



**REACHING NORTHWEST ARKANSAS, AMERICA  
AND THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST**

# **GENERAL MISSION JOURNEY TRAINING**

Revised  
October 2022

# Mission Journey Training Manual

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## Cross Church Missions Office Contact Information

Cross Church Missions Website: [www.crosschurch.com/missions](http://www.crosschurch.com/missions)

Facebook: @crosschurchmissions

Instagram: @cc\_globalmissions



### Address:

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## Training Requirements

There are certain requirements that must be followed in order for your mission journey experience to be productive and fulfilling for you and your entire team. Please understand that we expect everyone to follow the same requirements, regardless of past journey experience.

### Global Missions Training Manual

Everyone will receive a training manual at the first General Training meeting. **Each team member is responsible for knowing and understanding the contents of this manual.** Training manual can be downloaded at [crosschurch.com/missions](http://crosschurch.com/missions).

### Training Meetings

Each mission journey applicant will be required to attend a general training session that is **valid for two** years. Additionally, one to three location specific training sessions will be required. These meetings are not optional. You will not be placed on a team to undergo location-specific team meetings until you have met the requirement of participating in the general training.

### Email communication

Email communication is imperative when mobilizing mission teams. Please make sure you have registered with a working email address that you check frequently. Please let your team leader know if your email address changes during your training.

# The Cross Church Missions Process

Leading Cross Church in the Mission Ministries is a great privilege and responsibility. What a joy to see a believer grow in their walk with the Lord as they serve Christ in a Missional lifestyle! I pray that over time every member and attendee of this great church will participate in mission work somewhere in Northwest Arkansas, America, and the World.

I am often asked, “What is the process that determines our National and International mission work with Cross Church?” This is a great question to be answered.

First, **our desire as Cross Church is to PARTNER with the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention for all mission journeys.** Does this mean we don’t love or appreciate other mission organizations? Absolutely not. Without other Great Commission organizations the spreading of the Gospel would be slowed drastically. But I must ask “**if we as Southern Baptists have over 9,000 missionaries serving in the field and we as a church support them in finance and prayer, why would we NOT want to partner with them in work?**” Together we achieve more!

Next, **all mission journeys are STRATEGICALLY chosen through ongoing partnerships.** We don’t just throw a dart at a map and say, “Let’s go,” nor do we allow “need” to determine a ministry opportunity. There are many fine opportunities out there to get involved in, but as a church, it is our duty to identify where the Lord is leading us to work. We are presently partnered in many different national and international locations which were chosen through prayer and relationships we have with missionaries that are with the I.M.B. and NAMB.

Also included in the selection process is **BALANCE** 1 Corinthians 3:6, “***I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.***” **Sowing, watering, and reaping are included in what we like to call “balanced evangelism.”** We have partnerships all around the world involving these three ministry areas to accomplish balanced evangelism. **This strategy gives latitude for involvement for the lay person and a balance to the ministry. All of our ministries will involve 2 major aspects of ministry: evangelism, and indigenous church-planting.** We choose missionaries that embrace these as core beliefs.

I pray this has helped you to become aware and informed of the process; however, my deepest desire is for you to engage in an International or National Mission Journey in the future. What does God desire for you to do in Global Missions? An exciting journey awaits your discovery.

**Doug Sarver**  
*Missions Pastor*

# How to register for a mission journey with Cross Church

- Visit [www.crosschurch.com/missions](http://www.crosschurch.com/missions) to see the upcoming mission journeys. On this page, you can find the journey locations, dates of travel, and cost of the journey.
- Once you find the trip you want to participate in, click register under that particular journey.
- You will immediately have to pay a deposit in order to secure your spot on the team.



**When you register for the trip by paying your deposit, you are agreeing to pay for 100% of the cost. Your deposit is non-refundable. If you drop out of the mission journey (for any and all reasons), and there has already been expenses paid on your behalf (airfare, transportation, hotel, etc), you are responsible to reimburse the Church for those expenses.**

- Certain payment milestones are required for your trip.
  - Six weeks out we will require 50% of the trip cost;
  - three weeks out we will require 75% of the trip cost;
  - one week before leaving for the trip, we will require 100% of the journey cost.
- After the payment has been entered, please click “**complete registration**”. On the next page, you will complete your registration by filling out the applicable forms. These forms will be sent directly to the Missions Department. You are now registered for your mission journey!

## **Next Steps After Registration**

### **Spiritual Gifts Assessment**



Please scan the QR code or use the link provided <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/gifts-survey/?type=group&id=901605> to take Spiritual Gifts assessment.

**Identifying your God-given spiritual gifts allows you to discover your areas of strength in ministry.** For individual servants and missionaries, this helps to determine the best ministry focus during your time of service. For teams, assessing the strengths of each team member is valuable for the team leader in determining individual responsibility within the group for the duration of the journey. Send your results to [karlad@crosschurch.com](mailto:karlad@crosschurch.com) in the mission’s office and your team leader.

## **Child Protection Training**

Cross Church is committed to providing, as much as possible, a safe and secure environment for all children entrusted to its care. This includes protecting children from sexual predators and anyone else whose history or character suggest that they reasonably pose a risk to the health and well-being of children with whom they may come in contact in connection with their service.

Please click on the link below to watch the IMB Child Protection Video. Once you have watched the video please click on the links or scan QR code to complete the survey questions about the video.



QR code or link to Video: <https://vimeo.com/352326511>



Link to Survey: <https://crosschurch.wufoo.com/forms/m1k49ev11rrdl8q/>

### How This Affects You

The IMB has established a policy designed to evaluate all volunteers heading to the field. Those participating on mission trips with the IMB will need to **(1) review child protection training materials and (2) successfully pass a background screening.**

## Background Screening

Cross Church has partnered with a company called Protect My Ministry (PMM) to conduct a criminal background check for each team member. PMM's system performs the background check and interview components of the screening. It also gathers the names and contact information of references.

**Your background check must be taken online.** Go to [www.ministryopportunities.org/CCSpringdale](http://www.ministryopportunities.org/CCSpringdale) and complete background form. On the page, follow all instructions and submit your application. The results will be sent directly to the church. We will let you know if any problems arise during this process. Total time for taking the background screening is 5-10 minutes. Once you have submitted your background check, please select that you have done so on the requirements page.

### Decisions

PMM will note an evaluation of *Pass*, *Fail*, or *Further Review* from the criminal background check.

Anyone with a *Fail* notice MAY NOT participate on a Cross Church Mission Journey. If the individual disputes the results, PMM will run a free, detailed reinvestigation of the records.

As per IMB policy, an individual shall not be allowed to serve in *any* capacity with the IMB where the background screening or any other information reveals any information demonstrating that the individual engaged in (1) any prior behavior constituting Sexual Abuse of a child, (2) any crime of a sexual nature, or (3) any other behavior that reasonably indicates that this individual would pose a risk of sexually abusing a child. An individual shall not be allowed to serve in *any* capacity with the IMB where that individual has engaged in any behavior that reasonably indicates that this individual would pose a risk of Physically Abusing a child.

As a mission journey participant, you will not be eligible for service with the IMB unless Cross Church provides written certification to the IMB that you have had a background screening conducted and that it meets the standards set forth in the aforementioned Child Protection policies and procedures.

# **Journey Cost Sheet**

The missions team works diligently to secure the lowest cost possible. It is worth pointing out that in most cases, **the more participants a team has, the lower each individual's cost will be.** So, inviting several of your friends to go on the mission journey with you not only encourages them to be a part of this life changing experience with you, it also can lower your cost!

The cost of your journey includes airline, ground transportation, meals, lodging, insurance and ministry materials. Incidentals that are *not included* in the total cost of your journey are things such as passport fees, immunizations, personal items, "in transit" meals and snacks, medicine items, or souvenirs.

**Please remember: Prices are approximate and subject to change until travel contracts are secured.**

## **National Journeys (\$100 - \$150 Deposit)**

- National journeys feature ministry with Decade of Love and approved church planting partners. A few examples of ministry are spiritual surveys, community outreach events, materials distribution, assisting w/ Sunday services. **(Typically, 5-7 days)**

## **International Journeys (\$250 - \$400 Deposit)**

- International journeys include working w/ international Decade of Love church planters and approved missionaries. A few examples of ministry are prayer walks, village evangelism, feeding centers, widow and orphans ministry, bible distribution, construction and medical ministries, and more. **(Typically, 7-12 days)**

Although fundraising is a team effort, participants are individually responsible for **100%** of all funds needed.

## **Fundraising Processes**

Pure Charity is Cross Church's approved online fundraising platform.

### **Pure Charity Fundraising (Online)**

**\*When you register for a trip, you will automatically have a fundraising page created. \***

**Here is the process for creating an online fundraising page:**

- Go to purecharity.com
  - Click on sign up in upper right-hand corner and enter your personal information. At this stage, you can customize your profile with photos and personal information.
  - Click on start a fundraiser and select fundraise for a trip (should be a picture of a suitcase).
  - Click on choose your charitable organization and type in Cross (do not type in the full name) and then select Cross Church from the pull-down menu.
  - Next select your cause category. Most trips will have multiple causes so just choose the best one. You can also add how many lives will be impacted with this journey.
  - Next enter the region and city you will be ministering in.
  - Select one time goal and enter the amount needed for the journey.
  - Entitle your fundraiser with this **Specific Title**: Cross Church Mission Nation First and Last Name. Ex: Cross Church Mission Malawi John Doe.
  - Set your end date for the day before your departure, but realize that all funds are **due 7 days** before you leave.
  - Under the Fundraiser's Story heading, you can enter in information about your trip. You can use the same information that you used for your letter; however, remember to make it appealing to the eye! We encourage you to use pictures that can be personal photos of the country or photos found online. Remember: give specifics, be creative, and have fun with it!
  - Click start my fundraiser.
- **You can track the progress of your fundraising directly on your fundraising page.**
- Once you create your fundraiser, you will be given a customize URL that you can include in your letter or emails.

**Note: For Cash or check donations see letter writing method on following page.**

**There will be a 5% transaction fee for donations to Pure Charity. However, the price you see on the Pure Charity mission journey page already has this fee factored into it.**



## Letter Writing Method

- Prayerfully make a list of friends and family members with whom you have good relationships and to whom you could send a letter. List of names need to be e-mailed to Karla Dugger @ [karlad@crosschurch.com](mailto:karlad@crosschurch.com). The list needs to be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet with Last name first, First name last.
- **Formula for determining how many letters you need to send out:**

Trip Cost	\$2,500
Your Deposit	<u>-\$250</u>
Balance	\$2,250

**Take balance:**  $2250 \div 35 = 65$  (number of letters to be sent out)

- Be sure to include in your letter the following:
  - Who is going on the trip
  - What you will be doing
  - Where you will be going
  - When you will be going
  - Why you will be going
  - How they can partner with you in prayer and funding
  - Deadline to send funds
- **Per IRS guidelines, every letter must include the following P.S.**

**P.S. All financial gifts are tax-deductible when submitted as follows:**

- Checks made payable to Cross Church.
- Please use the enclosed envelope and include the response card with my name indicating your partnership.
- Please **DO NOT** put my name on the check per IRS regulations.
- Write the country name in the memo line.
- All funds received assist the entire team project.

## Partnership Response Card

### **Instructions:**

A return envelope and response card (pictured below) will be provided to you upon request to include with your letters being sent out. You will be responsible for entering specific information into the blank spots on response card

<p><b>Missionary Journey to:</b> _____ <b>Dates:</b> _____</p> <p><b>YES, _____ I will:</b> _____ <b>gladly pray for you.</b> _____ <b>include a financial gift.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Please mail this card</u></b> in the enclosed envelope.</li><li>• Please make checks payable to Cross Church.</li><li>• Please send your response by _____</li><li>• In the memo line indicate _____</li></ul> <p>Partnership Signature: _____</p>
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Dear \_\_\_\_\_, **(personalize this ALWAYS!)**

I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas season and start of the New Year! Let me catch you up on what has been happening in my spiritual life. I have fallen madly in love all over again with my Savior and treasure every second of it. I have never been this passionate about my faith before and am constantly growing with His guidance. Last February, I started attending a local church called Cross Church. The people and leaders have been such a blessing to me and many others. They have encouraged, challenged, and guided me along in my walk with Christ.

Cross Church has made a goal to send at least **1,000** people on a cross-cultural mission journey in 2012, and I am honored to be a part of that thousand. I and many college students will be making a journey to Brazil over our spring break (March 15-23). We will be traveling to the Recife area to work with local missionaries in evangelism, children's ministry, leadership seminars, and crusades.

What is going to be even more amazing about this journey is that we will be able to disciple recently saved Christians and help build a foundation in their walk with Christ! As many of you know, God has given me a passion for other cultures and peoples, and He has given me this amazing opportunity to use that to share His love for the Brazilian people. I can't tell you how excited I am to be a part of this!

I am asking for your help in two ways:

**1) Pray! This is the most important and essential way you can help me.** Please pray for the Brazilian people to open their hearts to the Truth, our local missionaries Rick and Jill as they organize and prepare for our arrival, safety and financial provision for each team member, and spiritual strength throughout our entire journey. Just knowing that you will be praying for me will give me strength throughout this entire process and journey.

**2) If you feel led to support this trip financially, I would be grateful. Each member needs to raise \$2,600 to cover the cost of the trip.** This is a journey that God has called me to, and any donation would be most appreciated. If you feel able, please fill out the enclosed card and return it to the address listed by March 1, 2012. Thank you for your support!

I will be keeping you informed throughout this process as I progress in my training and specifics of my journey. I'd love to hear an update on what's going on in your life as well if you have the time. I will be praying for you. Thanks so much for taking the time to read this letter, and if you have any questions, please let me know. Take care, and I hope to hear from you soon!

God bless,  
(Signature)

P.S. All financial gifts are tax-deductible when submitted as follows:

- Checks must be made payable to Cross Church.
- Please use the enclosed envelope and include the response card indicating your partnership.
- **Please DO NOT put my name on the check per IRS regulations.**
- Write the country name Brazil in the memo line.
- All funds received assist the entire team project.

# Helpful Hints for Fundraising

## Fundraising Tips

**\*NOTE: Remember this when fundraising... “The more personal, the more probable! Personal relationships yield greater return in donations.**

- Be sure and use **social media** to your advantage. Links will be generated through Pure Charity and Touch Point for social media use.
- **Recruit** your friends to send out the link on their social media accounts as well.
- The more **eyes** you can get on your fundraising page, the better chance your fundraising will be successful.
- We recommend that you use both the online and the letter writing method.
- The key to successful fundraising is **persistence and time**. Successful fundraisers are ones who put forth effort into fundraising. You cannot expect to simply put your fundraiser online and it will have funds added. You have to **promote** it over and over in your sphere of influence. The earlier you start fundraising, the better chance of being successful. Start fundraising now DON'T wait till the last minute.
- Be creative! Allow your **passion** for the journey to come through in your appeals for funds. If you have personal stories related to the mission journey, please include those in your fundraisers. If you use a generic appeal for funds, you will be less likely to be successful.
- Keep your fundraiser **updated**. When you send out the fundraiser over your social media activity, give an update on your progress. Include ways the individual can be praying for the journey and steps you are taking to get ready.
- Personalize all communication
- Follow-up is essential for fundraising success.
- Holidays and Birthdays are great occasions to raise funds.
- Don't limit your list, everyone is a potential donor
- God is faithful to provide. Trust Him yet work hard to accomplish your goal!

## **Fundraiser Follow-up**

Follow-up calls are not meant to be stressful. The purpose of following up by phone is to simply remind people of your involvement in a mission journey. There is no need to mention money or fundraising at all. In your letter, you should have told everyone that you would keep them informed of your progress. This call is simply following through on that promise.

Telephone calls are to be made **30** days after sending initial support letters.

**Follow Up** is **MANDATORY** for everyone. Remember, this is a team effort fund raising project!

Below, see an example of a sample follow-up phone call.

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_. I sent you a letter in regard to my \_\_\_\_\_ mission journey. I shared with you how I would keep you informed for prayer purposes. Our team is formed, we have been meeting for training, and I am learning so much. There are just \_\_\_\_\_ days left until we leave and I am more excited every day. Will you please pray with me about a few things? (Give them some ministry and personal requests). Also please pray for God's provision for each member of the team.

Thank you so much for praying and I will send you an update when we return!

1. If people ask about sending funds, tell them how. Send a thank-you note afterwards.
2. Send thank you notes to everyone on your fundraising and prayer team.

## **Scholarships**



Cross Church does not want finance to prevent you from going on a Missions Journey. If your circumstances require scholarship consideration, please visit this link <https://crosschurch.wufoo.com/forms/mm9tcan1mu0zqf/>. Mission Journeys are life changing and we want to be part of your Kingdom life change.

## Crossing Cultures

You are going to a country where things will look very different from the way they do in Northwest Arkansas. Try to let the visual differences remind you that there are cultural differences as well. Don't expect the same services, the same conveniences or the same responses you are accustomed to. Train yourself to think, **"Things are not wrong, they are just different."** And always remember, in the eyes of those who look so different to you, **YOU are the one who is different.** Here are some tips on how to function in a different culture without offending.

### Cross Cultural Ministry

- You are NOT at home. You are a **GUEST** in another culture.
- Most cultures are much quieter and more reserved in public than we are used to. Observe your host's behavior patterns and conform to them.
- Temples and idols that are strange, repulsive, or frightening to you are worshipped by those in your host country. Try to mask your true feeling of distress or horror with a look of interest.
- Be prepared to be the object of stares. You are different and will be observed. All of your actions are watched. Keep a **SMILE** on your face.
- Remember that you are an ambassador of the King of Kings. Be sure your actions reflect that truth.

### Food

- Food that is strange to you is daily fare in your host country. Your host is trying to provide well for you. Be a gracious guest and eat what is put before you. (If you absolutely cannot get it down, move it around on your plate until you can slip it into your pocket unobserved.)
- Food that is bland and repetitive may be the only food available. Consider your host and as much as possible "eat hearty."

### Communication

- English is **NOT** spoken everywhere in the world. There are many factors that may lead one to think that everyone speaks English, but this is simply not true. There are whole cities where no English is spoken. Never go out and get into a taxicab expecting the driver to understand English. Never go wandering off alone assuming you can tell someone the name of your hotel and will be guided back there.
- **NEVER** go out without the name and address of your hotel in the local language. Take a card from the hotel desk, or a matchbook, or SOMETHING that has the name, address, and phone number of your hotel in the **LOCAL LANGUAGE**

- Having said all this about English NOT being everywhere you should still observe the precaution of not talking about the locals or their culture in a negative way. As sure as you say something bad about your host culture, the one person in the entire province who speaks English will be the one standing beside you at the bus stop. So be careful about what you say walking down the streets. DO NOT assume you are not being understood.
- People may not be able to understand your spoken language, but they can read your body language and the expression on your face. Be careful that you always communicate respect and courtesy.
- Learn a few words in the native language of the country you are visiting. Learn some phrases and words to help you bond with the people to whom you will be ministering. Babbel and Duolingo are some of many great apps that you can download to begin practicing today.

## **Relating to the Missionaries on the Field**

- Your missionary host is thrilled that you have come. They want to share their culture, their people, and their vision for ministry with you. They want you to have a good experience. They have spent weeks or months preparing for your arrival. Be a **GRACIOUS** guest.
- Missionaries tend to adapt to the culture of their host country and use many local customs in their own homes. If they have been in that country for a long time, they may not realize that their customs are foreign to you, but here you can ask.
- Missionaries will also have learned to appreciate and enjoy local food that you may find too strange to eat. They will offer you local food they have learned to love. It may be something truly wonderful that you will enjoy. But it may be something that is inedible to you. Out of politeness to your missionary host, don't act like it is grossing you out. You may decline it, but be **SENSITIVE**.
- Your missionary has spent much time and effort learning the local language and customs. Seek your missionary's advice on appropriate behavior in your host country. Remember your missionary will remain there long after you are gone. (Unfortunately, there have been teams that did not follow the guidance of their host missionary and effectively destroyed much work and many relationships the missionary had worked hard to establish.)
- Minister to your missionary host through prayer. Your missionary may be weary, discouraged, and wondering if his or her being there is making any difference. **PRAY** for your missionary. Don't consider him some sort of spiritual giant that doesn't need to be encouraged and uplifted.

## **Maintaining Spiritual Freshness**

Maintain your daily devotional time while you are on this journey. You need to hear from God daily as much on a mission journey or more than you do at home. Don't neglect this vital part of your Christian life.

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." Psalm 1:1-3*

- You will receive a daily devotional guide which the team will work through together.
- It's easy to substitute "Doing" for "Being". Your spiritual power and nourishment comes from time with Jesus and the Word of God.
- Reference of Jesus retreating – *"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go to the next town, that I may preach there also for that is why I came out." Mark 1:35-38*

## **Understanding Missionary Security**

**Level 1: Open** Communication. Presence of missionary and evangelism is openly known and practiced. Feel free to communicate with the missionary openly on social media. Ex: Dominican Republic, Costa Rica

**Level 2: Cautious** Communication. Environment is tolerant but suspicious towards evangelism. Consequence of miscommunication is loss of voice among the people group. There may be limited physical danger and the risk of loss of presence. Communication is indirect and guarded. Communication with public is prudent and limited. Be cautious in your communication & social media Content. Ex: Brazil, Malawi

**Level 3: Restricted** Communication. Environment is intolerant and antagonistic towards evangelism. Consequences include loss of voice, freedom or access to the people group. No public statements about their work.

- **DO NOT** openly communicate with your missionary without permission.
  - **DO NOT** use words like missionary, Jesus, Gospel, Evangelism, church and other words that are related to Christian Activity.
  - **NEVER** post social media pictures or names and places. This can cause harm and possible prison, deportation and worse to missionaries and national believers. Ex: India, China
  - **DO NOT** use language that “connects the dots” such as missionary, IMB(International Mission Board), location or nation, or people group such as “Muslim” “Buddhist”
- 
- Sharing Level 3 information has the potential of placing in danger personnel’s ability to access their people group, as well as the life and liberty of the people with whom they work. To identify personnel living in intolerant and hostile environments is to place them in serious risk; therefore, communication is to be made only through the Regional Office or gatekeeper.
  - He/she is not to be identified as IMB affiliated. Their names would not be shared outside the IMB.

**When in Doubt, err on the side of Caution.**



## **Re-Entry Stress**

### **1) Definition**

- a) Re-entry stress is like culture stress in many ways – only in reverse. While culture stress is associated with a sense of disorientation brought on by a new and unfamiliar environment, re-entry stress is precipitated by returning to a setting you presume to be familiar, but which in reality is no longer the same.
- b) Your once familiar and comfortable environment no longer appears the same. Something definitely has changed. But you don't easily recognize just what has been altered.
- c) Suddenly find yourself out of phase with your own culture. Your reaction may come in the form of bewilderment, dismay, disillusionment, and perhaps even irritation or anger. Somehow "things are not the way they used to be," "nobody seems to care," or nobody really understand."
- d) There are several contributing factors to re-entry stress. One is that you are being caught by surprise. You do not anticipate change and consequently are unprepared to cope. Another factor is value conflict. Your values, once taken for granted and even highly cherished, now seem of lesser significance or of little importance at all. Your way of thinking, your manner and your responses to many situations have been changing. Often these changes are not apparent until you are back in your own culture

### **2) Common symptoms and effects of re-entry stress**

- Disorientation – feeling out of place, not fitting in.
- Feelings of **loneliness**, isolation, or being lost in the crowd.
- Restlessness – a desire to "get away" from those who don't seem to understand or care.
- Feeling that **nobody** understands your experience or cares
- Critical attitude toward home country – its waste, extravagance, or wrong way of doing things.
- Feeling of **superiority** – standing aloof from others because of your overseas experience.

### **3) Some Practical Suggestions**

- Find other returnees with whom you can share and have conversations.
- Recognize and accept which transition stage you are going through, and remember that "reverse culture shock" or "re-entry shock" is a normal part of the process of returning home.
- Have a good sense of humor.
- Appreciate the opportunity you had to go abroad and the commitment to return home.
- Keep a clear perspective and remember that God is with you!
- Remember that God called you to a short-term mission journey. You have fulfilled that calling. If He is calling for vocational service, explore and pray about the options.

### **4) Conflicting Values**

- We need to be careful not to come across as, "I am better than most Christians because I have been overseas." Watch for this type of mentality.
- Avoid a preoccupation with materialism.
- Has your sensitivity to basic human needs been heightened by your experiences abroad? What response might you have to affluence, waste, or overindulgence?

## Suggestions:

1. Do not expect to be in the “lime-light” for long after your return. Some may ask to see your pictures, have you speak, etc., but soon you will be back to your ordinary citizen” status.
2. Do not be quick to condemn; realize that others have not had the same exposure to another way of life. Their preoccupation with “their world” as they know it is only natural.
3. Expect others to not fully understand how you feel when their “materialistic ways” strike you as sinful.
4. Be on the alert for a “holier-than-thou” attitude. Do not be too quick to judge others for their ethnocentric stance or to think that your way is the best way.
5. Realize that your worth and recognition come first from God. View your service as service to Him, not something with which to gain recognition and praise from others.
6. Possibly one of the most difficult areas to address is personal fulfillment. Your questions may include: Was my service valuable? Will anyone recognize my contribution or my sacrifice? May I be just another fish in a big pond? What will the situation be like upon my return?
7. Do not allow yourself to feel hurt or sorry for yourself when people fail to notice you or your service. God does. Look for ways to meet the needs of others; this will help you take the focus off of yourself (Phil.2)

## Returning

- When I think of returning to the United States, I feel...
- I will be going back to...
- Regarding money, I will be...
- I think the hardest part of going back for me will be...
- I think the easiest part of going back for me will be...
- I am really looking forward to...
- If your family is here with you:
- When I talk to my spouse about leaving, he/she...
- For my spouse, I think that leaving will be...

## Settling Back In

- My experience here has been...
- For me, this country means...
- The people I will miss are...
- The things I will be happy to leave behind are...
- When leaving a place, I usually...
- The easiest point of leaving for me will be...
- Before I leave, I really want to...
- I feel that my goals/expectations have been...
- The most stressful part of leaving will be...

## Expectations

- I expect that the process of returning will be...
- I expect the reception from my family will be...
- I expect the reception from my church will be...
- I expect the reception from my friends will be...
- I think my church will expect me to...
- I think my family will expect me to...
- I think my friends at home will expect me to...

- If my career does not work out, I will...

## **Ensuring Sustainability with Partners**

**Nothing can hurt a ministry more than co-dependency. We all have good intentions when it comes to helping. But sometimes we harm more than help. These three principles help create long lasting sustainability with partners.**

The following is a checklist of important issues when planning projects with volunteer assistance:

- A. REPRODUCIBLE:** The local church should be able to reproduce itself without **outside help**. Guard against doing anything that will discourage reproducibility.
1. Focus on empowerment for growth.
    - Does the project create an atmosphere supporting reproducibility by national Christians?
    - Is the project doing something that will encourage the church to grow and extend itself?
  2. Devise methods, materials, and actions that will actively lead local church to reproduce itself.
    - Are projects done in such a way (using materials and procedures) that encourage the church on its own to move toward starting new churches?
  3. Formulate activities that the receiving church itself can reproduce by sharing with the next generation of churches.
    - Is the cost or technical ability something that they themselves can do with and for another congregation?
  4. Design the project to motivate the local church to reproduce the ministries that they themselves have received.
    - Is training included in the project which will encourage the reproduction of the ministries that they themselves received?
  5. Actively do what it takes to get the receiving church to send their members to help other new congregations in the same way they received help.
    - Are there plans for the receiving church to help another congregation or congregations in the same way they received help?
- B. INDIGENOUS:** Do things in ways that meet **LOCAL** needs and use local patterns.
1. Conduct projects in a manner that leads local Christians to feel **OWNERSHIP** of the project. This includes the activity itself and the results of the project.
    - Whose idea was this project?
  2. Ensure that the project is based on local vision and locally perceived needs. The local church should define its own vision for reaching the world for Christ.
    - What is the local vision for the lostness of the world?
  3. Seek to provide only the appropriate style and level of help.
    - How would they do this themselves with no outside help?

**C. NON-DEPENDENT:** Avoid any sense of paternalism or creating a **WELFARE MENTALITY.**

1. Design and conduct projects that require local Christians to depend on God.
  - Do activities lead to definable outside resources rather than to trusting God?
  - Is there anything about this project that causes local Christians to depend on God for its successful completion?
2. Prior to offering help first ask the following questions:
  - Is there a vision?
  - Is it locally conceived vision?
  - Have the local congregations expressed the vision as part of their own plans to extend the Kingdom?
  - Did local Christians discover the needs and envision the solutions themselves?
  - Have local Christians given sacrificially?
  - Have they sacrificed time, energy and money to participate in the project?
  - Is the local church committed enough to the project to actively participate?
  - Are they willing to work alongside the volunteer team?

## **WRITING YOUR TESTIMONY**

### **WHY WE SHARE:**

- Whether you are engaging your neighbor, sitting with a family member or standing in front of a group of people, the Bible calls us to “always be ready” to explain the hope we have in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:15-16.)
- Your story is one of the most valuable tools you have for sharing the gospel with a person who does not follow Jesus. Being prepared for an open door to share with someone is crucial if you are going to be faithful to share the story God has given you.

### **TESTIMONY TIPS & GUIDELINES:**

- Start with a 500-word draft
- Reread your draft and make edits to bring the final copy to 300 words
- Realize that every person is different therefore, every testimony will be unique. Some have very riveting salvation testimonies, in which they remember distinct lives before and after Christ. Others may not remember life before Christ but may have a long history of not living for God followed by a “return” to a more meaningful life with Christ. Think through YOUR story. It does not have to look and sound just like the next person’s story to be a good testimony.
- Pray before you write out and share your story. Ask God for wisdom, the words to say, and write how you would speak.
- Aim to keep your story to three to five minutes. At that length, it’s something you can share briefly in a conversation without it becoming a monologue.
- Do not assume that people know church culture. Avoid “churchy” words or phrases such as “saved”, “revival”, “walked an aisle”, “born again”, etc.
- Do not give specific ages, instead saying “at a young age”, or “after I grew older.”
- Do not talk about drugs, alcohol or divorce specifically. Refer to sinful actions in a generic way, when necessary, but be careful not to glorify the old life by giving excessive attention to sin.
- Practice your testimony out loud several times until you feel comfortable with it.

### **5 PARTS OF YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY:**

There are many accounts in the Bible of people sharing about how God transformed their lives. One of the most well-known testimonies is told by the apostle Paul. Paul went from persecuting Christians to following Jesus, starting churches, and writing over half of the New Testament. His testimony can be found in Acts 22:1-21 and it can be broken down in 5 parts:

Paul opens with a brief introductory of his life (vv. 1-3)

1. Paul tells about his life before Christ (vv. 4-5)
2. Paul explains how he came to know Christ (vv. 6-13)
3. Paul tells about his life after coming to know Christ (vv. 14-18)
4. Paul gives his conclusion (vv. 19-21)

1. **Introduction** – Offer one or two sentences telling who I am and why I want to share my story. Identify a theme you can use to structure your story. What did your life revolve around (ex: relationships, success, academics, etc.) that God used to bring you to Him?
2. **Your Life Before Christ** – What was my life like before I accepted Christ? What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from? How did those things begin to let me down?
3. **How You Came to Christ** – When and/or how did I hear the gospel? What were your initial reactions? When and why did my perspective on Christ begin to change? What were the final

struggles that I went through before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to give Him complete control of my life)?

4. **Your Life after accepting Christ?** Share some specific changes that Christ has made in your life. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what's different about your life now? **Think through these questions:** How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life. What motivates me now? What do I live for? Even though my life still is not perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?
5. **Conclusion** -- End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. If you want, close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience. Invite the listener to learn more.

### **POLISHING YOUR TESTIMONY:**

- Proofread your testimony and edit anything that is confusing or redundant.
- Have someone else read your testimony and provide feedback. Do not be offended by their suggestions.
- Write the final copy of your testimony and get comfortable with it by reading it out loud, making eye contact in the mirror or with another person.
- Once you get comfortable, make an outline of your testimony and use this to “tell your story” out loud instead of depending on your written version.
- Practice different ways of sharing your testimony:
  - Tell your story in two minutes or less to be able to share in quick encounter situations.
  - Once you've prepared well, the next step in sharing your story is to practice.
  - Practicing talking about God highlights the areas we are more naturally skilled in and reveals where we need more help from the Holy Spirit and other Christians.
  - Practice makes talking about Jesus feel more normal and more doable.

### **Principles For Sharing Your Story:**

- Be authentic. Be vulnerable. Be discerning. Know your story. Know the key points of your story.
  - Key points would be before Jesus, conversion, after Jesus, greatest moments of growth, struggles and victories.
  - Be ready to share how your relationship with Jesus helps you through life:
- trials, troubles, relational issues, depression, anxiety, etc.
- Be ready!

### **TIPS FOR USING A TRANSLATOR:**

- Speak slowly, clearly, and in a normal tone.
- Speak directly to the non-English speaker, not the interpreter.
- Allow more time for interpreted communication and use translated time to recall your next thoughts.
- Refrain from using metaphors, acronyms, or slangs.
- Remember to pause between complete sentences or complete thoughts. Use short phrases.
- If possible, brief the interpreter before the day you are going to present your testimony.

## **PRACTICAL STEPS FOR EVANGELISM:**

- Engage the individual in **small talk**. The various topics could include, weather, their country, their children, sports, etc. (no politics!).
- Once the relationship has been built, use a transition statement to move into your testimony. One example of a transitional statement is:
  - **Can I tell you about the greatest thing that has ever happened in my life? Then proceed to share your personal testimony.**
- Once your testimony has been shared, ask if you can **tell them what the Bible says about eternal life**. Depending on the journey, you can use whatever tool is available for a gospel presentation (Evangelcube, Romans Road, 3 Circle, etc.).
- After presenting the gospel, **ask the individual if they would like to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior today**. If they say that they would like to accept Christ, proceed in leading them in a prayer similar to the Romans Road Prayer found under Romans Road section in this training manual.
- If they accept Christ, **connect them with the translator or a local church**. We want to see the discipleship process take place in the new believer's life.

Remember: **This is a not a magic formula. We are to be faithful to present the gospel but remember that we cannot make an individual believe.**

### **3 PART SYSTEM TO GETTING INTO GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS:** **(John 4:4-26 & Acts 17:16-34)**

- A. **Casual Conversation:** Find a point of interest with the person. It could be their dog, tattoo, weather, etc. The point is to find something appealing to the individual to engage in conversation about.

#### **Sample Questions and Guidance**

1. Topics such as food, weather, music, things to do, sports etc.
2. Questions about themselves.
3. Ask them about what they like to do.
4. Advice about fun activities, things to do, etc.
6. If the casual conversation is all over the place, let it be.
7. Key is to ask them a bunch of questions.
8. Do more listening than responding.

**\*\*When asking questions, it's easy to find out about who people are, what they are about and many times what they believe spiritually\*\***

That being said, the goal is to go from a casual conversation to a spiritual conversation.

- B. **Spiritual Conversation:** One of the best ways to get in the spiritual conversation is to find a point to ask them.... *Are you a spiritual person?* Most will say yes! This is where you spend some time asking them questions about their spirituality to try and understand where they are at. While doing this, you are asking for and searching for an open door to discuss the Gospel.

#### **Sample questions and Guidance**

1. What are you passionate about?
2. What gives meaning to your life?
3. Are you a spiritual person?
4. If so, what do you believe?
5. Tell me about a significant spiritual experience in your life.
6. What is your spiritual background?
7. Do you pray? If so, what does that look like?

**\*\*The goal in this part of the conversation is to gather information about who they are and what they belief about spiritual things\*\***

When that happens, many times, a door will open for a Gospel conversation.



## **TRANSITIONING TO A GOSPEL CONVERSATION:**

### Cultural Permission to Share Experiences:

- In the U.S. moral/political correctness police are everywhere. We can gripe about it or use it to our advantage.
  - Advantage: Since everyone has “their own truth”, we are free to share about ours as long as we do not say it’s better than anyone else’s or that they’re wrong.
- This is a great thing because culturally we can say almost anything as long as we say
  - “In my experience...”
- In almost any conversation if we say
  - “Would it be OK if I shared an experience I recently had?”
- The person will almost always say it’s okay. And, if we want to earn their trust we can even add
  - “It’s spiritual in nature, is that okay to still share?”
- Asking permission is key. At this point, fire away!

EXAMPLE: “So I was reading my Bible earlier and it said \_\_\_\_\_ and that really spoke to me. I realized how loved I am, and I didn’t need to prove myself so I could let go of my fear.”

“It’s not what you say, it’s what you ask!”

Often times we get stuck because we think it’s up to us to have the perfect response or statement. Typically, we transition into great conversations when we ask a transitional question. A favorite question is...

- “What do you mean when you say \_\_\_\_\_?”

The reality is, we don’t fully understand people’s worldview, emotions, etc, even those closes to us. So, in other words, “let curiosity be our guide.” This is a great tool because curiosity removes us from the “probing” posture and allows us to fully listen as if it’s our first-time hearing. It’s so much more engaging to hear “Oh, what’s that like?”, “Tell me more about \_\_\_\_\_”, “etc. Let curiosity be your guide and avoid unsolicited advice at all costs.

- C. Gospel Conversation:** 1) It’s important to define the Gospel very clearly all the way from the creation event, how sin entered in world, what sin is, brokenness, God’s remedy: the cross, the resurrection, a person’s new life, as well as eternity. 2) It’s equally important to not only give the facts about the Gospel but also give your story...know your story well. Be real, vulnerable, and authentic with your story.

## **SAMPLE GUIDE GOSPEL PRESENTATION:**

### **Creation**

All people were made in the image of God. As a result of this all people have dignity and are loved by God. Because people were created this way, we were all designed to be in a relationship with Him.

### **Fall**

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. That being the case, the entire world is broken and in need of restoration. Every person, because of the fall, is sinful and broken.

Therefore, all aspects of this life are broken:

**\*\*Families – \*\*Relationships – \*\*Governments - \*\*Systems**

Not only does it affect the lives of people on earth, but because of sin we are not in a right standing before God. When our lives are over or Jesus returns, we will stand before God's judgement and left in our sinful condition, we will be found guilty.

### **Redemption**

Due to the sin in the lives of all people, God sent His Son Jesus to die for us so that we can be forgiven of our sin. Through faith in Jesus's death/burial/resurrection anyone can be saved from there sin and experience a new life on earth and eternal life in Heaven.

### **Restoration**

When a person enters into a personal relationship with Jesus through faith, they become a new creation. The Holy Spirit of God lives inside of them and makes them more like Jesus in a lifelong process called sanctification. When a person's life is over or Jesus returns for His church, all who believed will receive entrance into Heaven.

***\*\*There is a chance that many will not like to hear this message. Make sure they know that you still care about them and would love to follow up with them\*\****

### **Jesus and Others are Watching ... You & Social Media**

What we do in our social lives truly represents the saturation of Christ in us. It is important to walk worthy of Christ not only on the mission field, but in all areas of our lives before and after our journeys.

Social media can be an awesome tool, or a dangerous weapon so be careful of what you say and display. Many countries have strong opinions about different social activities like smoking, drinking, gambling, provocative dress or slang words. Participating in these behaviors can earn at the least the label of hypocrisy by non-believers in our own country, and can completely discredit your testimony and unequivocally disqualify you as a believer in the minds of many nations.

If you would not do it, say it, or display it if Jesus were standing at your side, then take heed and refrain. Jesus and others are always watching and the stakes of a Christian testimony are high.

**Note:** If you are considering going to a level 3 security nation (West Africa, Middle East, East Asia, South Asia), please set your privacy controls to "private" so only your friends can see your information.

# EVANGELISM RESOURCES/METHODS

## THE EVANGECUBE

### Our sin separates us from God.



- This light (point to the right side) represents God.
- God is perfect and without sin.
- God does not want us to perish, but to have everlasting life. But our sins must be removed in order to have eternal life with God.
- This figure (point to the left side) represents every person — like you and me.
- The darkness represents our sin. Sin is anything that God tells us not to do.
- The Bible says “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom 3:23)

### Christ died on the cross.



- God loved us so much that He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to earth as a man.
- God made Jesus die on the cross to pay for our sins with His blood. He took our sins on the cross so that we could come to God (1 Peter 2:24)
- Romans 5:8 *But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### Tomb



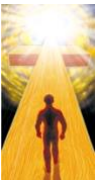
- Men buried Jesus in a tomb.
- They rolled a huge stone in front of it.
- Soldiers guarded the tomb.

### Risen Christ



God sent an angel to roll away the big stone and scare away the soldiers.  
God raised Jesus from the dead! •Soon afterward, God took Jesus back to heaven.  
Jesus has paid the price for our sin, and Jesus has conquered death.

### Cross Bridge



- Jesus is the only way we can come to God.
- Jesus said in the Bible, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)
- Through Jesus, we can be forgiven of all our sins and be with God forever.
- **But just knowing about these things is not enough!** We must put our faith and trust in Jesus to save us from sin.

### Heaven and Hell after salvation



- The Bible says that whoever believes in Jesus has **eternal life** and is not judged. But whoever does not believe in Jesus has been judged already and the **wrath of God** remains upon him! (*John 3:16, 18, 36*).
- The penalty for sin is death, but eternal life through Jesus is a free gift from God.
- **What choice will you make?**
- Trust in Jesus Christ to be forgiven and have eternal life? (*point to ‘heaven’*)
- Or reject Jesus Christ and suffer eternal punishment in fire? (*point to ‘hell’*)

## BACK OF EVANGECUBE (Discipleship)



**Heart:** Love God and all people

- Matthew 22:37-39 *"You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself."*



**Bible:** Study God's word daily

- 1 Peter 2:2 *"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."*



**Pray:** Pray to God constantly

- Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*



**Hands:** Meet regularly with other Christians

- Hebrews 10:25 *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."*



**Cross:** Tell others the good news about Jesus

- Mark 16:15 *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all people.'"*



## **THE ROMANS ROAD**

The Romans Road to salvation is a method based on the biblical principles found in the New Testament book of Romans to explain how a person can come to faith in Jesus Christ. The Romans Road explains why we need salvation, how God provided salvation, how we can receive salvation, and the results of salvation.

**Romans 3:23** *"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."* The Romans Road begins with acknowledging our human sinfulness. We must all realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. We are not worthy of God's grace.

**Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* The Romans Road then explains the consequences of sin. If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and repent of our sins, we will have eternal life.

**Romans 5:8** *"But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Through Jesus, God gave us a way to be saved from our sins. God showed us His love by giving us the potential for life through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Romans 10:9-10** *"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Just confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved!

**Romans 10:13** *"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* There are no religious formulas or rituals -- Call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved!

### **(Romans Road Prayer)**

If you truly believe the message of the Roman Road, and want to accept God's gift of salvation right now, it's a matter of repenting of your sins and turning the rest of your life over to Jesus Christ. Again, this is not a ritual based on any specific words or prayers, but rather, a willful decision and a sincere step of faith.

*"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."*

# Passports and Visas

## Obtaining Your Passport

If you do not have a passport, begin the process of securing one immediately. It normally takes about six weeks from the time you first submit an application until the passport arrives. If your destination country also requires a travel Visa, you must have your passport in order to obtain the Visa—and the Visa application can take between two and four weeks. This means you need to **START NOW** to obtain your passport.

An application for a passport can be obtained from [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) or your local Post Office. You can take the application home to complete it and return it to the Post Office. (You must have an original raised-seal birth certificate in order to obtain a passport so if you do not have one, begin the process to get that first.) There is a government regulation that requires you to sign the application in the presence of the post office personnel so **do not sign the passport application until you are standing in the presence of the person who will receive it.**

You will also need regulation-sized photos to submit with the passport and Visa application. If you do not have passport photos, go to Walgreens or Wal-Mart, or another place that makes passport photos (the Post Office will also do this), and have them made. Request at least **6** copies. This will give you enough to apply for the passport, the Visa, and then have two more to take with you on the journey. If you lose your passport, or if it is stolen, you will have pictures in hand and that will shorten the process of obtaining a new passport.

**Once you receive your passport, make sure you SIGN it. Your passport is invalid without your signature.**

## Obtaining Your Travel Visa

The process for obtaining a Visa varies from country to country. Most countries stamp the Visa into the passport. Normally when we are ready to obtain the Visas, we will collect all passports of the group and send them to Washington, D.C. The passports will be stamped and returned to the travel agent who may hold the passports until the tickets are complete and then send them both to us. Then we check to make sure that everyone has both a ticket and a Visa.

**NOTE:** *It is good idea to make a copy of the front page of your passport and take that in your **CARRY-ON luggage**. Also make a copy of the page with the visa you obtained for the trip. Make sure the date of issue is clear in the copy. Add to that the extra photos (2) you had made and that will expedite securing another passport if yours is lost or stolen.*

## **CAREFULLY CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CURRENT PASSPORT!**

International travel laws require you to have at least **6 months** of validity left on your passport from the planned time of *re-entry* back into the United States as well as *three* blank pages in your passport book or you can be denied access for departure at the airport.

## A WORD OF CAUTION

In many countries, a US passport can be worth a sizeable amount of money. In those same countries, pickpockets are everywhere. Be careful with your passport and airline tickets. Keep them on your person **AT ALL TIMES!**

## **Medical Information**

**IMPORTANT!** It is the responsibility of the traveler to make SURE that the immunization requirements of the particular country being visited are met. Please visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to see what immunizations are REQUIRED and what immunizations are SUGGESTED with plenty of time to spare before leaving the United States. Please plan accordingly!

**\*NOTE:** Consult your family physician for counsel regarding immunizations. Cross Church has access to doctors that can assist the teams with many immunizations and avoid some costs. In many cases their services are provided at cost. This is discussed at your team meetings.

We recommend that all travelers have the following updated immunizations:

- TDAP
  - Hep A
  - Hep B (if doing medical)
- 
- Covid Protocol
  - Cross Church follows all CDC & national partner country guidelines
  - Insurance is purchased for all participants for coverage info please see your policy once purchased.

# Steps to Prep

Mission journeys are hard work and sometimes getting prepared for one can be just as overwhelming! Use this simple step-by-step guide to walk you through everything you need to do between now and when you leave.

1. General Mission Journey Training – (8-12 weeks out) see [www.crosschurch.com/missions](http://www.crosschurch.com/missions) for dates.
2. Pray about which journey you will go on. Visit [ccmissionjourneys.com](http://ccmissionjourneys.com) to see the various journeys.
3. Register for your journey and pay your deposit online through the [ccmissionjourneys.com](http://ccmissionjourneys.com) webpage.
4. Complete the various requirements found on the trip page (8 weeks out)
  - a. Application Form
  - b. Background Check and Child Protection Video
  - c. Financial Commitment/Statement of Faith Commitment/Christian Conduct
  - d. Passport or Driver's License
5. Fund raising letter and list of names for approval. E-mail to Karla Dugger at [karlad@crosschurch.com](mailto:karlad@crosschurch.com) (8 weeks) Please see page 9 for submitting format.
6. Prayer Partners – email to Karla Dugger at [karlad@crosschurch.com](mailto:karlad@crosschurch.com) (6 weeks)
7. 50% of Total Funds Raised or Paid (6 weeks)
8. 75% of Total Funds Raised or Paid (4 weeks)
9. 100% of funds Raised or Paid. Final payment due (2 week before departure)
10. Team Specific meetings TBD by leader - starting 8 weeks prior to departure up to week of departure.



# AT HOME READING REQUIRMENTS

While we don't cover everything in the training meeting, it is your responsibility to read the following pages at home.

## **Prayer Partner Helps**

**\*\*AT HOME READING\*\***

You are asked to engage **10** church members to be prayer partners before, during and even after your journey. Prayer partners are one of the most important components of a missionary journey. They provide the home-based support, protection, and intercession for the missionary. However, if a prayer partner is not properly informed or equipped, their job can be limited!

Use this as a guideline for equipping and informing your prayer partners. Please do not minimize the importance of prayer for your mission journey. A good team of intercessors is the secret to a prosperous and spiritually blessed journey.

### **Suggestions to Help Prayer Partners in Praying**

- Engage your small group in prayer.
- Share your flight schedule, daily itinerary, and missionary names with your prayer partners.
- Give prayer partners personal prayer requests that include spiritual and funding progress.
- Invite prayer partners to meeting for prayer with the team. See the team meeting schedule for date, time and location.
- Share destination, overview of work, and any helpful information with your prayer partners.

### **Suggestions for your Prayer Partners to Encourage you.**

- Send notes of encouragement or card from now until your missionary leaves.
- Ask your short-term missionary for specific prayer needs.
- Pray for your short-term missionary and the team now and while away.
- You may want to put together a “care” bag with some goodies in it...gum, hard candy, snacks, etc. for their travel.
- Write a note of scripture, prayer, or encouragement for your short-term missionary to read for each day while they are away.
- Send off your short-term missionaries from the airport and also welcome them home. Check with your missionary on the time and location.
- Follow the trip on Facebook, and Instagram and please share the info with other. (For security reasons do not share ANY information about Level 3 Security Nations – see pg.33 – on any social media).

# **What to Pray for Your Mission Teams**

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

- Daily Life Problems
- God's Protection from Satan's Attacks (2 Corinthians 10:4, Ephesians 6:10-12) and from Harm and Danger
- The Anointing of the Holy Spirit in their Lives (Ephesians 5:18, Acts 1:8)
- Their Spiritual Life
  - A consistent prayer and Bible study which leads to spiritual growth
- Their Work and Ministry
  - That God will lead them to open hearts and that those who are seeking will find Christ
  - That the Christians will grow in the Lord
  - That they may set priorities and use their time wisely
  - For the national church and its leaders
  - For the decisions of the mission and the national church
- Their Physical Health
  - Eating different foods, or problems with the water supply
  - Climate and the weather
  - The need for times of periodic recreation and rest
  - For safety while traveling
- Their Emotional Health
  - For victory in any struggles with depression, discouragement, frustration, worry and loneliness
  - For positive attitudes, humility, flexibility, friendliness, sensitivity, a good sense of humor and patience
  - For peace of mind about family and events happening back home
- Cultural Awareness
  - For wisdom to understand not only the outward actions but the thinking process
- Their Finances
  - Support needed to go
  - Provision upon return
- Their Relationships
  - With other team members
  - With national workers
  - With non-believers
- Home Assignment
  - Adaptation to coming back home
  - Travel safety
  - Servant attitude in the churches

## **Prayer Walking**

**\*\*AT HOME READING\*\***

**Definition of Prayer Walking:** Praying **on-sight**, with **insight**.

### **Tips on Prayer Walking**

1. Be **spirit-filled**. You are entering the front line of the enemy.
2. Go in two's.
3. Walk slowly and pray out loud. This keeps you alert. Your partner can agree with you. Don't stop long in front of any one house.
4. Rotate back and forth who prays out loud.
5. Be **watchful**. Be sensitive to things in the yard: car, things on the porch such as Buddha statues, etc.
6. If someone stops you, just let him or her know you are praying a **blessing** on their home. You and I know that we are praying much more than that.
7. Memorize a few scriptures on warfare. Do not carry anything such as backpacks or Bibles. If possible have a group in a van or at church pray for those who are prayer walking. It helps. An example: Some students were prayer walking a few weeks ago. One team felt oppression at one house, so they went back to the house. Later they came to learn that the family had lost two small children to death recently. Allow God's Spirit to direct you in prayer.

### **On Mission Scripture Prayer Map**

1. Pray for receptive and repentant hearts.
  - a. Luke 8:15- But the seed on the good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.
2. Pray for spiritual eyes and ears to be opened to the truth of Christ.
  - a. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
  - b. Matthew 13:15 – For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.
3. Pray for them to have God's attitude toward sin.
  - a. John 16:8 – When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement.
4. Pray for the person to be released to believe.
  - a. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 – For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
  - b. 2 Timothy 2:25-26 – Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.
5. Pray for a transforming life.
  - a. Romans 12:1-2 – Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.
6. Pray for God to send them into His harvest field.
  - a. Matthew 9:35-38 – Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

# **Spiritual Warfare: Encountering Demon Possession**

## **What the Bible says**

**\*\*AT HOME READING\*\***

### **What are demons and what do they do?**

Job 1:12	Satan's activity is limited by the sovereign control of God
1 Peter 5:8	Satan roams the earth seeking to devour, is our enemy
Mk. 5:13	Can possess bodies of men and animals
Matthew 4:1-8	Seeks to tempt people, even Jesus
James 2:19	Demons believe in God and shudder in terror (raises hair on your arms)
Ephesians 4:27	Can get a foothold in one's life
Revelation 12:9	Satan is a seducer

### **Did Jesus ever encounter demon possessed people? Yes! What did He do?**

Matthew 4:24	People were brought to Jesus, and He healed those under the power of demons.
Matthew 8:28, Mark 5:16	Two demon possessed men went to meet Jesus and yelled at Him; Jesus said, "Be gone!" and the demons went into hogs.
Mark 1:32	People brought the demon possessed to Jesus. He drove out many demons. He forbids the demons to speak.
Matthew 15:22	A woman begged Jesus to remove the demon possession of her daughter. Jesus said, "Woman, great is your faith. Be it done as you wish." The daughter was healed without being present.

### **Can others drive out demons? Yes.**

Mark 16:17	Jesus said, "those who believe: in My Name, they will drive out demons..."
Luke 9:1	Jesus gave authority and power to apostles over all demons.
Luke 10:17	The 70 reported that even the demons are subject to us in your Name.
Acts 16:16-18	Paul commands spirit to leave fortune-telling slave girl.
Acts 19:13	Imposters tried to drive out demons in the name of Jesus. The demons talked back and said, "Who are you?" and fought the imposters.

### **Victory over demons**

Matthew 4:1-11	Jesus used scripture to avoid the temptations of the devil in the desert.
Romans 8:38	..." demons cannot separate us from the love of God..."
Romans 16:20	The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
Revelation 12:9	"... He was hurled to the earth and his angels with him." "... They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."
Matthew 16:23	Jesus said to Peter, "Get thee behind me Satan. You are in my way!"
1 John 4:4	Great is He who is in me than he who is in the world.

### **In Summary**

Jesus gives Christians the power and authority to overcome Satan and his demons. The Lord never **sought out** the demon-possessed. Every account written in the Bible has the possessed being brought to Jesus or coming themselves to be near or meet Jesus. Jesus cast out and healed every account of demon possession, although some were harder than others. Christians cannot be possessed by demons because they are possessed by God (Matthew 12:25-30, John 10:28).

Christians can give Satan and his demons ground in their lives by giving into temptation. The power of prayer can give this ground back to God. Christians can pray scripture, rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus, put on the full armor of God, resist the devil and flee from him. Sample prayers are available in Bondage Breaker by Neil T. Anderson.

# **How to be a Good Team Member**

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

**A good team member...**

**...is committed to the task.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-26 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.*

**...is teachable, humble.**

PSALM 25:9 *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

**...is supportive of the other team members.**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-7 *What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

**...is willing to try new things, eat new foods.**

LUKE 10:8 *“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.”*

**...listens to God and to the team.**

ACTS 16:9 *During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

**...cooperates in every task.**

NEHEMIAH 4:13-15 *Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”*

**...ministers to others, is a servant.**

MARK 9:35 *“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”*

**...is willing to sacrifice personal matters for the work.**

MARK 1:35 *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**...is motivated for the task.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16 *Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

**...is relational, not a loner.**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

**...manifests the fruit of the Spirit.**

GAL 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

## Team Work Speech

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

Teams are made up of individuals of all ages, experience levels and walks of life. While this can make a team extremely effective on the mission field, it can also be a challenge on many levels when trying to get along in close quarters. Also, because you are a team, the actions of one reflect on the entire group and all future groups to come. Consider carefully the following points.

- Be sensitive to other personalities, emotions, and skill levels. Be careful with what you say and how you express your attitude toward others. The beauty of a team is that not everyone is just like you... and that is a good thing.
- Resolve conflicts quickly. When problems arise, go directly to the person you are having an issue with and deal with it in a private and mature manner. If a resolution cannot be reached, go to your team leader. DO NOT resort to seething resentment or slanderous gossip. This will only tear a team apart.
- Make new friends and mix with your fellow team members.
- Never go anywhere alone. For safety reasons, always have 2-3 together at all times.
- NO PDA (Public display of affection) will be tolerated with each other or the nationals. Many cultures consider demonstrative behavior (even between husbands and wives) to be extremely inappropriate in a public setting.
- ***Remember the reason you are a journey participant is ultimately to share Jesus with others. Do not destroy your **credibility** (and those of your team and future groups) with inappropriate words, attitudes or actions.***

### **Jesus and Others are Watching ... You & Social Media**

What we do in our social lives truly represents the saturation of Christ in us. It is important to walk worthy of Christ not only on the mission field, but in all areas of our lives before and after our journeys.

Social media can be an awesome tool or a dangerous weapon so be careful of what you say and display. Many countries have strong opinions about different social activities like smoking, drinking, gambling, provocative dress or slang words. Participating in these behaviors can earn at the least the label of hypocrisy by non-believers in our own country, and can completely discredit your testimony and unequivocally disqualify you as a believer in the minds of many nations.

If you would not do it, say it, or display it if Jesus were standing at your side, then take heed and refrain. Jesus and others are always watching and the stakes of a Christian testimony are high.

**Note:** If you are considering going to a level 3 security nation (West Africa, Middle East, East Asia, South Asia), please set your privacy controls to “private” so only your friends can see your information.

## Some Ideas Regarding Servanthood

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

1. This is not a spiritual vacation.
2. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve.
3. It is not about you being ministered to, it is about your serving, and then you receive a blessing.
4. Matthew 20:27-28 "...and whoever wished to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
5. Matthew 25:21 "His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master."
6. Mark 9:35 "And sitting down, He called the twelve and said to the, "if anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all."
7. Mark 10:44 "...and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slaves of all."
8. John 13:16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither one who is sent greater than the one who sent him."
9. John 15:15,20 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore, I said He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep, and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy."
10. I Corinthians 9:19 "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more."
11. Philippians 2:7 "but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men."
12. **Flexible** – Key word

Ask yourself **"Why am I here?"** If the answer is to serve and do whatever I am asked, you responded correctly. No other answer is appropriate!



# **Volunteer Missions Core Values**

**\*\*AT HOME READING\*\***

1. We believe that **everything** we do should bring honor and glory to our Lord and In every situation lift up the name of Jesus.
2. We believe and we are driven by the **conviction** that everyone in the city we are going to has the right to hear the gospel in his or her heart language and in an understandable format.
3. We believe that prayer is our **primary** strategy for impacting lostness and that all efforts should be bathed in prayer before, during, and after any mission's endeavor.
4. We believe that all volunteer missions' endeavors should be consistent with sound and effective missiological principles reflecting a clear understanding of reproducibility, indigeneity, and non-**dependency** issues.
5. We believe that the task of gospel saturation, evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and leadership training are not completed unless they result in **multiplying** new church starts healthy enough to sustain continued Kingdom growth in quantity of the number of new believers and maturing believers.
6. We believe in **evaluating** all assistance to national partners, both tangible and intangible, in light of its long-term impact on the ability of indigenous churches to continue to impact lostness through evangelism and church planting.
7. We believe that all human needs projects should minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of those receiving assistance.
8. We believe that the church was **commanded** by our Lord to fulfill the Great Commission by sending "sent out" ones, whom God has called.

## **General guidelines for the construction projects:**

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

1. Construction of church buildings should not be a primary church planting method. The primary church planting methods include evangelism, discipleship, leadership training and congregating new believers. The construction of buildings in most cases should be the responsibility of the local congregation.
2. In all construction projects, volunteers should use their spiritual gifts as well as their construction expertise. Evangelism, discipleship, counseling, and leadership training should be a major part of the volunteers' activities.
3. The total number of church buildings constructed should be small in comparison to the number of churches planted with volunteer help.
4. All construction projects should be identified as a part of the Strategy Coordinator's Master Plan (If there is no Strategy Coordinator Master Plan then the Regional Master Plan will apply).
5. Construction of church buildings should be limited to first unit construction, with rough-in as a goal for volunteer help. Completion of the project should be left for the local congregations.
6. The local church should provide a significant part of the project, such as land, foundation and major participation in the actual construction activity itself.

Construction design and architecture should be of a local origin. Construction material should be locally available. Construction techniques should be reproducible by local labor with local tools.

# **Taking Pictures and Videos**

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

When you return home, you will want to share the pictures and videos of your journey with others. A great way of doing this is by sharing them with Cross Church Missions. We are asking that every team member send us a few of your best ministry-related pictures.

This allows several things to happen. (i) It helps us capture the journey from each individual's perspective, (ii) the Cross Church Missions team can join with you in celebrating what God has done, and (iii) it lets us share the celebration with the rest of the church. We can use these pictures in promotional videos and brochures to capture the work being done. This way we have a much larger platform for encouraging others to be a part of the exciting opportunities ahead. Seeing pictures of what God is doing often has a contagious effect; others will be motivated to "Go" on the next journey! If you have pictures that would be good for promotional purposes, please email those to Juliana Parish at [julianap@crosschurch.com](mailto:julianap@crosschurch.com)

## Tips to Remember:

- Make sure there is good lighting and keep the sun behind you to avoid glare.
- Turn off the time stamps on your digital camera and video recorders.
- On videos, be sure to leave several seconds before and after the action you are recording so that the media team has enough room to crop and edit.

We already have plenty of pictures showing the conditions, cultures, and wildlife of our various locations. Feel free to take as many of those pictures as you like but please do not submit any of those to our Missions team. Instead, we need four or five of your best pictures or videos depicting the work you did on your mission journey. Here are a few examples of what we are and are not looking for.

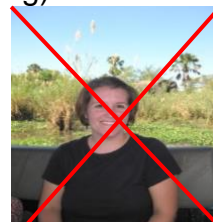
## **Pictures we can use**

- Interaction with locals
- Ministry pictures
- Acts of service
- Worship



## **Pictures we do not need**

- Scenic shots (Animals, Trees, Mountains, etc.)
- Buildings and homes
- Travel (Airports and hotels)
- Traditional (Pictures of you posed and smiling)



## Reporting to Small Groups

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

An important part of your missions experience begins after you return home – sharing the missions experience. You become the “expert” on missions in the eyes of many of your friends. In order to make your reporting as effective as possible, here are some tips to guide your preparation.

- Pray about each opportunity you have to share your mission experience. Each group you share with will be different. Ask God to show you what will best communicate before each time you share.
- Focus on the **main thing** – how you saw God work in your own life and in the lives of the missionaries and the people you went to serve.
- Several things you may consider including are:
  - Share your spiritual journey. Focus on your awareness of God calling you to this specific task.
  - Give examples of answered prayer.
  - Try and balance details of “local color” (strange foods, different clothes, and different customs) with the need to relate the main purpose of the journey.
  - Identify at least **3** major highlights of the trip. Tell why they are highlights.
  - Relate how you have grown spiritually as a result of this journey.

Cautions:

- Avoid a travelogue – people lose interest quickly if you talk about how long it took to get to the destination and how bad the accommodations were.
- Remember that a lot of the funny things that happened are funny only to those who were present. If it is a you-had-to-be-there incident, don’t try to share it with a group.
- Don’t show all of your pictures, just a select few – the best ones.
- Honor the time you’re given. (Don’t take too long!)

It is always good to include:

- Thanks to those who supported you in prayer and your awareness of prayer support from your intercessors.
- Prayer requests.
- Encourage your listeners to consider the possibility of making a mission journey themselves.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

**\*\*AT HOME READING\*\***

1. *What ages must children be to go on a mission journey?*
  - Many of the regional and national journeys are very family friendly for children of all ages. However, each journey is unique, and the decision on whether younger children are allowed on any given trip, especially the international journeys, will be decided on a case-by-case basis. This decision will depend on factors such as the location, the maturity level of child, and the intended ministry during the journey. All journeys are spiritually strenuous, and many are also physically taxing. It is important for parents to understand that these journeys are a team effort, and it is vital that nothing inhibits the ministry focus. Because the productive roles of the parents will be somewhat limited with younger children along, it is important that a careful assessment is made for each instance.
2. *Who will be leading the mission journeys?*
  - Team Leaders are either pastors or lay people with experience and training. Most have been on journeys before and are very familiar with the process of leading a team
3. *Is there a deposit for my journey?*
  - Yes, each journey requires a deposit to be paid when you register. The deposit amount will be a percentage of the total journey cost.
4. *What if I fundraise more money than I need to pay for my journey?*
  - Federal tax law states that all funds received assist the entire team project, so excess money that is raised will be put toward the total journey cost and divided among those on the team that have not yet raised their full amount. That being said, each person is ultimately responsible for their own journey cost. Unless a deduction is given due to excess funds from other individuals, any funds not raised at the end of the fundraising period must be paid in full by all team members that have not met their fundraising goal.
5. *Can I use frequent flyer miles to pay for the airline portion of my journey?*
  - It is possible to use your frequent flyer miles, but several conditions must be met. First, your Frequent Flyer airline must match the carrier that is used to book the flight for the journey or a portion of the journey. Second, you must be able to get a ticket that exactly matches your team's itinerary so there are no logistical delays in transit. Third, the process of booking a ticket with frequent flyer miles will be your personal responsibility instead of Cross Church's.
6. *What if I am paying my own way? Am I still required to send out fundraising letters?*
  - You are not required to send out support letters if you will be covering your cost out of pocket. However, keeping in mind that this is a team effort, you may want to consider sending out a few letters to friends and family asking them to help support you and the team by making a donation. If you want to bless a fellow team member in this way let someone on the missions staff know and we will happily credit whatever comes in from your letters to the team as a whole, in case there is a shortfall somewhere.

## **Missional Resources**

**\*\* AT HOME READING \*\***

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International Missions Board – IMB [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)

North America Missions Board – NAMB [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)

Arkansas Disaster Relief – [www.abscdisasterrelief.org](http://www.abscdisasterrelief.org)

Arkansas Baptist State Convention – SBSC [www.absc.org](http://www.absc.org)

Joshua Project – [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

Henry Blackaby – Experiencing God – book info