

Seed Ministry

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Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. Psalms 126:5 (NIV)



This document is designed to be a guide that

- *gives you an overview of areas of consideration in understanding your **Ministry Purpose**.*
- *helps you as you and/or your team develop your **Ministry Plan**. Teams are made up of churches, families, and individuals who come on their own.*
- *leads you through your **Ministry Preparation** for your short-term mission trip.*

The contents are mainly compiled by questions team members have asked us over the years as well as input from our Seed Ministry Staff. We hope it helps you to have a better understanding of what to expect as you minister in Ghana.

*As you read this material, you will see that the presentation is not written to persuade a person to sign up for a trip. The intention is that the person will better understand each Believer's role in missions, what God expects when considering such opportunities, and to know the will of God related to this present mission opportunity with **Seed Ministry**.*

It is our desire that this will become a 'living' document; therefore, we welcome your input, especially from first-time missionaries fresh off their first mission trip, as well as, from our 'seasoned' friends that have experienced it all before. Please forward any comments and/or suggestions for improving the contents of this presentation to bonnie@seedministry.com.

We are so looking forward to your trip and the opportunity to minister alongside you in Ghana.

Ministry History

Bob and Bonnie Parker accepted Christ as their personal Saviour as children but both ran from Him for many years. It was through their children attending Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and a child evangelist that they came back to the church and the Lord. Bob was ordained as a minister at First Baptist Church, Elizabeth, Indiana, in 1995 and remained on staff as part of the Ministry Team until leaving for Ghana in 2001.

While on a short mission trip to India in 1995, Bob noticed the children and the need for children's workers. Upon his return home, he and Bonnie together planned their next trip to India and their emphasis was again on the children. They continued to minister in India until the doors were closed.

In September of 2000, Bob and Bonnie travelled to Ghana Africa, for their first and only short term mission trip to the area. As they shared at a school one morning, Bonnie began to cry when she saw the children carrying their desks outside to hear the story of Jesus. That night as she recorded in her journal she saw the Scripture Psalm 126:5-6.

"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5-6 (NIV)

She shared her experience with Bob and they agreed that God was leading them to full time missionary work in Tamale, Ghana, West Africa. Through their tears and God's calling, Seed Ministry was formed as a non-profit organization in October 2000. A brief chronology of the ministry is shown below:

2001

- Moved into rental house
- Began establishing relationships
- Became involved with local churches
- Bible clubs started
- Training in local communities for pastors and lay leaders

2002

- Ministry team started
- 3 acres of land purchased, ministry facility started
- Bible Club leader training established

2003

- Ministry Center completed
- Soul Searcher boat started
- Leadership training began in Ministry Center

2004

- Soul Searcher boat launched, 7 villages visited on the Volta River
- Jesus Film project initiated
- Upper East Region Bible Clubs began – 1st introduction into northeastern Ghana

2005

- Joyful Sowers team began ministering in schools
- 5 acres of land purchased and 2 houses built for ministry staff
- Camp counselor quarters built
- Youth Camps began

2006

- Children's Crusades began
- Young translators class began for ages 11-17
- Volta Region Bible clubs began – 1st introduction into southern Ghana

2007

- Container shipped to Ghana
- Youth Mission Camps began

2008

- Farming, Food and Outreach Ministry began
- Our grandson, Seth, ministered in Ghana with us for 6 months

2009

- Nissan truck was donated and shipped to Ghana from the US
- Soul Searcher partnership began with Terry & Amy Ruff of Team Expansion to the Gonja Tribe

2010

- Our son and his family, Toby, Joy, Seth & Caleb moved to Ghana to begin 1-1/2 years ministry
- God's Story was translated into 10 languages

2011

- 5 Outposts were established
- Number of Bible Clubs went over 200 and number of children attending weekly over 8,000!!!!

Seed Ministry

The following Guidelines are to help you as you prepare to come to partner with us on the Mission Field.

Ministry Purpose

As a follower of Christ, we each have been given the directive and the purpose:

“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 (NIV)

The command is to go to all nations. Go and make disciples... teaching them to obey everything God has commanded us. The Dagbani language uses the same word ‘tuma’ for work and missions. At first it would seem to be a misnomer, but a mission is hard work.

We are all to tell as we go daily, in our own personal life and work. We are comfortable with that aspect of our walk and go comfortably along everyday. When we go onto the foreign mission field, we allow God to take us ‘out of our box’ and stretch us so we can develop an even stronger walk with Him.

It seems our daily lives consist of multi-tasking, calendars, constant cell phones ringing and e-mails to be answered in a balancing act of work, home, church, and children’s schedules. These are all good things but sometimes leave us feeling a void in our spiritual life.

A short-term mission trip is a focused commitment and is carried out away from all of these daily responsibilities that vie for our time and energy. Probably the single greatest advantage of a foreign mission trip is that focused service to the Lord. When you come with the thought of removing yourself from the ‘nagging’ electronic world and remaining focused on a specific God ordained mission, you will find yourself engulfed in fellowship with your team and the Holy Spirit.

*Prepare your heart and honestly seek the will of God. A sample prayer might be
“God, whatever you want me to do, where ever you want me to go, and whatever you want me to do, that is what I want for my life.”*

Seed Ministry Ministry Plan

Our Mission Statement is a simple one...

We believe the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God and that salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. Our goal is to minister through training and discipling children's workers to equip them to share Jesus with children. We further want to expand the vision of God's people and to provide an opportunity for them to participate in sowing the Seed of the Gospel around the world.

Your mission with Seed Ministry is one of evangelism and discipleship. This goal might be accomplished in any number of ways such as

Bible Clubs Meeting with a group of children, teaching them about Jesus through a Bible Lesson, songs, and games.

Schools Going into a classroom to share Christ with the children.

Leadership Conferences Teaching Bible Knowledge and Principles to Pastors, Lay Leaders and Churches where they do not get a lot of Biblical teaching in addition to our Bible Club Leaders who are trained to lead the children in their communities to Christ.

Medical Using your knowledge of the physical as a means to the spiritual as you listen to their ailments, give them medicine and then share the plan of Salvation, all in the name of Jesus.

Eye Clinics We are not equipped for actual eye test, but even a dollar pair of reading glasses does a lot towards helping to better their eyesight. Sunglasses are also a big treat to have.

Evangelism Everything we do is done in a manner to share Christ, teach Biblical knowledge, disciple and send out.

Construction and/or Maintenance From erecting church buildings to painting the benches, filling in pot holes in the road to building a wall, there is work to be done.

Seed Ministry

Ministry Preparation

The following Checklist is designed to help you with all of your Ministry Preparation

- Contact Us at bob@seedministry.com
- Set Your Projected Dates
- Apply for Passport
- Contact your local Health Dept or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov> at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to your trip for required Yellow Fever immunization and that your routine vaccinations are up-to-date.
- Apply for Ghana Visa
- Medicines you may need:
 - Verify that you will have enough of any prescription medicines you take every day for your entire trip. Keep them in their original prescription bottles and always in your carry-on luggage. Be sure to follow security guidelines if the medicines are liquids.
 - Antimalarial Drug – Some of these must be started as much as 2 weeks before you travel so contact your doctor or travel clinic timely.
 - Medicine for Diarrhea – Ciprofloxacin as prescribed by your physician or an over the counter drug
 - Benadryl – or similar antihistamine for allergies
 - Tylenol / Ibuprofen
 - Non-drowsy Dramamine (if you get motion sickness)
- Other Medical/Health related items you may need:
 - First Aid Supplies
 - Sunblock and sunglasses for protection from harmful effects of UV sun rays
 - Antibacterial hand wipes
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Mosquito Repellent (or Bounce® fabric softeners to rub on exposed skin)
- Clothing – Consider bringing clothes you will leave in Ghana when your trip is over
 - Men – Long pants and T-Shirts for village ministry. Dress shirt for preaching. Long Shorts are ok for construction or painting.
 - Ladies – Long skirts or dresses are required at all times while in the Northern Region, you may bring slacks and/or capris for your travel in the south
 - Comfortable walking shoes; suggest 2 pair
 - One long sleeve sweatshirt or light jacket
 - Rain Poncho (the small travel ones work well and are easily transported)
- Other Items
 - Bible, Pens, Journal Notebook and Back Pack
 - Flashlight
 - Toilet Paper (minimum 4 rolls)
 - Earplugs if snoring bothers you
 - Camera with extra batteries
- Toiletries /Makeup
 - Any creams, gels or liquids must be in checked baggage only, cannot be in carry-on baggage
 - Soap or body wash, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant (scent free), shampoo
 - Makeup – if you MUST – you sweat it off very quickly
 - Hand Sanitizer

Seed Ministry

Typical Team Schedule

Day 1

Arrival in Tamale

General Orientation

Team Meeting

Ministry Prep

Following Days

7:15am Group Devotion

8:00am Breakfast

8:30am Depart for School Ministry

9:00am School Ministry

11:00am Village Ministry

1:00pm Picnic Lunch

2:00pm Village Ministry

5:00pm Return to Seed Ministry

6:00pm Supper

7:00pm Debriefing followed by Group Devotion

8:00pm Team Meeting

School Ministry consists of 1-2 team members with a translator in each school room telling a Bible Lesson, singing some 'action' songs and interacting with the children.

Village Ministry consists of a variety of evangelism opportunities such as children's Bible Club meetings, door to door evangelism, small group Bible Studies, ladies hand and/or foot massages, Church Leadership Conferences, medical, dental or eye clinics, etc.

One free afternoon each week will be scheduled for going to the Market

Seed Ministry

Ministry Needs

Many of you ask what items you can bring that will bless our Ministry in Ghana. Below are a list of things that are always needed,

Mandatory Items To Help With Your Team (with Minimum Required)

- *Velveeta Cheese (a 2 pound box per person)
- *Ranch Dressing or Parmesan Cheese (1 per person)
- *Shout Color Catchers® (1 box per per team)
- *Clorox or Lysol Wipes (1 container per team)

Suggestions for Ministry Items To Give Away – These are in no particular order

Pencils
Click Pens (not the brand just the type)
Stickers
Crayons
Soccer Balls
McDonald's size Toys
Children's T-Shirts
Adult T-shirts, Jerseys, and Caps
Handkerchiefs or Bandanas (NOT for wearing on your head)
Good Quality Rain Coats and/or Ponchos
Back Packs
Single Sheet Set w/ Pillow Case
Towels
Wash Cloths
Toothbrushes
Trial size toothpaste, soaps and shampoos
Acetaminophen / Ibuprofen
Tripe Antibiotic Creams / Neosporin
1% Hydrocortisone
Band Aids
Hydrogen Peroxide
Children's Vitamins
Travel Size Hand Sanitizer
Hand Wipes
Lotions
Reading Glasses
Sun Glasses

*There might be something specific we need at the time you are coming that we ask you to bring.

Seed Ministry

Visiting In The Northern Region of Ghana

- **We are living and working with a very hospitable and loving people. We are the outsiders. We want to show respect and present the Gospel in a way they will hear and see Jesus in us.**
- We need to be very sensitive to what we say and what we do - we are the guest.
- You will be treated as honored guests by everyone you meet. However, please always remember that we are here to further the work of the Kingdom. We are here to serve and to honor – not to be served.
- If you have something you want to give to help with a need, please let SM know to verify it is a genuine need and the best way to give.
- If you wish to give something to our staff, it will be much appreciated. However, since we have to be certain that all of the staff receive somewhat equal gifts, in accordance to their cultural station, please let us know **before** you give it to them.
- Please do not make any promises, small or large, about something you will do in the future. If there is a need you want to continue to help with once you go back to the states, you will be able to do so through SM and we will tell them you are the one who sent it and you will receive a thank you note from the recipient so you will know they did receive your gift. Unfortunately, we see many who come and make promises they cannot keep once they return. This makes it very difficult for us and leads to many hurt feelings.

Personal Safety

- Always be aware of your surroundings. We have a God that is our protector, but we also use common sense to not get in the middle of anything.
- Situations become very volatile very quickly. Don't think you can help "soothe" things over...stay out of any disagreements and if SM staff tell you it is time to leave, you leave immediately.
- Do not go off with anyone (including your translator) unless it is verified by SM staff and you are accompanied by SM staff.
- We do have 24 hour security in the compound.
- Our staff is very dependable and trustworthy but they all have great needs, so please keep your valuables in your possession or just stored in your room out of site.
- Do not invite **anyone** inside the Guest house. SM cleaning staff will be the only exception.
- At the first sign of dysentery, begin to take Cipro. This is a precautionary reaction and even though you never want to take antibiotics unnecessarily, one round of them is better than being sick.

We have told you all of these things, not to frighten you, but to better make you aware of the dangers that exist. However, we want to end this as we began it. You will be working with the most loving people you will ever meet. God has given the Dagomba people true servant's hearts and a love that you will not find anywhere else.

Seed Ministry

Your Ministry

We work together with the local community

- Showing the love of Christ through Seed Bible Clubs
- Men's, Women's, Church Leadership Conferences
- Preaching Crusades and Revivals
- Medical "clinics" in the villages
- Building and repairing their buildings
- Helping with their farming or road building or well digging
- Going house to house while praying and witnessing to the people that we are around.

We will set up your Ministry here to best utilize your gifts and talents as you prepare to come. But don't be surprised if God shows you other ways to minister while you are in Ghana!

Do's & Don'ts

- Do **NOT** take any pictures in or around the airport.
- Always ask anyone before you take their photograph. Most people do not mind and even like it (especially if you give them a copy) but some do not want you to photograph them.
- Do **NOT** discuss local politics or chieftaincy issues when you are in a group setting, even if everyone seems friendly and in agreement at the beginning of the conversation.
- Men should always wear long pants and dress shirts while preaching/speaking. Shorts and t-shirts are OK to work and paint in.
- Ladies should wear long skirts and dresses **at all times**.
- When speaking to a group, giving a testimony or preaching, speak slowly and use short sentences so the translators can repeat what you have said. Sometimes they need to use word pictures in Dagbani and it takes them several seconds to say it. Other times you will say a long sentence and they will translate it with just a few words.
- Let SM staff do their job translating and helping you talk to the children.
- The staff at Seed Ministry will do all they can to make your ministry in Ghana a memorable experience for you. However, remember they each also have their own ministry. They are there to minister along side you.
- Do **NOT** hand out any toffees / candy / clothing, etc. unless we are in a controlled setting. It could get somewhat dangerous for the children. You will be able to do this, but let us organize the time and the setting.

Other Things You Want To Know

- Your clothes will be laundered daily. Please **label** your underclothes as many are just alike and difficult to sort. Also please be sure you bring colorfast clothes and bring a box of Shout Color Catchers®.
- Consider bringing used clothing to wear and leave.
- You will have a combination of American and African food.
- Bring one 2lb box of Velveeta Cheese per person.
- Bring Snacks of your choice – they are not always readily available to purchase locally.
- Do **NOT** bring fresh fruits or fresh vegetables
- Bring insect repellent (deet 33% or better)
- Bring hand sanitizer
- Bring 4 rolls of toilet paper per person