PREPARATION RESOURCES


Caleb Resources provides high quality mobilization resources focused on bringing Christ to the least reached people groups of the world. Access this information at www.takeitglobal.org.

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“Olive MISSION TEAM
Mission Preparation Guide

“I am the Lord, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,
Nor My praise to graven images.
Isaiah 42:8

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Preparing For A Short Term Mission Trip

The secret to a successful mission trip is preparation, and the key to preparation is to **start as early as possible.** Give yourself at least four months. Remember that going on a mission trip is a joint effort involving you, the mission team, your support team, the field hosts, and many others. Commit to the trip as early as possible so that those involved have time to help you succeed with the trip preparations. The following list of preparations is typical for short term mission trips.

**Spiritual Preparation.** Preparing yourself spiritually is important. Adequate spiritual preparation is essential to prepare for spiritual warfare that comes with mission work. Seek the Lord’s guidance and develop a heart for the people and the work through focused study and prayer. Books and guides are available in the missions office and in the church library that can help with personal spiritual preparation.

**Support Team.** Build a cadre of people who will support you with prayer and funds. The sooner the team is formed, the greater the prayer saturation. If you need financial support, you should provide your team adequate time to source funds. Generally, you will experience less anxiety and rely less on church mission funds if you give your support team adequate time to pray and give.

**Passports/Visas.** As of this date, new passports and renewals are taking over 13 weeks to process and return. Many wait too long and pay nearly double the cost to get an expedited passport. If a visa from an embassy is required, an additional 4 weeks of processing time is needed. Expedited visa processing significantly drives up the cost of visas and adds unnecessary risk of not making the trip. Remember, you must renew your passport if you will have less than six months until expiration at the conclusion of the trip.

**Flight Planning.** On international flights, Olive gets a significant discount through mission-friendly travel agencies. These flights are booked more than two months in advance to get the best rates. Those that do not make the group list must be booked separately at higher rates. They also risk not getting on the same flight with the group if the flight is sold out.

**Host Planning.** Missionaries who serve as hosts do an incredible amount of planning for mission teams. Food, lodging, transportation, interpreters, projects and more are arranged based on team size and skill sets of team members. Host planning is facilitated by early identification of team size and assessment of skills and qualifications.

**Administrative Preparation** – When you decide to go, let the church and the team leader know promptly by completing the Mission Trip Application Form in the “Team Participant Forms” section at this web link. Take the form to the church office or mail it to “Missions” at the church address list on the brochure cover. Other forms that must be completed by all participants are the Release Form and Medical Health Questionnaire. Complete the Financial Aid Form and Parental Affidavit Form if applicable to your situation. Your team leader will provide additional information on administrative requirements according to the circumstances of the trip.
Missions Education and Training

Missions Education. Olive short term mission candidates are required to complete the Impact Your World course and a LYNTYS course (optional) before going. Serious harm can result if you don’t know what you are doing on the mission field. These courses are conducted quarterly or semi-annually so advanced planning is needed to make enrollment.

Skill Training. Early identification of skill deficiencies provides lead-time to get training you need. If you are involved in a construction, VBS, or other mission team, you may want to improve your skills before the trip. Taking classes, volunteer work, or seeking opportunities to practice are ways to sharpen your abilities.

Language Training. People in other cultures respond favorably when you attempt to communicate in their native tongue. The best time to learn basic phrases is while you are at home and not on the flight to your destination. There are excellent software resources available on the internet to help with language study.

Cultural Training. It is vital to learn as much as you can about the history and culture of the people-group you will visit. Some behaviors we take for granted can offend and lead to damaged relationships with people your host has worked with over a period of time. Moreover, you need to know how to respond properly in cultures hostile to the gospel so as not to jeopardize the work in that culture.

Physical Training. Understand that most mission trips will be physically demanding. Prepare to fight jet lag, hard labor, and adverse environmental conditions by getting in shape before you go. You may also need certain immunizations for your location that must be administered over an extended period of time.

Team Building. Meeting with your mission team prior to departing is very important. The trip leader should schedule meetings to communicate information about the trip and to engage in team building exercises. The purpose of team building is to get to know the various personalities and abilities of each member so as to better use the talents of each person during the trip. An equally important purpose is to reduce interpersonal conflicts that naturally develop when people who are unfamiliar with each other are joined together in a demanding environment.

Prayerwalking. Mission trips to culturally sensitive areas often involve prayer walking. Learn all you can about it and give yourself time to practice before you go. Avail yourself to team training in prayer walking during your mission team meetings.
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