



 SEACOAST MISSIONS

THIS MISSION MANUAL IS PROPERTY OF:

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IN THE EVENT OF MISPLACEMENT:

**STREET ADDRESS**  
.....  
.....

**EMAIL**  
.....

**TEL**  
.....

**NOTES**  
.....  
.....

PERTINENT COORDINATES:

**SEACOAST CHURCH // 750 LONG POINT ROAD, MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464**  
.....  
.....

MISSIONS  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

**MATTHEW 28: 19-20**



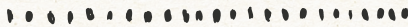
We are excited and thankful that you have made the decision to step forward and join us on a global mission trip.

Your team will make a lasting impact on our global partners and the communities where they serve. Our team training will equip you and prepare your heart for what we believe will be a life-changing experience. We will be praying for you and your team each step of the way expecting God to do a mighty work in and through you.

Together, let's make a difference!  
**THE SEACOAST GLOBAL MISSIONS TEAM**

OUR VISION

**WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE BELIEVE**



**SEACOAST CHURCH EXISTS TO HELP PEOPLE** find God, grow their faith, discover their purpose, and make a difference.

Serving on a global mission trip is an excellent way to make a difference! We want to make that difference in the lives of Seacoasters, our global partners, and the communities where they serve.

The goal of Seacoast Missions is to love God and love others. As part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:10-20), we are striving to know God and to make Him known.

There are many different ways to make Him known and Seacoast Global Missions focuses on the following areas:

- Church Planting
- Economic Development
- Spiritual Development
- Education
- Clean Water
- Healthcare







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**WE BELIEVE** that the local church is the hope of the world. We desire to see life-giving churches in every community that are fighting hard to alleviate spiritual and physical poverty. Through Seacoast Global Missions, we partner with exceptional churches or organizations working through local churches to help them fulfill the vision God has given them to reach their communities. We strive to help our partners go further, faster by appropriately providing resources without creating dependency. Your short-term mission team is one of those resources. You will come alongside our partners to provide encouragement and support for their work. Our goal is to lift them up so they will be seen as a light in the darkness that provides hope to their communities.

## **POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

### **INDIVIDUAL GIVING**

Seacoast Church does not permit individual giving to missionaries, interpreters, or locals on the trip. Your team may be traveling with items that will be left within the country or will be used as a part of your ministry, and this is acceptable, but individual team members should not bring gifts or leave items behind unless it is approved by Seacoast Global Missions. Our goal is to help meet a need in the individual communities where we are serving without creating a sense of dependency. Following this rule is important to ensure the success of teams traveling after you.

### **ATTIRE**

Participants on mission trips are expected to dress appropriately and conservatively at all times during the trip. You should avoid clothing that is revealing or sends any political or inappropriate messages. Avoid wearing flashy or expensive jewelry. Each country may have specific recommendations for appropriate attire, so be sure to discuss what clothing to bring with you with your team leader in advance.

## **RESPECT FOR LEADERS AND HOSTS**

Seacoast Global Missions selects team leaders very carefully. We are confident in their ability to lead your team safely and to carry out the purpose of the mission. Team members are expected to respect their team leader's authority. There may be times when you do not understand a decision that is being made, but remember that he or she is making the decision out of the best interest of the team. If you have a concern or a question, you should go directly to your team leader and discuss it with him or her. Just as it is important to respect your team leader, it is equally important to respect your host missionaries. Seacoast Church has built strategic partnerships with our host missionaries, and we do not want to jeopardize those relationships by the actions of team members on short-term trips. You should expect things to be different than your "normal" on this trip. Remember, it is in those differences that God is going to be able to stretch you and use you.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH HOME**

The level of communication you will have with home while on the ground varies from trip to trip and country to country. Your team leader will give you an idea of what communication will be like while you are gone. We will help your leaders make sure that important family and friends are communicated with when you arrive in country and when you are preparing to depart for home. We do not believe in dictating when you can communicate with home, but we think it is important to remember to be thoughtful about how this communication may affect your mission trip experience. Ask your family and friends to communicate things that will only have a positive impact on your trip. Unfortunately, unexpected things can happen while serving on mission trips occasionally, so make sure your family and friends consider waiting until you have returned to tell you about certain things.

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

If your boyfriend, girlfriend or spouse is on the team, make every effort to interact with all members of the team. Try to avoid prioritizing one relationship, if possible. If you become interested in a teammate, we discourage you from pursuing a relationship while on the trip. The development of any such relationships while on your trip, including global partners, translators, or other leaders is also discouraged.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Seacoast Church sends short-term mission trips to countries where we have well-developed partnerships and relationships. Our partner in-country does everything they can to ensure the safety of our team while on the ground. We work with our partners to make sure your lodging, transportation, food, and water are at the highest possible standard throughout your trip. Your team will also be registered with the U.S. Embassy where you will be serving. If you have any questions about the safety and security of your team, please do not hesitate to contact Seacoast Global Missions with questions at [missions@seacoast.org](mailto:missions@seacoast.org).

## **PASSPORTS**

Everyone traveling on an international mission trip will need a passport that does not expire until at least six months after the trip return date. For example, if you are traveling from January 1, 2016 through January 10, 2016, your passport must not expire before July 10, 2016.

## **VISAS**

Some countries require documentation that you have legal permission to enter the country by the United States. If this is a requirement for the country where you are going, your team leader will give you specific information about how to fill out your visa application, and Seacoast Global Missions will facilitate getting these for your team.

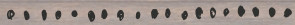
## **MEDICAL/TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Seacoast Global Missions will purchase travel insurance for each member of the team prior to your departure. This insurance provides coverage for medical, evacuation, property, crisis management, accidental death and dismemberment, disability, liability and more. This is not trip cancellation insurance, and it does not provide coverage for personal or family circumstances. The Seacoast Global Missions Team will enroll you in this insurance plan, and you will receive an email to log in and access your benefits. You will also have the option to purchase additional insurance if you would like on your own.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Seacoast Global Missions does not mandate that you get any travel vaccines other than ones required for entry into the country. However, we do recommend that you consult a healthcare professional for their recommendations prior to your trip. The cost of immunizations and any prophylactic medications that you chose to get are not included in your trip fees. You can find a complete guide for the country where you are traveling with recommendations at the Center for Disease Control website: [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov). You can also find more information about traveling and vaccinations at [seacoastmissions.org](http://seacoastmissions.org), along with a list of local travel clinics.

## PACKING LIST



**INSIDE YOU WILL FIND A GUIDE** to help you begin packing for your trip. Every trip and every country have slight variations of the following list. Please refer to our website for additional information and discuss any questions you have with your team leader.

## TWO CARRY-ON BAGS

**BAG #1** Will need to fit in the overhead compartment above your seat and will carry mostly your clothing.

**BAG #2** Should include your valuables and the things that you would want/need to access easily.

**BAG #2** must fit easily under the seat in front of you and should include:

- US PASSPORT** You will need to carry this in a safe place. We recommend an under the clothes bag for this if possible. Print out three copies of your passport picture page—leave one copy with someone in the USA, carry one with you, and give one to a team leader.
- MONEY** We recommend carrying no more than \$200 cash. You can bring a credit card for use in the airport and for emergencies. Be sure to call the credit card company and let them know the dates you will be out of the country in case you need to use it.
- BIBLE** This is a Christian mission trip and we will have lots of opportunity for spiritual growth both individually and as a team.
- JOURNAL** There will be lots of time for journaling, and we encourage you do so. It will serve as an incredible reminder of the trip for you to reflect on in the future!
- PENS** Bring pens in your carry-on for on the plane, for customs and for journaling.
- PHONE OR IPOD** You may want to bring your phone or iPod so you can listen to music on the plane or during your quiet time. Don't forget headphones and chargers.
- CLOTHING** Please refer to the specific packing list for each individual country for more information on what type of clothing to bring on the trip. Remember you are representing Seacoast Church so your clothing should be an appropriate representation of who we are.



## TOILETRY ITEMS

- INSECT REPELLENT**
- SUNSCREEN**
- HAND SANITIZER** Waterless antibacterial hand sanitizer and wipes are always a good thing to have with you on a trip.
- TOILET PAPER** This is needed for some countries and not for others. Your trip leader will tell you whether or not to bring this with you.
- TOILETRIES** Shampoo, conditioner, soap, face wash, contact solution, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair brush, lotion, razor, chapstick and whatever else you may need. If you have something that will not fit in your 3-1-1 bag\*, you can put it in your checked luggage in a bag with your name on it. **We cannot guarantee it will make it though as we have lost luggage in the past.**
- GLASSES** If you wear contacts, we recommend bringing a pair of glasses in case something happens to your contacts.
- MEDICINES** Any medications you take on a daily basis, plus anything you may need for the trip like medications for allergies, motion sickness or sleeping. **Don't forget your malaria medication if you are going to a country where this is needed!**

\* **3-1-1 liquids rule:** You are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams, and pastes through the checkpoint. These are limited to 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- SUNGLASSES**
- BATH TOWELS** 1 or 2 bath towels, lightweight and thin or synthetic fiber towels take up less space and dry faster.
- PILLOW** We recommend bringing a travel-size pillow that you can also use on the plane.
- SHEETS** This will be needed in some countries where we sleep on air mattresses. Sleeping sacks are easy to use instead if you would like.
- ELECTRIC CONVERTER** Your team leader will let you know if you need a converter for your trip and will tell you where you can purchase one.
- CAMERA** We will all share pictures after the trip so this is optional but most people like to have one.
- HEADLAMP** We recommend a headlamp to use at night but a small light-weight flashlight will work.
- LIST OF DONORS** If you want to buy souvenirs for people who supported you, bring this list.

## PROVIDERS FOR MEDICAL TEAMS

- DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS** Stethoscope, Headlamp, BP Cuff, Otoscope, Ophthalmoscope
- REFERENCE TOOLS** PDRs, Palm Pilot or Dosing Guides (Charger for Palm Pilot)

## THINGS NOT TO BRING



- HAIR APPLIANCES** We will not have an electrical source to supply them.
- ANYTHING THAT CAN EXPLODE AT HIGH OR LOW PRESSURE,** like aerosol cans or brand new bottles with air in them (for example, lotion).
- NICE JEWELRY** Ladies, leave your nice jewelry behind (including wedding rings) as we do not want to appear flashy.
- POCKET KNIVES OR NAIL CLIPPERS** They will be taken by TSA.
- ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR DRUGS**

## FUNDRAISING

### **MINISTRY PLATFORM INSTRUCTIONS**

All fundraising will be done through Ministry Platform, the church's online portal for mission trips. Each team member will be able to access their account at any given time through this system. There are step-by-step instructions for how to access Ministry Platform on Seacoast Mission's training website: [training.seacoastmissions.org](http://training.seacoastmissions.org).

## FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES

Raising the funds necessary to be a part of this trip may seem like a stressful task, but with a little bit of work and some useful fundraising tools, you will be amazed by the response of your friends and family!

Prayer will be the foundation of your trip. Prayer needs to start now... long before you pack your bags and travel. God is willing and able to do far more than all we ask or imagine but we must *pray*. Worry and anxiety about fundraising often result when our finances are not entrusted to God. Remember to keep in mind that your prayer partners in this trip will be equally as important as your financial partners.

The overall goal and purpose of fundraising should be to share the vision of what God is doing on the mission field.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you begin to fundraise:

### PEOPLE GIVE...

#### **...WHEN THEY FEEL INFORMED.**

Think about questions like... Why am I going? How will the money be used? How can others be involved? How do I expect to grow spiritually through this trip?

**...BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEIR GIFT WILL CHANGE LIVES.** Help them understand how their gift will impact the people of the country where you are going.

**...IF YOU MAKE THEM FEEL AS MUCH A PART OF THE TRIP AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING.** Communicate with them before, during, and after the trip. They need to know that you are depending on their support.

**...WHEN THEY SEE THAT YOU ARE COMPLETELY COMMITTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC!** People are excited to see others with a passion and are then inspired to support them.

**THE TOTAL COST OF YOUR TRIP** will be set by Seacoast Global Missions based off of our communication with our partner in the country where you are traveling.

**WHAT THIS AMOUNT COVERS** Airline tickets, visas and travel insurance, housing, transportation, food and water in country, and supplies for the trip.

**WHAT THIS AMOUNT DOES NOT COVER** Vaccinations and medications needed for the trip and souvenirs.

**FEE SCHEDULE** Your team leader will provide you with a fee schedule for your trip at one of your first team meetings.

## HOW TO START

Make a list of 20+ potential prayer and financial partners to whom you would like to send a support letter. Choose the communication avenue appropriate for each person. For example, your grandmother might not use email so mailing her a letter would be more effective.

We encourage online donations because they will show up immediately in your account and they're 100% tax deductible. All check and cash donations that include a signed tax donation form signed by the donor will also receive tax donation credit. At the end of the year, Seacoast will send tax receipts to each supporter indicating the amount of their tax deductible contribution.

Types of Communication for Fundraising:

- One-on-one conversations
- Letter writing through snail mail and email
- Online fundraising through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

## STEPS FOR SNAIL MAIL FUNDRAISING

1. Write your support letter using the sample provided here or our website.
2. Make copies of the Seacoast Tax Contribution Form found on our website which **must be included** if your donor wants their contribution to be tax deductible at the end of the year.
3. All checks must be made payable to "Seacoast Church." Please have your supporters write your name in the memo line of the check.
4. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your letters which will increase the potential for them to be sent back.
5. Donations collected in this fashion can be turned in to your leaders at meetings or dropped off to the Seacoast Global Missions Team at the church office. Be sure that you include a deposit slip (copy provided on the website) to ensure funds are properly deposited.

## STEPS FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

1. Go to [seacoast.org/mount-pleasant/missions/global-missions](http://seacoast.org/mount-pleasant/missions/global-missions)
2. Click on the trip you would like to support.
3. Click on "Support" link on the right side of the page.
4. Choose which team member you wish to donate to from the drop down menu, and follow the steps as directed by the website.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope you are doing well! Things have been great here which is why I am sending you this letter. (Share what's been going on in your life.) I've been given an amazing opportunity to serve with my church on a short-term mission trip in \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. Our team will be working with \_\_\_\_\_ and providing \_\_\_\_\_. (Insert information about the ministry that your team will be working with and the purpose of the trip. Share what God is calling you to.)

The total cost for our trip will be approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_. This will cover airfare, lodging, transportation, meals and all related expenses. I will be working to contribute to the total along with participating in team fundraisers. However, I am also going to need prayer and additional financial support. If you feel led to contribute to my trip, the easiest way to do this is to give is online at [seacoast.org/mount-pleasant/missions/global-missions](http://seacoast.org/mount-pleasant/missions/global-missions). If you prefer to give cash or a check, please complete the attached Mission Trip Donation Form and return it to me or the church with your check made payable to Seacoast Church. We need this form to help us properly record all assistance and guarantee that your donation is tax deductible. (Making the ask)

Thank you so much for being a blessing to me as friends and family in Christ! I look forward to sharing what God does through this trip as well as hearing what God is doing in your lives as you support this trip in whatever way you feel led. (The closing)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In Him,  
XXXXXX

# PREPARATION

**TRAINING VIDEOS & DISCUSSION NOTES**





**WE BELIEVE** that the success of any short-term mission trip team is directly related to the team's pre-trip training and preparation. That is why we have created a video training series to help equip all team members on the key aspects of the mission trip experience.

These four short videos were designed to generate discussion about these important topics as they relate to the short-term mission trip experience. Our expectation is that everyone who participates in a mission trip with Seacoast Church will watch each video and participate in a discussion with their teammates prior to leaving for the trip.

Your team leader will discuss with you how your team will participate in the training and will give you access to the training website. Each section has a list of questions we would like for your team to discuss after watching each video. Your team leader will use these questions to help facilitate discussion among you and your other team members. Remember, this will be a great time for you to ask questions of your leaders about how each of these topics directly impacts your particular short term mission trip.

**VIDEO ONE**

**TEAM UNITY & CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

What are some examples of words or phrases that can be used to encourage team members while on a mission trip?

A large grid of dots for writing notes, consisting of 20 columns and 25 rows of small, light-colored dots on a cream-colored background.

What are some examples of words or phrases that would discourage team members while on a mission trip?

A large grid of dots for writing notes, consisting of 20 columns and 25 rows of small, light-colored dots on a cream-colored background.



*Team unity is essential to the success of any short-term mission trip, so it is important to be aware of how your actions may impact others on your team before and during your trip.*

Any time a group of people are together for an extended period, there is the potential for team conflict. Describe the process for biblical conflict resolution.

A large grid of small dots for writing, consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows.



**ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PREPARE** and unify your team is to have a good understanding of each other's personalities especially if conflict were to arise on your trip. Seacoast Global Missions uses the following personality test to help individuals learn about their personality and the personalities of their teammates. Please take a few minutes to complete the test and then discuss it with your team members.

## PERSONALITY TEST

D	#	I	#	S	#	C	#
Directing		Influencing		Steady		Cautious	
Self-Certain		Optimistic		Deliberate		Restrained	
Adventurous		Enthusiastic		Predictable		Logical	
Decisive		Open		Patient		Analytical	
Daring		Impulsive		Stabilizing		Precise	
Restless		Emotional		Protective		Doubting	
Competitive		Persuading		Accommodating		Curious	
Assertive		Talkative		Modest		Tactful	
Experimenting		Charming		Easy-Going		Consistent	
Forceful		Sensitive		Sincere		Perfectionist	
total:		total:		total:		total:	

**4 MOST LIKE ME / 1 LEAST LIKE ME / 3 NEXT MOST LIKE ME / 2 LEAST LIKE ME**

**It is important to rate yourself in the order above and to respond as if in a business setting.**

Total your numbers and your two highest numbers reflect your personality type.

You will find the key on the following page.

## KEY FROM PERSONALITY TEST ON PREVIOUS PAGE

**D = DOMINANCE / I = INFLUENCE / S = STEADY / C = CONSCIENTIOUS**

*It is fun to learn more about different personality types as they relate to animal personalities. Remember, God has uniquely created each one of us and we are a tapestry of all personality traits. It is helpful to learn more about ourselves and our team members so that we can be more understanding and have a true appreciation for our uniqueness.*

- D LION** These people are natural born leaders. They are good at making decisions and are very goal-oriented. They are direct, strong-willed and forceful. They enjoy challenges, difficult assignments, and opportunity for advancement.
- I OTTER** These people are sociable, talkative and lively. Otters love people. They enjoy being popular and influencing and motivating others. The Otter can sometimes be hurt when people do not like them. They usually have lots of friends, but not always deep relationships. They love to goof-off. (They are notorious for messy rooms.) Otters like to hurry and finish jobs. (Jobs are not often done well.) The otter personality is like Tigger in Winnie the Pooh.
- S GOLDEN RETRIEVER** These people are gentle, accommodating and soft-hearted. They are good at making friends and are very loyal. Retriever personalities do not like change. They look for security. They can be very sensitive and very caring. They have deep relationships, but usually only a couple of close friends. Golden Retrievers want to be loved by everyone. They look for appreciation and work best in a limited situation with a steady work pattern.
- C BEAVER** These people are private, analytical and logical. They are very organized with very high standards. Beavers think that there is a right way to do everything and they want to do it exactly that way. Beaver personalities are very creative and desire to solve everything. They want to take their time and do it right. Beavers do not like sudden changes. They often need reassurance.

## RELATIONAL STRENGTHS

	LION	OTTER	GOLDEN RETRIEVER	BEAVER
RELATIONAL STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take charge</li> <li>• problem solver</li> <li>• competitive</li> <li>• enjoys change</li> <li>• confrontational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• optimistic</li> <li>• energetic</li> <li>• motivator</li> <li>• future oriented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warm &amp; relational</li> <li>• loyal</li> <li>• enjoys routine</li> <li>• peacemaker</li> <li>• sensitive feelings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate &amp; precise</li> <li>• discerning</li> <li>• analytical</li> </ul>
STRENGTHS OUT OF BALANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too direct or impatient</li> <li>• too busy</li> <li>• impulsive or takes risks</li> <li>• insensitive to others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unrealistic or daydreamer</li> <li>• impatient or overbearing pushy</li> <li>• avoids details &amp; lacks follow-through</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• missed opportunities</li> <li>• stays in a rut</li> <li>• sacrifice own feelings for harmony</li> <li>• easily hurt &amp; can hold a grudge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too critical or strict</li> <li>• too controlling</li> <li>• too negative of new opportunities</li> <li>• lose overview</li> </ul>
COMMUNICATION STYLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct or blunt</li> <li>• one way</li> <li>• not a good listener</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• can inspire others</li> <li>• optimistic</li> <li>• enthusiastic</li> <li>• one-way</li> <li>• high energy &amp; can manipulate others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indirect</li> <li>• two-way</li> <li>• great listener</li> <li>• uses too many words or provides too many details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• factual</li> <li>• two-way</li> <li>• great listener</li> <li>• desire details &amp; precision which can frustrate others</li> </ul>
RELATIONAL NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal attention &amp; recognition</li> <li>• opportunity to be in charge, challenged &amp; solve problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approval</li> <li>• opportunity to verbalize</li> <li>• visibility</li> <li>• social recognition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emotional security</li> <li>• agreeable environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quality</li> <li>• exact expectations</li> </ul>
RELATIONAL BALANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add softness</li> <li>• become a good listener</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be attentive to others needs</li> <li>• recognize there is a thing as too much optimism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learn to say "no"</li> <li>• establish emotional boundaries</li> <li>• learn to admit &amp; confront when own feelings are hurt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• total support is not always possible</li> <li>• though explanation isn't everything</li> </ul>

## VIDEO TWO

## CULTURAL SENSITIVITY & CULTURE SHOCK

What is the difference between cultural sensitivity and cultural shock?

A large grid of small dots on a light-colored background, intended for handwritten notes.

What are some examples of cultural stressors you may experience while on your short-term mission trip?

A large grid of small dots on a light-colored background, intended for handwritten notes.



*Let's do our very best while on the mission field to learn and respect our differences, be open and excited to develop a global perspective, and develop a Biblical world view.*

One of the biggest stressors on a mission trip can be the language barrier between you and the people to whom you are ministering. The following is a list of suggestions for effective communication:

**SLOW DOWN** Speak slowly and concisely.

**SEPARATE QUESTIONS** Try not to ask double questions.

**AVOID NEGATIVE QUESTIONS** "Are you not coming?"

**TAKE TURNS** Speak and then listen to the response.

**WRITE IT DOWN** If you're unsure if something has been understood, it helps to write it down.

**BE SUPPORTIVE** Encourage those who want to practice their English with you.

**DOUBLE CHECK MEANINGS** Summarize what has been said to be sure you understand and ask your interpreters to summarize what you say before translating.

**AVOID SLANG** It doesn't translate well.

**WATCH HUMOR** Sarcasm is often misunderstood.

**MAINTAIN ETIQUETTE** Observe basic cultural norms.

A large area of dotted lines for writing notes.

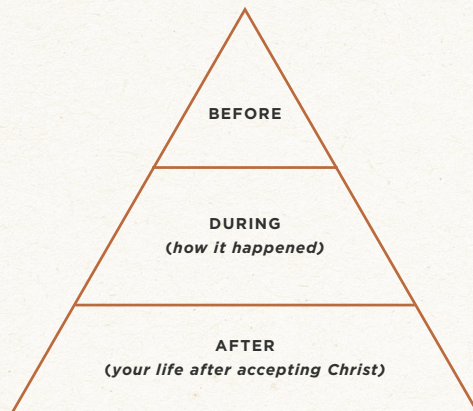
## VIDEO THREE

## EVANGELISM & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Why is it important to be prepared to share your story or testimony while on a short-term mission trip?

A large grid of small dots for taking notes.

We want to encourage all of our team members to spend some time before their trip preparing their testimony. The triangle below can be used as a guide representing the amount of time that should be given to each area. The least amount of time should be spent on “your life before Christ” and the majority of your time should be given to “your life after accepting Christ.” It is important to be honest about your past without glorifying the sin. What is most important is God’s redemptive power.



On your trip you will have the opportunity to share and grow your faith. Remember, we are all on this journey together and it is a privilege to share what God has done and is doing in our lives.

Take some time to discuss the opportunities you will have to grow spiritually and what this may look like for your team. The following is a list of suggestions for how you can prepare spiritually for your trip:

**WORSHIP / DEVOTIONALS / PRAYER PARTNERS / QUIET TIME / JOURNALING**

Are there any particular issues that you would like for your team to be praying for you about?

*Write down prayer requests from others:*

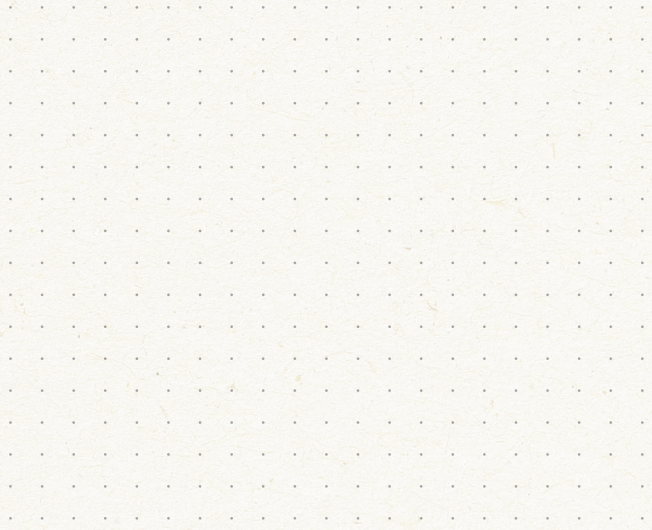
God calls us to a short-term mission trip because he wants us to be His hands and feet spreading the Gospel and serving His people. He also wants to do an incredible work in and through you on this trip.

What does this look like for you? Spend some time thinking about what you would like God to do in and through you on this trip then share it with your team so they can help you reach your goal.

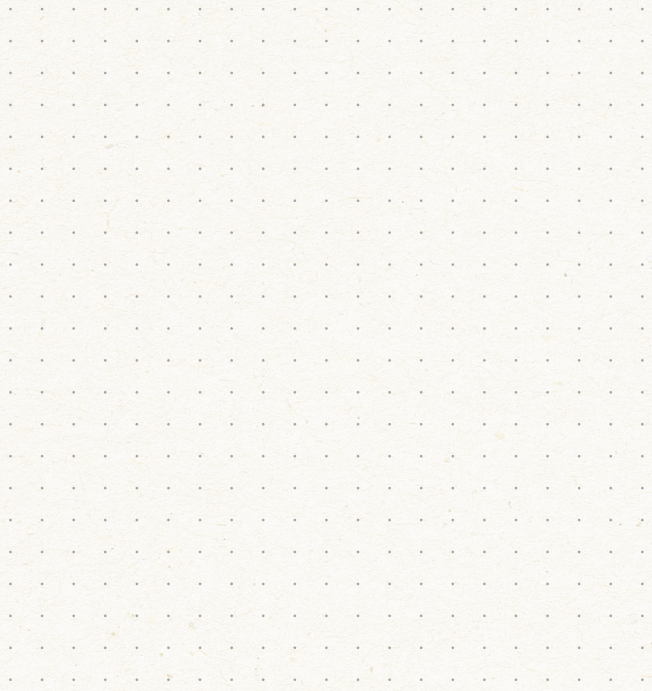
## VIDEO FOUR

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE & RE-ENTRY

What are some examples of spiritual warfare that you may experience before, during, and after your trip?



Ephesians 6 gives us a powerful illustration of how we can protect ourselves from spiritual warfare by putting on the Armor of God. What tools does Paul tell us we have in this passage to use as protection against the attacks of the enemy?



*Since God has called you to your short-term mission trip and has big plans for you and for the people you will serve, the Enemy will do his best to distract and discourage you.*

Here is a prayer that you can pray each day as a reminder of the armor that you have as a believer in Jesus Christ:

Dear Lord,

I come before your heavenly throne and put on the **full Armor of God**.

I put on Your **Helmet of Salvation** to protect my mind. Keep my thoughts focused on You, in the day and in the night, and grant me Your gifts of knowledge, wisdom, and discernment.

I put on Your **Breastplate of Righteousness**, knowing that God the Father looks at me through Your righteousness, cleansed by Your blood which was shed on the Cross.

I pull Your **Belt of Truth** tightly around my waist, so I will recognize the Truth, speak the Truth, and live in Your Truth.

I put on Your **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**, so that this day, I might leave Your peace wherever I go. I take up Your Shield of Faith for protection against the fiery darts of the enemy.

I take up the **Sword of the Spirit**, Your mighty Word, and come against the attacks of Satan and all evil spirits who prowl the world seeking the ruin of souls.

I ask you to protect my back with a wall of glory, and send Your host of heavenly angels to surround and protect me. I pray at all times in the Spirit that the Lord is my strength. May I be reborn now as a new being in Christ, with an open heart, I give myself to You. I move myself into Your grace and pray that you would fill me with your Holy boldness.

And, Lord, I pray You will enable me to love everyone I encounter today with Your love and use me today in a most powerful and wonderful way. Fill me with the Love of God, the Compassion of Jesus Christ, and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*

**RE-ENTRY** after a short-term mission trip can often be the most difficult part of the trip. It is very important to understand that your feelings are normal. You may have seen poverty like never before or experienced God move in a powerful way. Don't let the enemy rob you of the work that God has done in your heart. It brings no glory or honor to God if you stay angry, judgmental or depressed. Instead, seek to find what God wants you to do next.

### HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR APPROACHING RE-ENTRY

1. Debrief during and after the trip. Your team leaders will provide opportunities for you to debrief each evening with your team and again after you have returned home.
2. Identify and thank God for your areas of growth.
3. Re-read your journal entries from while you were on your trip and share your experiences with friends and family.
4. Build rest into your schedule. The trip can be physically and emotionally exhausting.
5. Be prepared for grief and feelings of uneasiness—this is natural.
6. Remember to thank the people who made it possible for you to go on your mission trip.
7. Focus on positive experiences and blessings experienced on the trip.
8. Be grateful that you were given this time to make a difference in the lives of others.
9. Continue to pray for our global partners and the new relationships that you formed!
10. Consider serving with one of your local partners!

Your team leaders have also been given resources to use to help with this process. They will begin talking to you about re-entry toward the end of your trip, and we encourage all teams to get together to debrief a few weeks after you return home as this will allow you to discuss some of the challenges you may be facing together.

We would also love for you to continue to partner with us long after you return home by either going on another mission trip, becoming a team leader, or by volunteering locally with our department or a local outreach partner. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Seacoast Global Missions Team!

## **ADDITIONAL READING**

Below is a list of books that we would recommend if you are interested in going deeper.

### ***When Helping Hurts***

by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

### ***Toxic Charity***

by Robert D. Lupton

### ***Helping Without Hurting in Short Term Missions***

by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

### ***Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation***

by Jason Mandryk

### ***Victory Over the Darkness***

by Neil T. Anderson

### ***Waking the Dead***

by John Eldredge

### ***Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader***

by Ralph D. Winter

### ***Cross-Cultural Servanthood Serving the World in Christlike Humility***

by Duane Elmer

### ***Christian Mission in the Modern World***

by John Stott

### ***Re-Entry: Making the Transition from Missions to Life at Home***

by Peter Jordan

### ***Returning Well***

by Melissa Chaplin

### ***Short-Term Missions Workbook: From Mission Tourists to Global Citizens***

by Tim Dearborn

