

MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING

WHY GO?

Spiritual Growth - One of the main reasons we take this opportunity, is because if it is done correctly, it can be a great catalyst for spiritual growth in the lives of the team members we send. This growth happens in a number of ways.

- **Enjoy Grace** - Often our view of God and the grace he has given us is too small. We fail to realize that he has the God of every single tribe, tongue, and nation. We fail to realize he is working all across the globe, and not just in our backyard. By experience ministry in a global context, we are reminded of the bigness of our God and drawn out to more deeply enjoy His grace!
- **Embody Love** - Part of faithfully embodying the love of Christ is through loving those who are different than us. A short term trip can grow our understanding of what it looks like to love those who are different, both our international brothers and sisters abroad, as well as our team members who will have different backgrounds, ethnicities, ages, and personalities. By working as a team and submitting to international leadership on the field, we learn how to better embody love back home.
- **Engage Culture**
Neighborhoods: As we learn to engage culture abroad, we are given a crash course in cultural contextualization. This often helps us to see subcultures back at home, and gives us a new perspective on engaging our neighbors in contextualized evangelism. We also often start to see internationals in our home context that we previously overlooked.

Nations: We are given a perspective and connection to international ministry. This often is a kindled fire that drives us to participate in great commission ministry after returning home, through prayer, sending, and mobilizing others as a church.

Encourage Partners - As we are encouraged by international partners, by being humble servants and joyful friends we can encourage them as well. While we are blessed in many ways as the American church, other international bodies often minister in very discouraging circumstances. Our presence can serve as a source of encouragement in this context.

Aid Ministry - While short term missions ministry is often not cost effective in a direct way, there are ways that our participation legitimately aids our partners in disciple making ministry in their long term context.

Become Advocates - We can become advocates for peoples, churches, and missionaries that we meet, casting vision for them when we return and supporting them through prayer or generous giving.

Consider going mid or long term - Many mid or long term missionaries first consider joining the field after participating in short term trips.

Honduras

MDM Ministries - For several years two of our Tower Grove leaders have been involved with a non profit ministry in Honduras that serves poor rural communities with holistic economic empowerment, education, and health programs. This trip includes many medical professionals who are able to do critical medical procedures in a local clinic, but also has multiple projects that need general volunteer help.

WHEN: MAY 25 - 31

WHO: ANYONE 15 AND OLDER

- For High schoolers, must be accompanied with a parent or guardian, case by case basis
- While medical professionals can play a specific role on the trip, this trip is open to anyone
- Because of the variety of ways MDM is involved in the communities, the skills and gifts of attendees often affects the trips agenda

WHAT: HOLISTIC MINISTRY IN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

- The medical team on the trip provides consultation and help with procedures in local clinics. A prayer team also spends time with patients praying over their procedures and for other needs that arise
- Other possible ministry opportunities are work with school children, general labor projects to improve community resources, and Gospel proclamation with the help of local translators

ESTIMATED COST: \$2500

Notes: This trip will include some medical professionals from outside of the Journey. Also, part of this trip is run through a 3rd party organization, and will require a few additional logistical pieces that will be communicated to attendees who's applications are accepted.

TOTAL TEAM SIZE: 15-20 (from the Journey)

LEADER(S): RICH AND BECKY HOWARD

Casale, Haiti

Ministry in Casale with Ezai Gabriel - Our West County location has a relationship with a young pastor named Ezai Gabriel who ministers to the rural communities in Casale, Haiti.

WHEN: JUNE 12 - 19

WHO: ANYONE 12 AND OLDER

- Teenagers require parents or a designated adult, case by case basis
- No special skills required

WHAT: SERVICE PROJECTS, RURAL MINISTRY, AND FELLOWSHIP WITH CONGREGATION

- We have an opportunity to fellowship with Pastor Gabriel's church, and to join them in their holistic ministry to the community. This trip includes ministry to the rural elderly, general labor projects to benefit the church and local school community, and potentially opportunities to join Haitian nationals in sharing the Gospel with others (with translation).

COST: \$1800

TOTAL TEAM SIZE: 20

LEADER: ALICE LAWRENCE

Tokyo, Japan

Grace Harbor Church - Our partner in Tokyo is Grace Harbor Church, a congregation working to make disciples in the Tokyo Bay area. Tokyo is a city of 38 million people of which only .3% are estimated to be followers of Christ, and most have never heard the gospel. Before GHC started in the bay area, there was no church for the 250,000 people around. They engage the community generously and winsomely in order to connect people to the church and open up Gospel opportunities.

WHEN: JUNE 28 - JULY 9

WHO: ANYONE 15 AND OLDER

- For High schoolers, being accompanied by a guardian is preferred, case by case basis

WHAT: TEACH ENGLISH IN THE LOCAL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- In 2017 we started a program with GHC in the local elementary school. This English teaching week is simple, fun, and is a big hit in the community. Though it is a secular environment, it provides the pastor of GHC an opportunity to increase the church's reputation and trust in the community, and connect students, parents, and staff to GHC for future gospel ministry.
- In addition to the main program in the school, this trip is designed to include opportunities for attendees to learn about and see first hand different ministry contexts in urban Tokyo through a wider network of Gospel-centered church plants.

ESTIMATED COST: \$2500**TOTAL TEAM SIZE: 20****LEADER(S): SARAH URHAHN, JERRET HENLEY****Southern India**

India Gospel League - Our partner in Southern India is Indian Gospel League. IGL is a church planting network that mobilizes indigenous pastors to plant new churches from village to village, crossing castes and subcultures in a way only locals could. They have planted just under 100,000 churches throughout Southern India in the last 30 years. They bring in Western short term teams in order to cast vision and create advocacy in the West.

WHEN: Late Summer (in August)**WHAT: Women's trip with a focus on teaching/equipping Bible study material in a conference type setting (through translators).****COST: \$2500-3000****TOTAL TEAM SIZE: 8**

Note: If you are seriously interested in this potential opportunity, you can fill out a general application, but also please email us directly at international@thejourney.org to talk with us more!

East Asia 2020

Opportunity - We have connections through a TG attendee to a ministry in Suzhou (1 hour outside Shanghai). Evangelism is illegal in China, and short term trips are not common. However, our partner missionary is an American who has great favor in his region, and even has won awards for his citizenship. As a result, he is given freedom to run a church English teaching camp and a VBS camp in the summer. They have invited us to send a team for 2020.

WHEN: ~ Midsummer, next year

WHO: COLLEGE AGE AND OLDER

WHAT: TEACH ENGLISH / VBS WITH LOCAL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

COST: \$2500-3000

TEAM SIZE: 6-8

Note: If you are seriously interested in this potential opportunity, please email us directly at international@thejourney.org to talk with us more!

Why Support Raising?

We are asking ALL team members to participate in support raising as a mandatory part of our process.

ITS PART OF THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION - It forces us to rely on God in a way we rarely have to do in the U.S.

IT INVOLVES OTHERS IN CHURCH - we give those who cannot go this year a chance to be involved through sending us.

OUR MISSIONS BUDGET CAN GO TO LONG TERM MISSIONARIES - Though some churches use their tithes to fund STTs, we would rather tithes go to long term missions ministry. Our STT funds can come from a different stream of income that normally would go to luxuries (like eating out or coffee).

IT HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES, AND BECOME AN ADVOCATE - Most missionaries must raise some kind of support. We can have a taste of their experience and become more informed advocates.

Support Raising - How?

AS A TEAM - Support raising is different for everyone, depending on their ethnicity, socio-economic status, and network. In order to have diverse teams we must take an equitable approach to support raising that accommodates each person's unique challenges. We raise as a team in order to better facilitate this. Even those who are going to pay their own way will still participate in support raising on behalf of the team!

SHARING EXTRA - All extra funds raised by individuals will not be given back to them, but will go to other team members struggling to meet their support goal. It should also be noted that donations are not returnable anyway, as this is illegal by IRS guidelines.

EVENTS - We will plan and execute some support raising events as a group or in smaller groups per location.

WORKING ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER - we will work alongside each other for encouragement and cooperation

AS INDIVIDUALS - We are also asking each individual to put in a minimum amount of work in the following ways.

WRITING LETTERS

PERSONAL ASKS

ONLINE CAMPAIGN - This will be done through managedmissions. Each team member will be able to edit their own page, and donors can give to their fund directly. (see example).

Note: Though we have had people drop out of the support raising process out of their own accord, over the last two years we have not had to ask any of our team members who went through our process to stay behind. Through our team model, God has provided every penny!

Payment Schedule

We will use a payment schedule to help team members stay on track. Payments will be spaced out and checked up upon. See example. Yellow payments are more rigid, as they are the airfare and final payments.

Training

All members will go through mandatory training in order to maximize the experience of a STM.

GLOBAL TRAINING (Sat 9-11:30AM AT TG IN SANCTUARY)

SUPPORT RAISING - 3/23

This training will cover everything attendees need to know about our support raising and financial processes.

EVANGELISM - 4/6

This training will focus on how to clearly present the Gospel. Though not all of our short term opportunities will include a focus on Gospel proclamation (due to language/cultural barriers), we want to be ready for any opportunity!

CULTURE - 4/20

This training will focus on a biblical theology of culture and cultural analysis, and will help us to think more critically about cultural differences (and how they affect ministry) on the field and after we return home.

TEAM TRAINING

2 MEETINGS MINIMUM

TIMES AND LOCATION TBD BY TRIP LEADER

These trainings will cover logistics and expectations for your specific team and trip.

Apply Today!

ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST FILL OUT AN APPLICATION

ONLINE - www.thejourney.org/the-journey-international under the **short term trips** tab. Look for **“Apply for 2019 Trips”** button.

This is the preferred method, but those who are not able or comfortable may utilize secondary options.

HARD COPY - CHURCH ADMIN Individuals may request a hard copy to fill out at their church location's office. Contact Jerret Henley to coordinate this.

PHONE/IN-PERSON - Individuals may request a phone or in person conversation. Contact Jerret Henley.

APPLICATIONS DUE by 11:59PM on 3/17

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED BY 3/20 - All applicants will receive correspondence by the end of office hours on this day. This correspondence will either formally invite them to join one of our STT teams for 2019, or will inform them that we believe this is not the best time for them to attend one of our trips.

\$100 DEPOSIT DUE ON 3/23 TO CONFIRM - We require a \$100 deposit to be delivered in person on 3/23 at the end of our first global training in order to confirm the invited applicant's spot on their trip roster. This can be check or cash.

If someone truly cannot afford this, we can work with them on a case by case basis, provided they let us know ahead of time. **These are not refundable, because of the IRS.** Members can ask a donor to write them a direct check at a later date if they want to compensate themselves (as long as that donor does not need a tax credit for this personal donation).

Potential Questions

What does a trip cost include? Trip costs cover airfare and in country transportation, food, lodging, and all project materials used during the trip. Costs will not include immunization or passport costs, but may include Visa application costs for trips that require a visa. For most trips we recommend team members bring at least \$100 of their own money for personal purchases or to buy souvenirs for donors.

Are there any circumstances in which team members can get donations back?

No, once a donation has been processed and a tax receipt has been issued, under no circumstances can the donation be returned to the donor or anyone else. All donations over the target goal of an individual for their respective trip will be applied to other members on their team (or another team in the event an entire team is already fully funded). In extreme circumstances where a trip has to be cancelled due to in country factors, The Journey will use the funds according to its discretion, but will do its best to use them in a manner that is as close to the original intent of the donors.

Can members book their own flights if they would prefer (to make use of personal discounts or because of travel before or after trip)?

Yes, but then they are responsible for their full itinerary and cannot support raise for their airfare amount. We book through travel agents specialized in short term trips, and as a result, rarely will attendees be able to secure better deals for themselves anyway.

Can people stay in country longer?

On a case by case basis, attendees may be allowed to stay in country for specific ministry opportunities with our international partners, but will be on their own after the trips original end date. Attendees cannot stay in country longer for personal vacation or business.

Any other inquiries can be answered with “I don’t know, please email Jerret”.

You can give people my direct email and the international one.

jhenley@thejourney.org
international@thejourney.org