

Short Term Mission Team Information and Forms

Thank you for your interest in Messiah Projects Short Term Mission Team Program. We have put together a concise team package to assist you if you are considering coming to work with us. The package has been arranged into five sections.

- 1) General Group Information
- 2) Counting the Cost
- 3) Pre-trip Preparations
- 4) Things to Bring
- 5) Liability Release Agreement/ Emergency Medical Information Forms

1. General Group Information

Team Size: It is our heart to see all those having a desire to serve, come. However, in order to provide adequate accommodations and cost effective ministry during your stay we have established team size limits for each facility. The Land of Judah facility is 12 maximum and 6 minimum. The Waspam facility is 6 maximum and 4 minimum.

Policies and Procedures: We ask that visiting teams comply with and complete the following:

- 1) It is best to book your group's trip at least six months ahead in order to secure the dates you want. A non-refundable 10% deposit is required to secure your teams dates. The deposit will be applied to the team's overall cost. Upon request, we will honor "penciled in" dates without a deposit for a period one month for teams booking at least six months in advance and two weeks for teams booking three months in advance. **It is the visiting team leader's responsibility to secure their teams dates.**
- 2) Six weeks prior to the team's arrival date, 60% of the teams overall cost will need to have been received by Messiah Project. The remaining 40% will need to arrive at our office no later than two weeks before the group's arrival date. This will ensure adequate time to prepare for your teams arrival.
- 3) All visiting team members are required to have health/travel insurance through an agency of their own choice. There are several agencies that offer low cost travel insurance. Copies of your travel insurance should be submitted with the Medical Information form on page 8.
- 4) It is the visiting team leader's responsibility to ensure that all the required forms are completed, signed and given to their Messiah Project team leader upon arrival in Nicaragua.
- 5) It is not our policy to require groups to have a series of shots before coming to serve in Nicaragua. However, we do strongly recommend that each team member has a current Tetanus and Hepatitis-A shot. We also strongly encourage each team member to following their doctor's recommendations as well as any policy their Church or organization may have concerning travel abroad.
- 6) We do require that all policies and procedures be completed before allowing your team to participate in Messiah Project's short term team program.

Conduct: II Cor.5:20 "Now then, we are Ambassadors for Christ..."

Personal: As a short term mission team member, you will be representing the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere you go and to everyone you are with, including those within your own team. As such, each person should seek to conduct themselves in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord, reflecting at ALL times the fruits of the Spirit in everything you do and say. Remember that love, joy, peace, gentleness, temperance and longsuffering (flexibility) are essential in maintaining a spirit of unity and the Lord's blessings on your efforts.

Group: The Messiah Project missionaries working with your team have years of experience working with teams in the field. All decisions are made with the group's best interest and safety foremost. We recognize the responsibility of the team's leadership and always seek to work in a spirit of co-operation, mutual respect and courtesy. We must ask however, that all visiting teams agree to comply with and submit to the leadership and spiritual authority of Messiah Project in decisions regarding group policies and activities during your stay. We assure you, we would certainly do same if we were visiting you.

Dress Code: I Cor.9:22 "...I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means win some".

In the spiritual context of this scripture, we must always be sensitive to the culture we are ministering in. For this reason and this reason alone, we believe that modesty in our dress code is the best policy.

Women/Girls: Pants or caprice may be worn while ministering in the villages but for church services, a dress or skirt that extends below the knees is preferred. Blouses or tops should be modest and non-reveling in design which excludes spaghetti straps or other thin strapped blouses. Shorts with a length near the knee cap can be worn while at the facility's group dorm areas and on the shopping day. No short shorts please. For footwear, pair of tennis shoes or lightweight shoes, some sandals and shower shoes are recommended.

Men/Boys: Long pants are required during ministry activities. Shorts with lengths near the knee cap are allowed while at the facility's group dorm areas and on the shopping day. Tank top, muscle shirts or shirts exposing the abdominal region should not be brought. For footwear, work boots, tennis shoes or lightweight shoes, some sandals and shower shoes are recommended.

We have found that lightweight pants and tee shirts or button up shirts/ blouses afford the most comfort. Please be sure to bring enough clothing for your trip as there are no laundry services available.

Servant-hood: Phil2:7 "...and He (Jesus) took upon himself the form of a servant" As a short term missionary we should seek to live a life of selflessness in remembering to serve the needs of others before our own. It is only when we serve others that we can truly know the Joy of the Lord.

2. Counting the Cost

In an effort to make your trip as affordable as possible, we prefer that your team has the flexibility to find the best pricing on airfare to Nicaragua. Once your team arrives in Nicaragua, we have set a cost of \$80.00 per person per day. A day is defined as a night spent in Nicaragua. For example, a team arriving on a Saturday for one week of ministry and departing the following Saturday would be calculated as 7 (seven) days. In calculating the number of days, we begin with the arriving day but do not include the departing day. Therefore, $\$80.00 \times 7(\text{days}) = \560.00 per person.

Note: For teams traveling to our Waspam facility, an additional cost of \$170.00 per person will be added for the in-country round trip flight on La Costena airlines.

What's included:

Transportation. Messiah Project staff will be waiting at the Managua airport when your team arrives with van transportation to the dorm facilities at our Land of Judah Orphanage. Transportation to all Ministry outreaches and events as well as to the airport the morning of your departure is provided.

Food: Traditional Nicaraguan breakfasts, lunches and dinners are provided and served at the dorm facilities. A sandwich sack lunch is provided for days of outreach ministry in surrounding villages. We also provide safe, purified water as well as climate friendly drinks such as iced tea and/or Gatorade.

Shopping Day: One day is provided during your trip to spend shopping in the local souvenir shops of Masaya. There are some wonderful *buys* to be found. Many also enjoy visiting the Masaya volcano and the historic town of Granada.

What's not included:

Should your group desire other types of drinks such as Coke, Pepsi, ect., these can be purchased by the group at their own expense. At times our teams enjoy having a meal at a local restaurant to experience more of the Nicaraguan culture. We are happy to work with the team's leadership to coordinate the best time for this in the week's activities. However, the cost of that meal(s) is at the group's expense and is not considered as a "provided meal". No deduction in the per-day cost will be made should you opt to dine out.

Transparency:

The Board of Messiah Project has made every effort to keep the cost of your trip affordable while allowing for a percentage of the cost paid by each team member to provide some of the funding for the ongoing work of the Lord through Messiah Project- Nicaragua. For this reason, each participating team member plays an important part in the work of God in Nicaragua by laboring with us on the field and in helping to support the financial needs of the ministry through the price of their trip. We thank God for the provision He has sent to us through you, His servants, who participate in short term mission trips. Thank you!

3. Pre-Trip Preparations

Spiritually: Individual teams members are encouraged to increase their time normally spent in prayer and Bible study in preparation for the trip. Time spent in prayer and fasting always reaps spiritual benefits. We also encourage team leaders to provide adequate time in their pre-trip meetings for unified prayer. Teams that pray together work well together.

Physically: On the mission field you will be required at times to live outside your "comfort zone". It is best to begin conditioning your body, both mentally and physically, to doing without some things. Drinking more water and less flavored drinks is a good start. Things like learning to control your hunger pains by waiting a little longer before you do eat will pay off as well.

Emotionally: Prepare yourself emotionally in remembering that you will be working in the poorest country in Central America. Culture shock can ruin your trip and severely disrupt your team's effectiveness. We suggest visiting our website's photo gallery to better understand the conditions your team will be working in.

As a Group: Your team's effectiveness in ministry outreach will be increased by good preparation and practice of your planned activities. Skits and dramas, puppets, songs and short personal testimonies of Christ's impact in your life, can really touch lives. There are also several online resources available for purchasing VBS and other ministry materials at significant savings.

4. Things to Bring

Personal items:

Lightweight clothing
Toiletry items
Footwear
Hat for sun protection
Personal snacks
Small water bottle
Towel
Wash cloth
Camera
Video cameras
Small 6 plug surge protector
Extra film or storage cards

Flashlight w/extra batteries
Ziploc baggies (qt. & gal. size)
Lg. trash bag (dirty clothes)
Sunscreen
Insect repellent

Additional items for Rio Coco teams only:

mosquito net
quality rain poncho
rubber boots

5. Liability Release Agreement/ Emergency Medical Information Forms

ADULT/YOUTH RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

FOR _____

1. I desire that the above-named Adult/Minor be allowed to participate in a Ministry event organized by Messiah Project, Inc. The Adult/Minor also desires to participate in this Ministry event. I give my permission for the Adult/Minor's participation and I voluntarily sign this Release.
2. As consideration for allowing Adult/Minor to participate in the Ministry event, I hereby release and forever discharge Messiah Project, Inc. ("Ministry") and its respective members, employees, officers, directors, ministers, elders, volunteers and other representatives ("Releases") from any and all claims for injuries, death, losses, or damages the Adult/Minor might have on or in any way relating to such Ministry event.
3. As consideration for allowing Adult/Minor to participate in the Ministry event, I hereby release and forever discharge Messiah Project, Inc. and its respective members, employees, officers, directors, ministers, elders, volunteers and other representatives ("Releasees") from any and all claims for injuries, death, loss, or damages I may suffer which are in any way relating to such Ministry event. I understand that I am releasing all claims of any kind on behalf of the Minor, myself and any other family member or legal representative, even if the injuries, death, loss or damages are caused by the express negligence of Messiah Project, Inc (or its members, employees, officers, directors, ministers, volunteers and/or other representatives).
5. I hereby give the Ministry (by and through its employees and/or representatives who participate in the Ministry event with the Adult/Minor) permission to authorize medical and/or hospital treatment for the benefit of the Minor in the event of sickness or injury sustained by the Adult/Minor during the Ministry event. I realize that the availability and quality of health care on any Ministry event may be greatly diminished. I desire that the Ministry contact me at the phone number below in the event of emergency (if possible), but I knowingly give permission as described above - whether or not I am contacted about such health care decisions.
6. I hereby grant full permission to the Ministry to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or other records or documents of the Ministry event and to do so without notice or compensation to Adult/Minor or me. I assume responsibility for full payment of the published and announced cost of the Ministry event; agree to pay any outstanding balance upon request by the Ministry; and agree that any and all cost incurred by the Minor or me during the Ministry event, including, without limitation, costs due to health problems, emergencies and/or death, are my responsibility or will be paid by the estate of the Adult/Minor.
7. I desire that Messiah Project, Inc. be able to organize and participate in Ministry events without fear of claims or lawsuits by Adult/Minor, by me or by any of the Adult/Minor's relatives or legal representatives. Therefore, I further agree to indemnify, defend and hold the Ministry and the Releasees harmless from all damages, including, without limitation, special and consequential damages, suffered or paid as a result of any and all claims, causes of action, suits, proceedings, demands, judgments, assessments, and liabilities, including reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in litigation or otherwise, assessed, incurred or sustained by or against the Ministry or Releasees by reason of, arising out of or relating to the Adult/Minor's participation in a Church event.
8. We are Christians and believe that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthews 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, we agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to this Agreement or any Ministry event in which the minor participates shall be settled by biblically based mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute of Christian Conciliation. All such mediation and arbitration shall take place in Austin, Texas. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. We understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement or any such Ministry event, and expressly waive any rights we or the Adult/Minor have to file a lawsuit in any civil court for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.
9. I further agree that this Release and Indemnification Agreement (the "Agreement") is binding upon the Adult/Minor's relatives, heirs, executors, administrators, assigns and legal representatives; that this Agreement releases all successors, assigns, and legal representatives of the Ministry and Releasees; and that this Agreement is to be governed by the law of the State of Texas.
10. I acknowledge that the Ministry has encouraged me to read this Agreement carefully (and to seek legal advice, if necessary) before signing. I understand this Agreement and I have not relied on any other statement, comment or promise by Ministry or Releasees in signing this Agreement.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____ Phone () _____

OR

Signature of Adult Participant _____ Date _____ Phone () _____

MISSION TEAM COVENANT FORM

As a member of a short term mission team working with Messiah project, I agree to:

- Remember that I am representing Jesus Christ, as well as my Church. I will seek to emulate Jesus in my behavior and attitude.
- Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of my hosts. I will remember the missionary's prayer, "Where you lead me, I will follow; what they feed me, I will swallow."(Except when an obvious health risk).
- REMAIN FLEXIBLE! Things do not always go as planned. Schedules are dictated by the culture, not always by our watches.
- I will dress appropriately, as accepted by the culture we are experiencing, and not American standards.
- Respect their culture. We are "guests" in their country, and our actions and reactions should always reflect that.
- Remember that we have come to learn, as well as to teach. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I will be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
- Respect the host's view of Christianity, recognizing that Christianity has many faces throughout the world and that the purpose of this trip is to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
- Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
- Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my boyfriend/girlfriend, or spouse, is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all the members of the team. If I am attracted to a teammate, I will not attempt to pursue a relationship while on the trip.
- Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic interest in a national or teammate.
- Refrain from illegal drugs and abstain from consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of tobacco while on this trip.
- Comply with all policies and procedures set forth by Messiah Project.
- Remember that I can be sent home if I do not adhere to this "Covenant", or if my Team Leader believes it is in my best interest or that of the team.
- Respect any trip leader(s) by:
 - Bringing all trip concerns, complaints of any kind, first to my trip leader's attention privately and not to fellow teammates or missionaries in the country we are serving. I realize even by doing so, decisions may be made contrary to suggestions or to the way I feel they need to be, but I respectfully submit to the leaders' decision.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Messiah Project

Emergency Medical Information Form

Must be completed

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

AGE _____ D.O.B. _____ PARENT'S NAME (if minor) _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

CELLULAR, BEEPER or OTHER # _____

CONTACT NAME IN CASE OF EMERGENCY _____

CONTACT PHONE #'S _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY CHRONIC DISEASES OR ALLERGIES? _____
IF YES, LIST: _____

LIST ANY PRE-EXISTING HEALTH PROBLEMS OR CONDITIONS

____ YES ____ NO EXPLAIN _____

ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO ASPIRIN OR TYLENOL? _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY TAKING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION? _____
IF SO, WHAT & HOW OFTEN? _____

HAVE YOU HAD A TETANUS SHOT IN THE LAST 10 YEARS? _____

WHAT IS YOUR BLOOD TYPE? _____

LIST ANY SLEEPING CONDITIONS YOU HAVE, (EX: SNORING,
INSOMNIA): _____

Attach a copy of participant's medical insurance card

Family Physician _____	Phone # _____
Insurance Company _____	Phone # _____
Policy # _____	Group # _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT #1: (Do not use people who will travel with you to the field.)

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: Home () _____ Work () _____
Email: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT # 2:

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: Home () _____ Work () _____
Email: _____

Please bring your completed forms with you and give them to your Messiah Project team leader upon arriving in Nicaragua. You can submit your deposits and trip balances by e-check via our secure server on our donate page or mail them to our offices at:

Messiah Project
555 E. 5th St. Suite 2924
Austin, Texas 78701

For additional questions regarding our program, please use the form on our contact page.