



Missions Guideline

Short Term Missions Teams

Recommended Guideline for Local Churches

CRC CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL

International Office:
CRC Churches International Australia
185 Frederick Road
Seaton SA 5023
churches@crcchurches.org

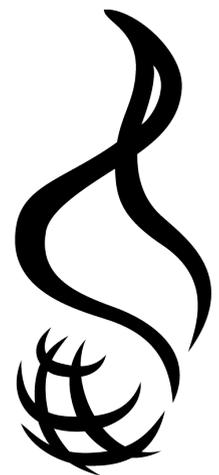


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Short Term Missions Teams

1. Purpose

Short term mission trips can be very valuable in the life of a person and may help to significantly shape the future values and direction of their life.

The primary purpose of these teams is to serve the church in overseas countries. As such, team members may be required to be involved in practical or spiritual ministry. Servant hood requires that personal rights and desires be laid down so that participants do whatever is needed to help further the spread of the Gospel among the people being visited.

Other purposes for short term teams are:

1. To receive first-hand experience of another culture.
2. See and experience what God is doing on the mission field today.
3. Apply efforts and talents toward furthering the work of the Gospel on the Mission field; and
4. To see if the Mission field is where God desires you to make a long term commitment.

2. Requirements

People proposing to go on short term cross-cultural mission trips should:

1. Be committed to, and supportive of their local church and its vision.
2. Be actively and faithfully involved in some area of responsible ministry in the local church.
3. Be competent and capable of leading people to Christ, into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and in following up a new Christian*
4. Be in prayer for the country and the church(es) being visited.
5. Demonstrate submissiveness and an obedient attitude in the local church so that there may be reasonable confidence that directions and requirements will be followed in a mission context. This may be for a reason of safety or to avoid offending cultural norms of the country/ church visited.
6. Be willing to undertake preparation and education concerning the culture and churches being visited
7. Get a "Working with Children" card if there is any possibility of involvement with children (most trips).
8. Take the necessary medical precautions prior to going, including checking with a doctor as to what it is required for the country being visited.
9. Must not be involved in cigarette smoking or taking non-prescribed drugs. In case of pre-scribed drugs or another medication a clearance from a doctor is necessary assuring medical fitness for the mission trip.
10. Must be responsible to pay all personal costs for travel, food, accommodation, insurances, etc. The price will be advised for each trip.
11. Travel insurance is required.

12. All Team members should be registered on Smart Traveller. www.smarttraveller.gov.au
*not required if the Team is for practical work and will not be involved in spiritual ministry.

3. Procedures

1. Work through the Field Supporter of the nation you plan to visit. They can connect you with the appropriate National Leaders. In some cases this will be the National Leader, in other cases Regional Leaders.
2. Plan well ahead of time so as to give the National Leaders about 4-6 months notice. Also clarify that your proposed time for the visit is actually suitable to the mission field concerned.

4. Duty of Care

1. Under current Australian OH & S regulations a church sending workers/volunteers overseas (mission teams) has a Primary Duty of Care to ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, "1. The Health and Safety of all Workers.
2. Other persons are not put at risk due to the business or undertaking
3. They:
 - i. maintain a safe work environment including structures, plant and machinery
 - ii. provide safe work systems
 - iii. provide adequate facilities, information, training and instruction to all workers
 - iv. monitor health of workers and workplace conditions
4. Maintain workers accommodation to reduce exposure to health risks."
5. In order to achieve the above the following Prescribed Course of Training must be completed and signed off by all participants.

5. Prescribed Course of Training

Teams must be well prepared before they are sent out.

This includes:

1. Godly attitudes to be expressed
2. Cross cultural understanding and the effects of culture shock
3. Things to do or not to do in the country being visited, including moral safety and not to get involved in any emotional attachments with team members or people in the country being visited.
4. Appropriate dress
5. What to take
6. Sharing your testimony
7. How to minister in leading people to Christ, into the baptism of the Holy Spirit and healing the sick if the team maybe involved in these things.
8. Practical skills for aspects they may be involved in
9. Health – see your local doctor for preventative measures before going, e.g. Immunisations, malaria tablets etc.
10. Risk awareness including political unrest, theft, living conditions, toilets and a detailed Risk assessment for the trip.

11. Participants must sign off that they have been trained in all these areas. For team members who are minors parents must be fully informed of the Risk Assessment for the trip and sign off on the Risk Assessment form. Excellent Training Material for teams is available from the CRC Mission Office.

6. Insurance and Indemnity Form All team members must have:

1. Medical Insurance that gives full cover for that person in the country being visited.
2. Note: Check insurance policy carefully if you are visiting an area that the Australian Government recommends "Do not travel" as many travel insurance policy do not cover any claim in such areas.
3. Sign an Indemnity form indemnifying the sending local church, CRC Mission and CRC Churches International Inc.
4. Copies of the above documents, plus copy of passport, must be supplied to the sending local church before leaving on the trip.

7. Costs

The local church will determine the costs to be paid by team members. When accompanied in country by local people pay their fares also. Pay upfront a daily amount for food and "in the church accommodation" in the country visited.

The appropriate amount to pay is available from the CRC Missions office. If accommodation other than "in church accommodation" is required this is to be paid for separately by the team.

8. Other Matters

1. Teams should be no more than 4 to 5 people unless there are multiple leaders so that the team can be split up and sent to different places. Otherwise the local people are over burdened with looking after the team.
2. A list of team members names, ages, gender, any who are married couples, as well as gifting and level of ability needs to be supplied to the host leaders well in advance so that they can plan appropriate ministry opportunities.
3. Where domestic flights are needed within a country these can normally be purchased on line from Australia, rather than asking hosts to be involved in this. The local leaders however may be able to give good recommendations on what airlines to use etc.
4. Debrief – team members need adequate debriefing during the trip, and on their return to Australia.

9. CONCLUSION

Remember Short Term teams are visiting another country to serve the church in that nation. You have much to learn from them, and you have things to contribute to them.