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## **Travel Guidelines for Short-Term Missions Trips**

Please be in an attitude of prayer during the trip and look to the Lord to move powerfully on the trip. Expect God to use you to minister to those in need and be open to what the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart on this trip.

- 1. You will need to acquire a U.S. Passport or an ID and your Birth Certificate
- 2. Make a copy of your passport and visa page as well as a copy of your driver's license
- 3. Make sure all your luggage is properly tagged with your home address
- 4. Have your bags easily accessible at the borders. Bags should be locked and keys handy
- 5. Enter the country as a tourist, not as a pastor, missionary, evangelist, etc.
- 6. At customs, please stay with the group and do not go through as an individual. Keep all of your luggage together
- 7. Do not enter the country wearing shorts, cut-off blue jeans or any immodest apparel
- 8. Do not change money at the airport
- 9. Do not bring any surplus military gear shirts, jackets, pants, ponchos, knapsacks, duffel bags, belts, knives, etc. THIS IS A MUST!
- 10. Your clothes should be casual but rugged and washable
- 11. Bring extra film
- 12. Do not eat anything unless your team leader says it is okay
- 13. There will be no dating during the trip. HANDS OFF is the policy between unmarried singles
- 14. No whining or complaining. Be submissive to authority, rejoicing, willing, and cooperative always ready to minister
- 15. Be ready to lead the team in an edifying morning devotion of 5-10 minutes
- 16. Maintain high spiritual standards pray, praise, preach, love, and share!
- 17. Be teachable and correctable. If you need to correct someone do it promptly in a spirit of love
- 18. Pray before you eat
- 19. Be sensitive to cross-cultural taboos
- 20. Don't make promises to any ministry that are outside your authority. Examples: We will send money; we can stay additional time; we can split up the team; we will be back; etc.
- 21. No one goes anywhere alone
- 22. Keep the ladies protected
- 23. Set luggage guards
- 24. Keep emergency phone numbers with you
- 25. Upon re-entry to the U.S.:
  - o Don't rebuke all the Americans at home
  - o Be considerate of others; don't just talk about YOUR experience
  - o Don't talk negative about others who were on the trip with you (other team members, missionaries, native pastors and leaders, etc.)
  - o Don't act like an expert after the trip
  - o Pray about the things that God has revealed to you and your part in the great commission
  - o Beware of the enemy's backlash (stay prayed up)
  - o Normalize your schedule (a good time to improve your devotional life)
  - o Don't gorge out on American food and get sick
  - o Thank all those who supported you