

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does LEFC do short-term missions trips?

When done well and with purpose, we believe short-term missions trips bring value to ministry around the world, to the trip participants, to global partners or national partners receiving the team and to LEFC. We place a high value on sending teams to serve with and to bring value to the ministry of our global partners and national ministry partners serving around the world. We expect God to work, and to use us in the process. Some of the benefits of short-term missions trips are:

- Short-term missions teams can serve as a vital source of encouragement for the global partners and national ministry partners they visit and serve with.
- Going on a short-term trip exposes the participants to the realities of the lostness around the world and the challenges of living for Christ in other cultures.
- Participants, when freed up from normal, daily responsibilities, get to engage in concentrated evangelism and discipleship in cross-cultural settings.
- When done with intentionality, short-term missions trips provide a step in the pipe-line of developing long-term missionaries.
- Short-term missionaries better understand the ministry and purpose of missions.
- Short-term missionaries are motivated to become more sacrificial supporters of long-term missionaries.
- Short-term missionaries are challenged to develop a passion for knowing Christ and making Christ known.

How do I apply for a short-term missions trip?

Complete the Short-term Missions Application and return it to Sarah Anderson at sarah.anderson@lefc.net. If you have questions related to the trip, contact Pastor Bob Travis at btravis@lefc.net.

Do I need to have any previous missions experience?

No. Some trips require specific skills or professional knowledge. When this is the case, it will be specified in the trip description. All short-term missions trips with LEFC require that the person has trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin and has a growing relationship with him.

Trips will vary in length of time, distance of travel, and the extent of cultural differences from the U.S. We encourage people to experience a domestic short-term missions trip or one that involves less travel or cultural diversity as a first step.

What if I feel I have no relevant skills to serve on a missions trip?

You do. God has given everyone multiple giftings, skills and hobbies, and all can be used on a trip. Certain trips will utilize those with specific skills, but sometimes the most important ability is availability. What you can use on a mission trip might surprise you!

What kind of preparation is provided?

LEFC will provide training, guidance, mentoring, and development for cross-cultural ministry. Through our pre-trip training, on the field experience, and post-trip follow-up, we intentionally seek to grow trip participants as disciples and disciple-makers. The emphasis on disciple-making helps team members develop spiritually, both personally and corporately through the trip experience. They are also better prepared for disciple-making opportunities as they arise. The pre-trip training meetings are a requirement for trip participants.

Participants will be taught ministry skills specific to each trip, prepared for travel (requirements like VISAs, packing, etc.), prepared for cultural differences, guided in support raising, and developed in team ministry.

Will I need shots (immunizations)?

Many of the places we send teams do recommend immunizations. In some instances we may go to a country that “requires” immunization against a particular disease. If an immunization is required, you must have proof of that immunization to enter the country or to return to the United States. For the most up to date information on what is needed for the country you will visit, contact cdc.gov or a local travel clinic. Your team leader will cover this information in the pre-trip meetings.

How do I pay for the trip?

Each team member raises his or her own financial and prayer support in order to go on a short-term missions trip. While this task may be intimidating to some, it is an opportunity to see God provide in ways that will strengthen the faith of those going on the trip. Each person will be thoroughly equipped and prepared with the knowledge of how to raise support. This is typically done through letters, emails and in-person interactions asking people to contribute toward the trip.

Can I pay for the trip myself?

Yes, but we will still ask that you send out letters for prayer support, and let the recipients know how to donate to the team/trip as a whole if they are led to do so.

If the short-term team member is unable to go on the trip, then can the donations be returned to the donors?

If for some reason a team member is unable to go on the trip, the donations will be used to support the missions trip or other missions projects. Donations are made to the church and not to an individual short-term team member. Based on IRS regulations, in order for donations to be tax deductible, they must be irrevocable and non-refundable.

What if more money comes in for me than what I need?

Throughout this ministry you will function as part of a team. Each person's ability to raise funds varies depending on who they know, how many people they know, their ability to communicate effectively, etc. Therefore, since the goal is to prepare and serve as a team, any monies given beyond what you will need will go to support other team members who are struggling with raising their funds. If more money comes in than is required by a team, the excess funds will go toward furthering ministry on the field or sending other teams.

How can I serve if I cannot go?

Prayer is vital. Although you may not be able to go, your prayer support is an incredibly valuable gift to those who do go and to the ministry of our short-term missions ministry. Additionally, if you are led, you may participate through a financial gift.

What happens when our team returns from our trip?

Trip participants will be encouraged to share their experiences with others to help engage others in what God is doing around the world. Intentional sharing opportunities will be planned for within LEFC. Participants will also be encouraged to continue praying for the global and national partners served and their ministries.