (with the state or county raised seal) which can be obtained at the Vital Records office of the county where you were born.
- **Passport photographs** – Two identical passport photographs with white backgrounds on 2” x 2” paper. Photos can be obtained in some post office locations as well as in most stores that have photo processing centers.
- **Valid drivers license** – For ID verification.
- **Cash or check** – The post office does not accept credit cards for passport applications.
- **Certified proof of name change** – required only when applicable.

For more current information, go to www.USPS.com/passport



“HOW DO I GET A VISA?”

A visa is a stamp which is placed into your passport by the embassy or a consulate of the country that you wish to visit, giving you permission to enter that country. The stamps are different for each country.

Leave enough time before your departure to obtain the necessary visa, particularly if you also have to apply for a passport first.

If you need more than one visa, you may want to consider using a visa processing agent. There is a cost for the service, but they will handle all of the visa stamps at the same time.

There are several different types of visas. For short-term mission trips you will need a visitors/tourist visa. Avoid selecting the word “missionary” or “work” on the line regarding the purpose for going. Missionary visas are for longer-term commitments in the country than what a short-term trip needs, and work visas imply “for-profit” travel.

When asked about your purpose for visiting the country, avoid this type of statement: “I am going to work with missionaries.” You are going to visit them (mainly because you will be there for such a short time). Using the word “work” may cause you to apply for a work visa which may cost more, delay the process, and even risk a refusal if work visas are being severely restricted to let the nationals fill the jobs. Don’t forget, the best thing you can do is consult your mission agency and/or team leader before applying for your visa. Not all countries require a visa, so check the embassy website for travel advisories.

For more information, go to www.travel.state.gov



“DO I NEED IMMUNIZATIONS?”

When traveling to some international destinations it is important to receive immunizations to protect from diseases with which you may come in contact. To determine if immunizations are required, you should research the Centers for Disease Control (*see contact information below*), taking into consideration the country and region where you will be visiting. Once the “required” and “recommended” immunizations have been determined, you should schedule an appointment with either your physician or your county’s Department of Public Health for shots and/or prescriptions. Some immunizations require a follow-up and may need to be issued several weeks or months before entry into a country, so it is important to watch your departure date and be immunized accordingly.

NOTE: *If you are obtaining your vaccinations from a physician, give sufficient notice so that the proper vaccines can be ordered in time, since physicians do not normally keep these serums.*

When talking to your health official, find out about the differences between “required” and “recommended” immunizations. Shots that are “required” are necessary for your entry into a country or re-entry back into the U.S. “Recommended” are your own decision, so make sure you get what you need.

There is a yellow-colored vaccination booklet which provides verification that the required immunizations for both the U.S. (for re-entry purposes) and the country visited have been obtained. **The county Department of Public Health will issue this booklet for you during the immunization process.**

For more information, go to **www.CDC.gov** or call (888) 232-3228

“WILL I BE TRAINED BEFORE I GO?”

To help with your questions and prepare you for the trip, Trinity Church expects all short-term mission participants to attend a special training course called “Transforming Missionaries: A Guide to Short-Term Mission”.

This training was designed to help you bond with your team, learn to travel as a team, develop a Christ-like understanding of a different culture, and how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a contextualized mission project. Here are the topics for training:

- Session 1 Team work and Team Building** – Emphasizing the importance of team work while on the mission field.
- Session 2 Travel and Packing** – Practical training on what to take and how to take it to maximize efficiency and minimize confusion.
- Session 3 Language Skills and Cultural Adaptation** – Learning to interact with another language and build a bridge for cultural understanding.
- Session 4 Ministry Preparation** – Spiritual grounding for taking the world’s most important message to people in other lands.
- Session 5 Final Details** – Verifying schedules, logistics and preparations so that you can experience “divine interruptions”.

“WHAT ABOUT SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSEAS?”

You will also receive training on travel safety. Basic rules you will learn:

1. **Stay together as a team** – Travel in groups of two or more when shopping, eating, and even to the restroom.
2. **Leave all valuable or sentimental items at home** – Don’t take anything that would attract thieves to target you.
3. **Be aware of your surroundings** – Don’t be distracted by crowds. Keep close to each other in airports, bazaars and on the street.
4. **Don’t leave your bags unattended** – Hold them tightly in crowds. Keep cameras and video equipment close to you.
5. **Learn the word for “help” in the local language.**

TRAVEL RELATED WEBSITES

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRAINING

www.TransformingMissionaries.org

TRAVEL TIPS ON PACKING, PLANNING, TRAVELING LIGHT

www.travelite.org www.ricksteves.com

www.oratory.com www.onebag.com

www.budgettravel.com

INTERNATIONAL PHONE CARDS, SATELLITE & MOBILE PHONES

www.paytone.com www.gmpcs-us.com

www.globedialer.com

TRAVEL CLOTHING AND OUTDOOR GEAR

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www.wintersilks.com www.travelsmith.com

www.ems.com www.sierratradingpost.com

www.rei.com www.walkabouttravelgear.com

TRAVEL AGENCIES & FLIGHT RESERVATIONS

www.MTS.com www.travelocity.com

www.orbitz.com www.kayak.com

www.etn.nl/lcosteur.htm

WORLD CURRENCY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

www.xe.com

OTHER

www.CDC.gov www.travel.state.gov

www.USPS.com/passport www.customs.ustreas.gov

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8



Mission

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