

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP POLICY

WHY GO ON SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS?

- It is a means for the people of Praise Assembly to personally “declare God’s glory to the nations!” through hands-on short term missionary activity.
- It is a means of expressing love and support to long-term missionary workers on behalf of Praise Assembly, in a more personal way.
- It is a means of learning how to better pray for those serving on the field long-term, as well as how to represent their needs once returning home.
- It is a means of learning first-hand about missions work and determining if God has placed a call on people’s lives for long-term involvement on the mission field.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

The mission participant must meet the following criteria:

- **The Team Leader and proposed missions trip must be approved by the Church Board before a trip is authorized.**
- Must evidence a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and a love for God’s Word.
- Must be a member of Praise Assembly. He or she must also be regular in church attendance and either be actively serving in a ministry at Praise or show evidence of plans to be in active service.
- Must be financially supporting the ministry and work of Praise Assembly.
- Must be spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally fit. The demands of the mission field are not just financial or practical. The demonic influence in many countries is much more unbridled and open in its practice. Differences in food, possible sleep deprivation, and often a time change will be factors in cross-cultural experience.
- Must have a strong marriage and family commitment. If single, there must exist a sense of peace, accompanied by contentment and self-control.
- Must have strong recommendations from church leaders.
- All Participants must be approved by the Church Board.
- All Participants must have completed Praise Assembly’s Child Workers Certification class.
- All Participants must be approved by Assemblies of God World Missions department and must complete all forms required by AGWM.

MISSION TRIP FUNDING

Each participant is expected to submit the required trip deposit no later than the announced deadline.

Should a person be forced to withdraw from a trip, a refund of money paid will be made unless airline and/or mission policies make it too late to get the money back.

Should a trip be cancelled due to any unforeseen reason such as natural disaster, civil unrest or upheaval, transportation strikes, or any circumstances beyond the control of AGWM, Praise Assembly, or the Team leader, appropriate refunds will be attempted but not guaranteed.

Personal funds as well as any gifts submitted to Praise Assembly on behalf of a participant will be considered tax deductible. Individuals are asked to refrain from fundraising through sales of any kind.

Any Praise Assembly member, who is planning to participate in a short-term mission trip may be eligible for a short-term mission trip scholarship.

The following may be provided by Praise Assembly for a mission trip participant:

- Up to 50% of total cost of the missions trip per person. The amount of funding will be contingent upon the participant's tithing record and determined by the Church Board.

The following is a list of things that will not be provided by Praise Assembly:

- Passport expenses
- Immunizations and medications
- Tips or gratuities
- Travel that is not ministry-related (sightseeing, shopping, etc.)
- Food for self or others
- Any gifts or equipment the individual may wish to purchase.

MISSION TRIP CODE OF CONDUCT

Trip participants must in every way, in reliance upon the Holy Spirit, strive to behave in a such a way that honors Christ.

While, this statement should serve as the chief directive for all behavior, a few guidelines are specified here for the purpose of clarification.

GROUP ATTITUDES

Team members must go with a view to “die to self” for the duration of the trip. A mission trip is not to be viewed as one's personal vacation, nor a time to focus primarily on relating to another member or members of the mission team. Team members are expected to labor diligently in whatever task has been given them by their team leader or missionary, including attending all group meetings such as daily times of group worship and prayer.

The following key attitudes contribute to a positive trip experience for the entire team: love (1 Peter 4:8), thankfulness (Heb 12:28), teachability & humility (1 Peter 5:5-7), faithfulness (Mat 25:21), holiness (Heb 12:14), patience (Eph 4:2), flexibility (James 4:13-5), compassion (Mark 6:34), brokenness (Psalm 126:6).

- Team members must submit to the Team Leader's authority.
- Due to the partnership nature of each trip, participants will be asked to abide by the regulations and restrictions set by the field missionaries.

DRESS

At all times, modesty must be observed. In many cultures around the world the concept of “modesty” is much more modest than the typical modern American conception of it. Failure to recognize such cultural differences jeopardizes ministry effectiveness and team focus. Trip participants must not dress in any way that calls ungodly attention to self and distracts from ministry goals. It is necessary to pack accordingly.

SEX/GENDER ISSUES

Praise Assembly takes God's offense at sin very seriously. We realize that the sexual issues and temptations faced while traveling can be alluring, even to the strongest of Christian leaders. We recognize that prostitution and pornography are thriving businesses in all of the countries we have been called to serve, and boundaries of accountability related to physical relationships are also weakened

when we vary from our routine lifestyles. We wish to insulate one another from unnecessary temptation and the manifold fleshly devices of the enemy. To do so, we have established guidelines concerning gender issues.

- No Praise Assembly trip participant may be alone with any member of the opposite sex on a mission trip, including with team members, with other missionaries, or with locals. By alone, we mean out of the sight or hearing of another member of the team. (Of course, married couples are an exception.)
- If the group is staying in a home, males must sleep in one room and females in another. If avoidable, no member of the mission team should room alone. Each person is to share a room with at least one other person of the same gender, unless married to the person.