

Radiant GO

Mission Team

Member

Playbook



RADIANT CHURCH

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GETTING STARTED

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
Mark 10:45*

A LETTER TO TEAM MEMBERS

Dear Team Member,

Our mission is simple... Radiant GO (Go Global & Go Local) exists to move people towards Christ, Community, and Calling by fostering relationships outside of our church walls. We align our mission trips with the following goals:

- Moving **you** toward Christ: Sharing your faith in God with others (Evangelism)
- Moving **you** toward community: Learning the importance Radiant Teams/Groups
- Moving **you** toward your calling: Understanding your gifts and exercising generosity

This manual is designed to help you prepare for cross-cultural ministry. As you read through the pages, you'll examine the complexities of working in different cultures and how to effectively share the Gospel. You'll learn how to write support letters, work as a team, prepare your personal testimony, build a prayer team, and discover how God uniquely wired you for His glory.

We serve many partners all over the world; each of them has a unique ministry that we desire to assist and come alongside. By using the resources and abilities God has given you, our partners can be encouraged, refreshed, and reinvigorated by your team's service and love. While each trip may differ in cultural experience and project focus, every trip will be transforming as God works in you and in the lives of those we serve.

Our prayer is that your life will be so transformed by your mission trip that it will propel you forward in your journey of service with our Lord. Whether that is on home soil or in another country, you can make a transforming difference in the lives of others through your obedience to Jesus.

Until All Have Heard,
Radiant GO! Team

TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

MEETINGS

1. Attend all meetings—pre-trip, during trip, and one debrief upon returning.
2. Have all forms completed and your **\$200 non-refundable deposit** in Service Reef (online trip planning website) upon acceptance onto the team.

FINANCES

1. You are responsible to raise the funds required for your trip.
2. 100% of ground fees must be deposited at least 90 days prior to the departure date in order to keep airfare costs down.
3. 100% of airline/transportation costs must be deposited at least 30 days prior to departure. Failure to do so may result in you not being able to go on the trip.
4. Be on time, or early, with financial deadlines.
5. **Donations will not be refunded, so be 100% committed.**

PERSONAL & TEAM DYNAMICS

1. Be a team player.
2. Be sensitive to the culture in which you'll be serving.
3. Submit to the leadership of the team.
4. Have a positive attitude for learning and serving with an open heart and teachable spirit.
5. Be responsible. Everyone on the team will have a role:
 - This will be determined by your team leader.
 - Be prepared to pray for people and share your personal testimony and/or a devotional at some point.
 - Be ready to serve—through prayer, crafts, Bible lessons, sports, child care, cleaning, physical labor, etc.

PASSPORTS

1. Must be valid at least 6 months AFTER your trip return date.
2. Must be signed and have accurate information.
3. Copies must be uploaded onto Service Reef.

VACCINATIONS

1. Some countries have required immunizations and your team leader will provide the most up-to-date information.
 - Proof of immunizations (yellow card) for some countries is required.
 - Some countries can refuse entrance if there is not proper documentation.

TEAM READING

PRAYER

This is for the team to read on their own.

Team Leader: Please take some time for your own comments and discussion. Consider having 1-2 team members share from their experience here as well.

PRAYER

Prayer is vital for any ministry and certainly should not be neglected for a short-term trip, either during preparation time or while on the field. After all, you will be God's ambassadors. Prayer is essential, not only for God's direction for the team effort, but also for sensitivity to God's leading for you individually, within the team, and your part while on the field.

PERSONAL PRAYER

Personal prayer is very important for the success of your trip. Spend time in prayer on your own through the days and weeks of preparation. Pray through your fears--be open and honest with God. Ask God for His guidance. Ask for and thank God for your financial supporters. Ask for wisdom even during the packing process. Ask for strength for those times you will be out of your comfort zone. Ask God for divine appointments on the trip. You will find that He will strengthen you for whatever it is He would have you do, and your faith in God will grow as a result.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

It is important to note that we are in the midst of a spiritual battle, and Satan is at work to destroy our plans and efforts as we follow God's leading. Put on the Armor of God daily as you prepare and while you are on the field. Jesus has given us spiritual authority, so we can be bold in our prayers as we pray in the name of Jesus against Satan's schemes! Read through Ephesians 6:10-12. This will be discussed at a future team meeting.

PRAYER FOR YOUR TEAM

Pray for your team leaders (both here and in your host country), and all members of the team by name. Pray for spiritual protection and for God's protection around family members at home. Petition God for travel mercies, health, logistics, and team unity.

PRAYER FOR YOUR HOST COUNTRY

Pray for the country and individuals where you and your team will be involved. Pray that the eyes of non-believers will be opened to the Gospel message as you serve them and love them in the name of Jesus. Pray that God will bring those whom He wills across your path; not only for the purpose of encouraging them, but also that you will be open to being refreshed by them as well.

PRAYER FOR THE MISSION TRIP

Pray for God's will for the trip and for wisdom to know what and where He wants you to serve. It's not always about doing what feels good, but it's about doing what needs to be done to help the team or the long-term worker(s). Even if it means going out of your comfort zone, do your work as unto the Lord. Being stretched and learning to do something new can bring joy, as well as give you more skills for future endeavors. Colossians 3:23 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

PRAYER AND FASTING

As believers, we are directed to pray and fast.

In Matthew 6:5-7, Jesus said, *When you pray...* and in verses 16-17, Jesus said, *When you fast...*

He considered it a natural part of the Christian life. Prayerfully planning to set a day aside for praying and fasting at some point during the weeks of preparation is a way to assure your sensitivity to God's leading and direction. During this special time, the Holy Spirit will direct you to pray for things you might not have otherwise thought to do. Because of all the activity before the trip, you may need to seek God's wisdom as to which day to set aside. God is able to make a way and keep all distractions to a minimum.

A PRAYER TEAM

We encourage you to have at least 5 people that will pray for you and your mission team. Ask your family, friends, and mentors to join with you as a prayer partner. Be sure to give them your Prayer Requests and any Praise Reports during this time.

PREPARATION

1. TEAM MEETINGS

Anyone participating on a mission trip is required to attend all team meetings. Team meetings will be held at the discretion and coordination of the team leader. Not attending team meetings may forfeit your spot on the team. After the trip, each team will hold a debrief meeting to share their experiences, process how God met them in their journey, and explore next steps.

2. FINANCIAL

Funding for this trip is the responsibility of each participant.

FINANCIAL DEADLINES:

- Online application completed At least 6 months before trip departure
- \$200 non-refundable application fee Automatic upon application approval
- 100% of ground fees At least 90 days before trip departure
- 100% of airline/transport costs At least 30 days before trip departure

SERVICE REEF ACCOUNT

- Once you have completed your application and approved for the trip, you will receive an email and automatically be loaded into the online platform.
- This will give you access to your personal fundraising page where you can share about your trip and a fundraising link with others.
- Fill out the necessary online forms immediately and upload or sign all necessary documents so you are ready to go. This will reduce any delay, which can increase the cost of your trip.

INSURANCE

- Short-term trip insurance will be purchased for every participant on every mission trip sponsored by Radiant Church.
- The team leader will have a copy of the insurance policy for each member of the team.
- **Neither the insurance company nor Radiant Church will be liable for any damage or loss of personal possessions.**
- It is the responsibility of the trip participant to contact either the airlines or their homeowner's insurance if there is damage or a loss of personal possessions.

FUNDRAISING

The team leader is responsible for coaching the team members in fundraising as part of their team training. This will be covered more in-depth over the next few pages.

NOTE: If, for any reason, an individual withdraws from a trip or is asked to withdraw, he/she is responsible for reimbursing the church for any expenses incurred on his/her behalf up to that time. In addition, any funds raised for the purpose of the trip will stay with the team.

3. PASSPORTS

- If you do not already have a passport, **you should apply for one immediately.**
- You'll need to have your passport in hand by the time tickets are purchased or you won't be eligible to go.
- The most current information on obtaining or renewing a passport can be found at the State Department website (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>).
- **Your passport must be valid at least 6 months past your date of departure.**
- You also must have **at least three blank pages** in your passport at the time of departure.
- Always have a copy of your passport with you and leave one with friends or family at home.

4. VISAS & IMMUNIZATIONS

- It is the team leader's responsibility to find out if visas and immunizations are required for each country you will either pass through or stay in.
- Visas can take as long as 3 months to process.
- Some visas must be completed and approved **prior** to the purchase of airline tickets.
- Failure to secure a visa will result in the delay of purchasing (and possible price increase) of your individual ticket.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

>> www.travel.state.gov - U.S. State Department - information on passports, country profiles, travel warnings, addresses of U.S. Embassies overseas, and much more.

>> www.cdc.gov - Center for Disease Control - health information, immunization requirements, and travel tips.

>> <https://apply.joinsherpa.com/> - An extensive database that includes: passport and visa requirements, border procedures, health declarations, passenger locator forms, quarantine measures, transit restrictions, and vaccination requirements.

FUNDRAISING

Team Leader: Please read this information with the team before Session 2. This is a great foundation for drafting support content.

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR FAITH IN FUNDRAISING

Support raising is not a modern invention. People of God have cared for and supported one another throughout history. Many Bible passages demonstrate how Jesus, Paul, and others received support from those who stood by them in their work. Take time to reflect:

1 CHRONICLES 28:1-29

- As his last act on the throne, David begins his heart's desire to build a temple for God. He presents this vision to the people and they respond joyously with their time, talents, and money.
- In response, David prays before all the people saying, *But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.* (1 Chronicles 29:14)

NEHEMIAH 1:1-2:9

- After hearing that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and that the surviving Jews were in great trouble and disgrace, Nehemiah mourned, fasted and prayed.
- He boldly approached King Artaxerxes (a non-believer) and asked him to provide the resources needed to rebuild the wall.

MATTHEW 7:7-12

- God wants us to ask Him for help; He wants us to come to Him with our needs.
- As our faithful Father, He is eager and able to meet our needs.

Acts 4:32-37

- As a community of Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem from far and wide, the first followers of Jesus shared all that they had.
- Though they had been strangers to one another in chapter 2, they became family in real and practical ways.

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

- The relationship Paul had developed with the Philippian church included their supporting his ministry and helping the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem hard hit by the famine.
- The Philippians had their own financial hardships, but despite their poverty, they gave sacrificially and generously out of what they had.
- They had compassion on their brethren in Jerusalem who were poorer than they, and they deeply loved Paul and believed in the calling God had given him to bring the Gospel to other Gentiles like themselves.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9:15

- Unlike the Philippians, the Corinthian church was in a season of plenty. Paul exhorts them to recognize that their abundance is meant to meet the needs where others are lacking.
- In turn, when their day of need presents itself, they will be provided for by the abundance that others may have.
- He references the Macedonians (Philippi was a major city in Macedonia) and their generosity in the face of their “extreme poverty,” and explains that generosity also benefits the giver.

FUNDRAISING TRUTHS

TRUTH #1: GOD SENDS YOU AND GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU.

- *Faithful is he who calls you, and he also will bring it to pass.* 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- God sends people into the world (Matthew 9:37-38, Romans 10:14-25) to make a significant change in the world (Matthew 9:36, 11:28-30; Romans 3:23, 6:23, John 3:19b, John 11:25-26).
- Not only does God call you to go, but He provides for you because His resources are infinite (Psalm 50:10-12).
- He can abundantly provide (Ephesians 3:20). It’s part of God’s character to provide for your needs—this can be financially, especially when on mission (Philippians 4:19; Genesis 22:14).

TRUTH #2: ON GOD’S MISSION, YOU ARE HIS AMBASSADOR.

- *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us...* 2 Corinthians 5:20.
- You don’t just represent yourself, but rather God and the Gospel, to whomever you reach.

TRUTH #3: GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS AMBASSADORS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

- God's people want to invest in Missions. People work hard and they use a lot of their finances to provide for their family, but they want it to affect the world too.
- God's people are looking for ways to support His work in this world. In fact, He commands that His people give to His mission, like the church, ministers, and missionaries to help spread the Gospel and help those in need.
- God loves a cheerful giver! (2 Corinthians 9:7)

FUNDRAISING MYTHS

MYTH #1: YOU ARE BEGGING FOR MONEY.

- You are inviting others to participate in the greatest cause of all time!
- If they don't want to give, someone else will jump at the opportunity.

MYTH #2: GOD DOESN'T KNOW WHO IS GOING TO SUPPORT YOU.

- God already has your team of prayer and financial supporters lined up for you.
- It's your job to then pray and go find those people and be amazed at His provision when you do find them.

MYTH #3: I CAN RAISE THE SUPPORT FROM MY OWN POCKET.

- If we're only talking about financial support, then yes—you may be equipped to find the finances for yourself. However, who is going to pray for you? Who is going to be rooting for you? Who is going to be excited to hear about what you are doing—knowing that they invested into something greater?
- Your bank account cannot pray for you when you're in the middle of the Gospel conversation. Only people who are on your prayer and financial support team can do that.

SO, FUNDRAISING IS NOT...

- Just for "other people" or full time missionaries only
- Manipulating or convincing others

FUNDRAISING IS...

- Biblically based
- A recognition that everything comes from God
- An avenue for your trust and confidence in God to grow
- A way to invite others to join into God's plans and purposes
- A way to invite others to uphold you in prayer as you go

FUNDRAISING - PRACTICALITIES

The attitude of fundraising is to share with people what God is doing through you and invite them to be part of it.

Their part can be through:

- Prayer
- Finances
- Helping you reach your goal

It is very important that you do not mention Radiant Church in your fundraising ventures. You are raising finances for yourself—not for Radiant Church, nor Radiant Missions, nor the Global Partner.

We, at Radiant Church, *PRAY FIRST*. Prayer is the first place to start. Ask 2 or 3 people to commit to pray as you prepare for your trip. This includes prayer for funding, health, and team unity.

WAYS TO RAISE SUPPORT

1. Have a 1 on 1 meeting.

- The most effective way to raise funds is to chat with someone and let them know about your trip.
- Share where you are going, what you are doing, the dates, and your specific needs
- Express your heart for serving Jesus
- Ask for prayer before and during your trip
- Explain, very simply, how to make donations
- Follow up

2. Host a dessert night.

- Have a small group gather for dessert or coffee.
- Share where you are going, what you are doing, the dates, and your specific needs
- Express your heart for serving Jesus
- Ask for prayer before and during your trip
- Explain, very simply, how to make donations
- Follow up

3. Write a support letter or email to family, friends, or coworkers.

- Share where you are going, what you are doing, the dates, and your specific needs

- Express your heart for serving Jesus
- Ask for prayer before and during your trip
- Explain, very simply, how to make donations
- Follow up

(There is a sample letter in the Resources section of this manual.)

4. Social Media

- Post about your trip with the link to your Service Reef fundraising page.
- Follow our Social Media Guidelines (in Resources) and do not post pictures of locals/children.
- Typically, social media is not as effective because the personal follow up is lacking.

5. Work—individually or as a team

- Mow lawns, wash windows, clean houses, paint walls and fences
- Childcare, babysitting, and pet care
- Ask around to see what people need help with
- Car wash (team effort)
- Yard sales

***Fundraising nights via restaurants tend to not be that effective and again, Radiant Church cannot be used as the entity you are raising funds for. You are fundraising for yourself. Follow up is also difficult with this tactic.**

6. Be Creative

- Take advantage of your talents and skills

The most effective support raising advice is to **follow up** with potential donors. People mean well and plan to give but you are not necessarily the top priority on their list. Sometimes, they just need a gentle and kind reminder.

Also, don't be discouraged if people tell you "no" or "not this time." God has someone else in store. Thank them for their time to listen to you and then move on. Someone giving an honest "no" is actually helpful in the long run than someone not being straightforward.

ESTABLISHING A SUPPORT TEAM

People spend about 10 seconds reviewing a letter before deciding to toss it or read it in full. You want to grab their attention in your first sentence. Then, be concise and to the point. Feel free to ask your team leader to approve your letter before you send it out.

PREPARE A LIST

- Prayerfully compile a list of 80 people God wants you to directly petition for support. Consider asking friends, neighbors, teachers, family members, co-workers, etc.
- Only approach people with whom you already have a relationship.
- Don't underestimate who God may choose to use.
- Do not use the church's databases or contacts to find supporters.
- Keep a written record of those you contact, which includes their information and how they respond.

WRITE THE LETTER

- Ask people to join you as partners in this mission experience.
- Communicate clearly so people will become excited about what you are doing and why you are a part of this mission trip.
- The more information people have, the more likely they are to give.
- See yourself as a mobilizer, actively participating in the global mission of Jesus. This is not only an exciting opportunity for you, but it presents a way to involve other people in this mission.

A strong team of prayer and financial supporters will advance Christ's Kingdom further than you can alone. Therefore, it is vital that you honor your supporters with thank you notes, specific prayer information, and great follow up communication.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER

1. An attention grabbing first sentence
 - Keep this focus throughout your letter
2. Your excitement and burden for this mission trip
 - Briefly describe why you are going
 - Include how Jesus moved in your heart and led you to go
3. An overview of the mission work
 - Clarify what you will be doing and how it will impact lives
 - Name of the organization with whom you'll be serving
 - Information about the country and culture where you will be serving (keep it positive)
4. An invitation to join you in prayer and giving
 - Let them know you are raising your own prayer and financial support
 - Share the total trip cost—can break it up in increments
 - Clarify the date by when your funding is due
5. A clear way to respond
 - Giving can be done online via Service Reef
6. Follow up

TIPS FOR ALL OF YOUR COMMUNICATION

1. Keep the letter to one page.
2. Ask for prayer before, during, and after your trip.
3. Make the format simple and clean.
4. Include a way for people to contact you.
5. Proofread your letter several times; then have someone else proofread it.
6. Signing your name in pen makes it more personal.

FINANCIAL NECESSITIES

1. All funds must be received in Service Reef 30 days before your trip.
2. All donations are tax deductible.
3. **Once donations have been received, they will not be refunded.**

NOTE: There is a sample of a support letter in the “Resources” section of this manual.

TEAMS & TEAMWORK

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

YOUR GIFTINGS

There are many great personality tests and they can be so useful to help learn more about yourself and your personal motivations. If you have never taken a Spiritual Gifts test, then we recommend that you take it through our [Radiant 101](https://weareradiant.com/nextsteps/) (<https://weareradiant.com/nextsteps/>) course. This will prove to be very helpful in discerning more about yourself and how you will best serve your team.

TOP FIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

TEAM ROLES

Team Leader: After talking through the Spiritual Gifts results, this section will help you allocate different roles within your team. It is important to encourage each person to utilize the gifts they have been given so that they are an integral part of the team. Several roles are listed below. Some may apply to your team and others may not. More can be added depending on the needs of the team.

THE TEAM LEADER

The leader of a mission trip is the individual with the greatest responsibility for the team, its activity, and its ultimate effectiveness. Team leaders have been approved by the Radiant Missions Department.

TEAM LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Group preparation and effectiveness
- The team's growing interest in God's mission
- Delegating tasks and devotional times
- All finances and team expenditures
- Final debriefing
- See the Mission Team Leader's Playbook for all of the details

LOGISTICS LEADER

In teams of 5 or more, the team leader may appoint a logistics leader to handle the various details of the trip.

- Ensure that every team member has proper paperwork—passport, visa, liability forms, honor code, team covenant, airline ticket, travel insurance, and any other documents needed for the trip
- Work with the team leader on travel details to, from, and on the field
- Keep track of ministry itinerary
- Work with the team leader in whatever area is needed

SPIRITUAL LIFE LEADER

Individuals chosen for this position should have proven spiritual maturity and leadership skills. If needed, this can also be the team leader.

- Develop a Prayer Team and encourage team members to cultivate at least 5 prayer partners for their trip.

- Oversee devotions, prayer, and other disciplines such as solitude, prayer walks, etc.
- Be sensitive to issues that surface during a trip such as discouragement, grumbling, pride, complaining, disunity, lack of submission or flexibility.
- Make it a priority to bring the team together for prayer at the start and end of each day. (This does not mean that the Spiritual Life Leader has to do all of the praying. We encourage everyone to participate.)

TEAM MEDIC

- Ensure that every team member has proper medical preparation and a completed health form.
- Know the allergies and allergic reactions of each team member.
- Be aware of the prescription medications for team members. Each person needs to bring their own supply and enough for three extra days.
- Make sure the team is hydrated at all times.

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

This person is to take photos or film events, only when applicable and when permission from local hosts is given. This should be occasional, as the photographer needs to fully be engaged and participating in activities.

- Briefly film events and special meetings, with permission from local hosts.
- Do not photograph children.
- Do not photograph anyone without consent.
- Capture natural shots rather than the “posed” as much as possible.
- Look for a “story” to film that highlights the purpose and activities of the trip. Be careful not to share stories that aren’t yours to tell. We practice ethical storytelling and we honor people, always.
- Capture all team members on video or in photos showing their interaction and activities on the trip.
- Always ask permission **before** you video or photograph and please follow our Social Media Guidelines.

JOURNALIST/COMMUNICATIONS

- Document daily activities in a creative format.
- Work in conjunction with the team photographer to capture stories and activities.
- Interview teammates and Global Partners to obtain impact stories.
- Be responsible to email or text team updates to the Missions Department.

WORSHIP/MUSIC

- Put together songs for team gatherings and field meetings, if applicable.
- If this is an aspect of what your team will be doing while you are on your trip, please coordinate with the global partner or local leadership.
- Be sensitive to a variety of worship music styles.
- Strive to include everyone and be open to learn new songs and different ways to worship.
- Work in conjunction with the team leader for details of what is needed.

CRAFTS

- If applicable, be the point person for deciding on the crafts and purchasing of supplies. Be creative and look for items that can be donated.
- Look for crafts that can be duplicated in the area where you serve. This will enable them to make the crafts after you are gone.
- Make sure the craft coincides with what is being taught.

SPORTS

- If applicable, this needs to be a person balanced with Godly character and sportsmanship.
- Oversee the sports in which your team will be participating. This may involve collecting and bringing sports equipment to the country where you'll minister.
- Focus on sportsmanship and how it edifies the body of Christ.
- Lead the team in understanding the joy of competing together in unity rather than negative rivalry which can lead to anger and resentment.

TEAM COVENANT

I agree to follow the outlined policies as a mission trip member in accordance with Radiant Missions. (This form was signed in Service Reef.)

As a representative of my own community, Radiant Church, and above all else, Jesus Christ, I will behave at all times in a manner that brings glory and honor to these institutions.

I am aware that my every word and action is being watched during the entire mission trip experience. Therefore, I agree to act and talk in a manner that glorifies the name of Jesus Christ. I want everything I do or say to draw people to Jesus.

I will be spiritually, physically, and mentally prepared for a mission trip that will stretch me and mold me in ways that I can only imagine. I will do everything I can ahead of time to prepare myself for this incredible trip.

I understand I am a guest in the community I am visiting. I will respect and follow the traditions and customs of the local people and leaders. For example: If the way I dress offends them, I will change. If I am offered food, I will take it with a "thank you" and a smile.

I will not criticize the culture, efficiency, work habits, food, traditions, etc. that I am exposed to during my time on the trip. I have come not to judge, but to learn and to share the person of Jesus through my words, actions, and deeds.

I will respect and follow the Radiant Missions Trip Leader(s), and his/her decisions.

I agree to have a servant attitude at all times. When I am doing a task or ministry I don't particularly care for, I will put my best foot forward and be a witness in this activity and in everything I will participate in while on the trip.

I will use words that encourage and build up my team members and those in our host country at all times. This means I will refrain from gossip or words that bring dissension and take focus away from the goals of the trip.

I will have a positive attitude at all times. Every trip has its challenges and unforeseen circumstances. People could get sick, items lost, and plans changed. I realize that there are times I will need to "roll with the punches" and look at challenges as opportunities to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

I will refrain from pursuing romantic relationships during the trip. If my spouse or significant other is on the trip with me, I will make every effort to spend time with each person of the group and interact with all team members.

I will attend all team meetings and fulfill the responsibilities I have agreed to before, during, and after the trip—including but not limited to all pre-trip training sessions/team meetings, prayer/devotional meetings during trip, as well as any required debrief sessions post-trip. If I am not able to attend a meeting, I will be in contact with my trip leader as to what I missed.

I will refrain from initiating conversation regarding politics and speaking negatively about them during the trip.

I will abstain from using, consuming, purchasing, or possessing alcohol, tobacco products, and illegal drugs while on the trip.

I will not steal, commit any crime or do anything illegal while on the trip.

I will meet all medical, logistical, and legal travel requirements. I will follow all import and export laws. I will not attempt to bring any illegal or banned item/good into or back from the location in which I will be serving.

I will provide all required trip funds, as well as complete any additional requirements and necessary paperwork as laid out in my application and online checklist.

I will follow the travel, supply, clothing, financial and medical guidelines, etc. set forth and explained to me prior to the trip. I am responsible for knowing and following everything mentioned in Radiant Missions Policy and explained at the group meetings.

If I break any of the rules listed above, at the discretion of my Radiant Missions Trip Leader, Radiant Church Staff Member and/or Ministry Contact, my mission trip can be terminated and I can be sent home at my own expense, or removed from the trip before departure without reimbursement.

If the trip has to be canceled due to political/civil unrest, a natural disaster or other act of God, Radiant Church will try and recover all available funds from vendors, but cannot guarantee a full reimbursement.

I realize that to attend this trip and represent Jesus Christ on the mission field is a privilege and if I abuse that privilege, this constitutes the right for my trip to end prematurely.

JOINING JESUS ON MISSION

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:43b-45

A LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD (Optional)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

1. Re-read the passage again. Underline the words or phrases that stand out to you the most. Re-write in your own way what those words or phrases mean to you.

2. Based on the passage you just read, look at the goals of your trip and consider how God wants to work in these areas of your life. On the other side, list specific steps you can take in order to grow in your walk with Him. Take a moment to prayerfully share with God your desire to grow in those areas, asking for His grace to help you.

<p>Area of focus:</p> <p>1. Sharing my faith with others (Evangelism)</p> <p>2. Radiant Teams/Groups (Being a valuable team member and fostering community)</p> <p>3. Generosity (Sacrificing my time/talents/finances to further God’s Kingdom)</p>	<p>Areas where God is prompting me to change:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p>
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3. Share with your team.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS (EVANGELISM)

Team Leader: Ask your team to read and review this section. Some will have experience in sharing their faith and some will have limited or no experience.

Since we can sometimes be nervous sharing the Gospel message, an easy method to remember is the “A, B, C’s of Accepting Christ.” It is helpful to remember 1 or 2 of the supporting verses under each letter.

A. ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER, IN NEED OF A SAVIOR

- *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*
- *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*
- *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10*

B. BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD’S SON AND THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOUR SINS.

- *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*
- *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

C. COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST AND PERSONALLY ASK HIM INTO YOUR HEART, ACCEPTING HIS GIFT OF SALVATION.

- *For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13*
- *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Revelation 3:20*
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

The Gospel summarized: “...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

Team Leader: Review this section with the team. Feel free to share your testimony first as an example to help set the tone and direction.

Your testimony is your account of how God has shown himself to be real in your life. Your personal testimony is the greatest tool at your disposal for evangelism. It is powerful because it is your story and no one can refute it. And, since we all share things in common, the listener can often identify with your situation.

WRITING YOUR TESTIMONY (YOUR FAITH STORY)

- Ask God to reveal to you what to say and how to say it.
- What is one main idea or theme you want everyone to remember?
For example: “Jesus healed my loneliness.” or “Jesus gave me a new purpose in my life.”
- It is important to write out your testimony and practice it until you are comfortable.
- Try and limit your testimony to no longer than 3 minutes.

Here are 3 options to use when writing your testimony, depending on when you became a believer.

If you trusted in Christ as an adult:

- What was my life like before I knew Christ?
- What were your attitudes or needs that an unbeliever would identify with?
- What substitute for God did you use to find meaning and security in your life? (sports, success, marriage, money, drugs/alcohol, etc.)

How I came to know Christ?

- What specifically did you do? Where did it happen?
- What brought you to the place of being willing to listen?

The difference knowing Jesus has made in your life.

- What heart-need has been satisfied by a relationship with Jesus?
- How has Jesus changed the way in which you deal with hard times?
- How has He made a difference in your relationships?
- What have you learned about God that has changed who you are and has meant the most to you?

If you became a Christian as a child, and then made a recommitment as an adult:

- What was your life like as a young Christian?
- What brought you to desire a recommitment to Christ?
- How has God changed your life since you fully surrendered to Him?
- How do you deal with struggles and hard times?
- What needs have been satisfied by a deeper relationship with Jesus?

If you became a Christian at an early age:

- How and when did you commit your life to Christ?
- What was your life like as a young Christian?
- What difference has God made in your life?
- What has been the most significant truth about God that has impacted your life?
- How have you seen (or do you see) Christ working in your life daily?

IDENTIFYING A THEME FOR YOUR TESTIMONY

Team Leaders: You can review these portions or have your team use them as reference. If they have never shared this type of testimony, it should help them build it. The more experience your team members have with sharing their testimony, the less they may need this section.

It's good to have a "theme" to your testimony by identifying one key problem. This will allow your team leader or your host to know when someone's story is especially applicable to different situations.

HOW TRUSTING CHRIST HAS HELPED ME DEAL WITH MY ...	HOW TRUSTING CHRIST HAS GIVEN ME ...
Worries/Anxiety	Inner peace
Guilt/Shame	Forgiveness for fresh start
Anger/Temper	Patience, love, and hope
Emptiness/Lack of Purpose	Purpose in life and meaning
Grief/Regrets	Comfort and joy
Stress/Burnout	New energy and power for living
Low Self-Esteem	Significance, I am valuable to God
Poor Health	Strength to go on
Disappointment	Trust in His good plans
Insecurity	Confidence and sense of security
Discontent/Frantic Activity	A second chance at life
Fears	Faith to face my fears
Loneliness	Contentment and peace
Lack of emotional support	Assurance He's always with me
Addictions/Habits Self-centeredness	A church family that supports me Power to change, freedom

Despair/Depression	Love for other people
Cheap Thrills	Real, lasting happiness
Boredom with Life	Adventure with God
Fear of Death	Assurance of heaven
Something Missing	A sense of fulfillment
Bitterness and Resentment	The ability to be free from my past
Pain of Rejection	God's unconditional love
Marriage Conflicts	Positive changes in my marriage
Financial Issues	Positive changes in my finances
Business Problems	Positive changes in my business

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Keep it short and to the point. Don't lose sight of your theme.
- Keep your testimony under 3 minutes.
- Share a slice of your life (one story) that they will identify with.
- Be honest about continuing struggles and that your life is not perfect.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.
- Emphasize WHY you received Christ and the benefits of it.
- Don't exaggerate, brag, or go into extensive details about pre-conversion lifestyle/sins.
- Focus more on the positive aspects since your life with Christ. Don't take 2.5 minutes to talk about your sin and pre-life with Jesus. Make Him the focus and how your life has changed since knowing Him.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions, people, or denominations.
- Don't overly quote scripture.
- Give concrete examples of the positive changes in your life.
- Avoid using dates, names and ages. It doesn't matter to them.
- Be prepared. Practice it until it feels like natural conversing; not "preachy."
- Avoid Christian lingo such as "accepted Christ into my heart." The chart below offers some helpful alternatives.

INSTEAD OF SAYING THIS:	SAY THIS:
BORN AGAIN, CONVERTED	CHANGED, TRANSFORMED
BELIEVE	TRUST, ACCEPT
CHRISTIAN	FOLLOWER OF JESUS
CONFESS	ADMIT, AGREE WITH GOD
FOUND THE LORD / GOT SAVED	MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST
GRACE	GOD'S FORGIVENESS THAT I DIDN'T EARN
GOSPEL	GOD LOVES US AND SENT HIS SON SO THAT WE CAN FIND NEW LIFE THROUGH HIS FORGIVENESS
THE LORD	GOD, CREATOR, JESUS
THE HOLY SPIRIT	GOD'S SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT OF GOD
PRAISE	THANKING GOD FOR HIS GREATNESS
PRAY	TALK WITH GOD, INVITE GOD INTO MY CIRCUMSTANCES
REPENT	TO BE SORRY ABOUT WRONGS AND TO TURN FROM THEM TO DO RIGHT
SALVATION	FORGIVEN OF WRONGS AND GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE
SAVIOR	JESUS, GOD'S SON, WHO FORGAVE MY WRONGS
SIN, SINNER	ACTING AGAINST GOD'S WILL; THE WRONG THINGS WE DO
SCRIPTURE OR "THE WORD"	A PLACE IN THE BIBLE WHERE IT SAYS...
TESTIMONY	TELLING MY STORY
WITNESS	TELL, SHOW
WORSHIP	GIVING HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD

WHAT IS POVERTY?

How do you define poverty? Take a moment to come up with a sentence that you think describes poverty.

Please scan this QR code for a short 3-minute video that will help to answer the question of what poverty actually means.



When we interact with people who are struggling with material poverty, they talk about their feelings of inferiority and lack of hope. The issues are actually more internal than external.

It's the result of broken relationships:

- With God
- With Self
- With Others
- With the Rest Of Creation

We ALL have experienced some form of poverty.

In which of these areas is God highlighting to you? Is there an area that needs to be addressed?

SERVING OTHER CULTURES

Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:4-6 (NIV)

CULTURAL CONTEXT

Everyone has a cultural context, but everyone's culture is not the same. In understanding any culture, it's helpful to visualize the "layers" of understanding:

- Behavior - the way things are done - stems from values
- Values - choices, morals, and ethics - stems from belief system
- Beliefs - answers "what is true" for a particular culture - stems from worldview
- Worldview - answers the basic questions "What is real?"

Our worldview provides a system of beliefs that are reflected in our values and behavior; it is particular to our culture. It is the lens through which we see and interpret the events around us.

Every culture has a specific answers to questions such as:

- Who are we?
- Where did we come from?
- Is what we see really all there is, or is there something more?
- Is right now the only time that is important, or do events in the past impact our present experience?

A culture's answers to these questions are integrated into every function, aspect, and element of that particular culture.

In addition to recognizing that cultures are diverse, our approach to the culture in which we will be interacting needs to be done with an attitude of servanthood and humility. Jesus gave us the perfect example as He served among a variety of people. Being imitators of Christ's humility, in every ministry context He puts us, will advance Kingdom purposes and bring glory to God.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in

spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...

Philippians 2:1-5

HOT CLIMATE VS COLD CLIMATE CULTURES

Culture is a shared set of values and assumptions and beliefs that one group has. It's "the way we do things around here." Cultural values influence how we choose to go about life and work. What is important to people varies from country to country. These values are not wrong; they are just different. See the table below to understand these differences and determine what culture you are most familiar with.

HOT CLIMATE CULTURES	COLD CLIMATE CULTURES
<p>RELATIONSHIP-ORIENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication needs to create a "feel good" atmosphere ● Feeling-oriented society ● Efficiency and time do not take priority over the person 	<p>TASK-ORIENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication must provide accurate information ● Society as a whole is logic-oriented ● Efficiency and time are high priorities and taking them seriously is a statement of respect
<p>INDIRECT COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can beat around the bush ● Says "yes" when they mean "no" ● Wants to honor the other person 	<p>DIRECT COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes means yes; no means no ● Can feel abrasive ● Say what they feel; very honest
<p>GROUP-ORIENTED CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identity is tied to the group (family, tribe, etc.) ● The group protects and provides for me ● My behavior reflects on the whole group ● Team members expect direction from the leader 	<p>INDIVIDUALISTIC CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I am a self-standing person with my own identity ● Every person should have an opinion and speak for themselves ● Taking initiative within a group is good and expected ● My behavior reflects on me, not the group
<p>INCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group-oriented culture ● Individuals know they are automatically included in conversation, meals, and planned activities ● Possessions are to be freely used by all: food, tools, etc. ● Does not like to be alone ● It is rude to hold a private conversation or make plans that exclude others present 	<p>PRIVACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People enjoy having time and space to themselves ● People are expected to ask permission to borrow something or to interrupt a conversation ● It is common to label one's food, tools, etc. to set them apart from the group's common possessions ● It is acceptable to hold private conversations or make plans with a few people

<p>HIGH CONTEXTUALIZATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You don't say anything; it's not your place; the superior needs to speak to them • What you know is generally more important than who you know • Casual atmosphere • Lack of protocol • Address people by given names, unless others use titles 	<p>LOW CONTEXTUALIZATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it in the moment so they don't continue in error; this is the most efficient • Who you are related to and who you know matters • Too casual can be insulting; watch how others respond in a situation and apply appropriate behavior • Use manners, respect the rules, give attention to appropriate greetings
<p>HOSPITALITY IS SPONTANEOUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality is spontaneous, without much advance notice • It is the content for all relationships • Usually takes place in the home • Host takes care of guest's needs; the guest pays nothing • A gift is usually expected • Food and drink are involved 	<p>HOSPITALITY IS STRUCTURED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality is planned for and not as spontaneous; host needs advance notice of a visit • Guests need to pay for their own transportation and restaurant bills unless the host offers to do so • Hospitality is a special occasion, taking full attention of the host
<p>EVENT-ORIENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not as focused on the clock • Spontaneous and flexible in their approach to life • Saving time is not as important as experiencing the moment 	<p>TIME-ORIENTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on time; enjoys efficiency • Structured in their approach to life • Try to plan their day; saving time is valuable • Expects events to begin on time • Visiting or informal chatting happens before or after the event

CULTURAL EMBRACE

These guidelines apply to all international travel and will help you have an enjoyable experience with any people-group you encounter.

1. **Keep an open mind.** Just because something is different doesn't mean that it is wrong. Ask God to help you see people as He sees them. Try to understand why things are done differently and seek to appreciate differences rather than being critical.
2. **Remember that you are the visitor,** the one with the different opinions and odd perspectives. You are a guest who has been given the privilege of going into another country. Respect the people you serve with, regardless of whether or not you understand why and how they do what they do.
3. **Be prepared to shake hands or hug** everyone you meet.
4. **Remember that most of the world is more conservative** in dress, as well as in many other ways.
5. **Be mindful of your body language.** Facial expressions and actions speak louder than words. Never assume that somebody does not speak English.
6. **Be culturally sensitive,** particularly to the economic parities between your life and the lives of most of the locals you will encounter, as well as differences in value systems.
7. **Avoid concepts that would not translate well** when communicating cross-culturally, such as a big house, swimming pool, or some forms of technology. This throws up barriers because it communicates that you come from a vastly different world.
8. **Always consult the Global Partner** before charging into any situation involving the nationals of the country.
9. **Do not give any gifts or make any promises** to nationals without consulting the Global Partner.
10. **Be an encouragement to the Global Partner** and ask how you can pray for them. They are on the front lines of ministry.
11. **Try to speak the local language** and ask the locals to teach you.

12. **Treat locals as equals and friends.** Learn from them. Do not pity or look down on the people to whom you are ministering.
13. **Check with the Global Partner about bargaining** in the marketplace. Ask them what is appropriate.
14. For all practical purposes, **pedestrians do not have the right of way.** Be alert when crossing streets and in parking lots.
15. **Use discretion when taking pictures** and having your phone or camera out. See our “Social Media Guidelines” sheet.

FOUR RULES

1. **LISTEN.** Study the culture and try to understand how and why they do things the way they do. Rather than offer suggestions, ask clarifying questions.
2. **SERVE.** Our need to serve cannot be greater than the needs of those we are serving. Don't lose sight of what their legitimate needs are.
3. **BE FLEXIBLE.** Hardly anything on a mission trip goes according to plan. Permanently etch this rule in your mind from start to finish.
4. **YIELD.** Yield your rights and expectations to God. Yield your right to be understood, to have customer service, to be comfortable, to be clean, etc. Be intentional about giving up expectations.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
Ephesians 6:10-12

There are two dangers when it comes to the topic of spiritual warfare:

1. To write it off and say that it doesn't exist.
2. To become overly anxious and concerned about it and see every single hardship as a spiritual attack.

We need to be aware of spiritual warfare but not all-consumed by it.

- We must find balance. Choosing ignorance to the spiritual warfare at hand leaves us vulnerable and ill-equipped to combat it. Choosing overconsumption leads to worry, anxiety, and paranoia.
- Recognize that this battle belongs to the Lord. Spiritual battles are fought through God's mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10-12)
- We are living in a spiritual war zone, but our enemy is not people, it is the spiritual forces of evil.
- Recognize that the devil is not God and does not exhibit the attributes of God. He is powerful, but not all-powerful. He is cunning, but not all-knowing. He is a spiritual being, but not omnipresent. He is a created being, and the God we serve is the Creator.
- Our God is greater, stronger, mightier, and He will achieve victory. It's a guarantee.
- Our enemy's desire is to keep unbelievers blinded to their need for a Savior, as 2 Corinthians 4:4 reveals: *The demonic realm entices us to live for ourselves, embrace the ways of the world, and follow a path that leads away from God.*

- There is a blatant attempt by the enemy to distract us, disconnect us from Jesus, tempt us, and invite sin's stronghold to take hold of us. Our enemy seeks *to steal, kill and destroy* (John 10:10).

OUR WEAPONS IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

How can we respond?

- The greatest weapon we have is the person, name, blood, and authority of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11 declare, *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- In Matthew 28:18, Jesus stated, *all authority has been given to me.*

In 1 John 3:8, we see that the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

- Jesus has already obtained the victory through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave.

Colossians 2:13-15 says, *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- Jesus shed his blood, canceled our debt, and in doing so He crushed the ammunition of Satan in accusing us... because we have been set free in Christ!
- He disarmed the powers and authorities of darkness, and through Him we too can triumph over the snares of the enemy.

GOD'S WORD

- Is another weapon we have to combat this spiritual darkness. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan, every time He countered with, *it is written*. Jesus countered Satan with scripture!
- When Paul describes the armor of God in Ephesians 6, the primary offensive weapon is the *sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God*.
- Memorize a few verses or passages of scripture that you can count on when hardships and trials occur.

PRAYER

- Is also a weapon to fight back against the spiritual darkness.

Paul concludes his Armor of God description in Ephesians 6 by stating, *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people* (Ephesians 6:18).

- Prayer is not the prelude to the battle, prayer is the battle. Nothing unleashes the power of God more fully than the ongoing, consistent prayers of His people.

WORSHIP

- Can also be utilized in the fight against our enemy.

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat discovered an army of Moabites and Ammonites were about to attack His people. But in verse 15 God told him, *do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not have to fight this battle.*

The text then states that Jehoshaphat appointed men **to sing to the Lord and to praise Him** for the splendor of His holiness. These men then went ahead of the soldiers saying, *Give thanks for the Lord, for his love endures forever.*

Verse 22 says that *as they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the enemy and they were defeated.*

- Worship allows us to fix our eyes on Jesus, *the author and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2). It moves our focus from our circumstances, trials, and worries to the one who promises to *never leave us nor forsake us* (Hebrews 13:5).
- Look at how Paul and Silas responded to being put in prison... Their jail cell worship ignited an earthquake that set them free! When we worship in the presence of the Almighty God, our current battles don't seem quite so big anymore.
- This spiritual battle is not to be taken lightly, but it is crucial to recognize that our warrior King Jesus has already won the victory. He provided us with weapons for this war, including Himself, His Word, prayer, and worship.
- As we prepare to serve Jesus on our mission trip, we can be reminded of this: *the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one* (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

TEAM PRAYER TIME

Spend some time praying together as a team.

TRAVEL & FINAL DETAILS

TRAVEL TIPS

- All valuable documents and money should be in a money belt or in a front pocket and not in your backpack or back pocket. (Put them in various places.)
- Bring enough snacks for the flight(s) and throughout your trip,
- Be sure your team leader has a copy of your passport.
- Limit your valuables. Do not take or wear anything expensive.
- Do not draw attention to yourself for the group in public places, especially while waiting at airports.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Keep up with your team. Never go out alone.
- Do not show large amounts of cash. Keep a small amount separate to pay for small purchases.
- If you choose to bring a debit or credit card, your bank will need to be notified where and when you are traveling.
- Leave your computer, iPads, tablets, etc. at home. Be cautious with your phone. Also, check with your phone carrier if you need an international phone plan.
- Do not let anyone who is not authorized to carry your bags. Do not accept packages from anyone while you travel.

AVOIDING SICKNESS

GENERAL HEALTH GUIDELINES

- Be sure that the water you drink is safe. Drink bottled water or purified tap water before drinking. Avoid ice cubes from tap water since freezing does not kill bacteria.
- Avoid uncooked vegetables, salads, and fruits that cannot be peeled unless the Global Partner serves it to you.
- Avoid foods cooked by street vendors.
- Take a container of wet wipes or hand sanitizer since washing facilities are not always available. It is helpful to carry tissues or toilet paper!
- Wash your hands often and keep them away from your face.
- When traveling, be careful of the intense sun. Apply sunscreen and protective clothing—especially a hat.

- Check with your healthcare provider concerning the use of Pepto Bismol or Imodium AD for the prevention and relief of diarrhea, as well as a broad spectrum antibiotic to take with you.
- Notify your team leader if you feel you are getting sick.
- Scrapes, cuts, and rashes should receive immediate attention.
- Get plenty of rest and eat healthy before your trip.
- Avoid dehydration; drink lots of fluids on the flight and try to avoid excess caffeine.
- Sleep on the flight (especially during the normal sleeping hour of your destination time zone). Stay awake when you arrive until it is time for bed. Naps can prolong your body's adjustment.
- Take your customary medications along with at least three extra days worth. Be sure to know the generic names of the prescribed drugs. Notify your host and team leader of any special medical needs you have before arriving on the field.
- Do not share your prescription medications.
- Pack your own medications as your team will not have a medical supply bag.

SUGGESTED PERSONAL PACKING CHECKLIST

Your team leader should provide you with a more specific packing list for your team via the Global Partner. This is just a general list...

<p>PERSONAL ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spare glasses or contacts ● Personal toiletries ● Simple hostess gifts ● Inexpensive watch ● Flip-flops for showers ● Flashlight/batteries ● Sunscreen ● Wet Wipes or hand sanitizer ● Towels/washcloths/sheets/light sleeping bag (depending on accommodations) ● Toilet paper ● Tissues ● Reusable water bottle ● Insect repellent ● Travel games ● Earplugs ● Electrical adapters ● Phone and phone charger 	<p>CLOTHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One “church” outfit (dress pants and collared shirt for men; long skirt or dress for women) ● Quick drying clothes ● Work clothes ● No shorts or sleeveless shirts ● No tight leggings or spandex ● Light jacket/sweatshirt ● Comfortable shoes ● One piece swimsuit
<p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passport/Visa, including copies ● Travel insurance ● Driver’s license ● Current vaccination card ● Bible/pen/journal ● Reading material ● Cash/foreign currency ● Personal snacks to last entire trip ● Contact information 	<p>DEPENDING ON YOUR PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work gloves ● Work shoes/boots ● Mosquito netting (if needed) ● Team First-Aid Kit
<p>PERSONAL MEDICINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vitamins ● Basic medications ● Prescriptions (in original containers with your name on them) 	

REFLECT (Optional)

No matter how much preparation and team building you take part in before your trip, you can almost count on things not going as planned. Schedules change, personalities clash, and culture shock becomes reality. Until you are in a situation, it is hard to know how you will react; therefore, it is difficult to properly prepare. Once you've arrived at your place of ministry, reflect on Jesus' attitude as he entered a new culture.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

Philippians 2:5-8

Each morning, take time to pray through this passage and ask God to help your attitude match that of Jesus as you interact with your teammates and those you desire to serve. It is also a good idea to read over the Four Rules you reviewed in the "Learn" section of this manual.

JOURNALING (Optional)

Journaling is an important way for you to process what you learn about yourself, God, and the world. The mission trip will be forever in your mind but you will forget about important events, names, and feelings. If you journal, you will find yourself returning to it to aid your memory for many years to come. While on the field, try not to miss a day! It will take some discipline to journal on the field, but you'll be glad you did.

GOD MOMENTS (Optional)

While it is true that a mission trip can be a trying experience, it can also be life transforming. You may encounter God in a completely new and refreshing way. You may see Jesus in the faces of people you never expected. You may have the opportunity to lead someone into a relationship with Christ! Each day ask God to reveal himself to you in a new way. Write down your "God Moments" so that you don't forget. At night, remember to thank God for how He's been present with you throughout the day.

RETURNING HOME

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

RE-ENTRY

The transition back home after a mission trip experience isn't always as easy as one would expect. Things at home may not have changed much since you've been gone, but you have most likely changed. God may have allowed you to have some experiences that have re-shaped your worldview and perhaps even your personal priorities.

The best thing you can do is be prepared for some of the challenges that you may face upon re-entry. Just as you committed the work you were doing on your trip to the Lord, commit the re-entry process as well.

REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK

Sometimes people have an instant affinity and love for the people with whom they serve and their culture so coming home may feel a bit disappointing.

Everyone deals with their emotions in different ways, but it's important to take time and process through what you are feeling. Give yourself time to journal about or talk through the emotions you are experiencing or events from your trip that made an impact on you.

REFLECTION

- What has God been teaching you through the process of going on this trip?
- Did you learn something new about yourself?
- Were you surprised by how you reacted in certain situations?
- Did you respond in a godly way to all things?
- Did you discover that you have gifts and abilities you didn't know of before?

- How has your view of God and the world changed as a result of this trip?
- Did your view of God's purpose and mission change?
- What gave you the most joy on the trip?
- How can you pray specifically for this international ministry?
- Do you feel burdened for the needs of the people you served? If so, how can you come alongside and be a voice for the Global Partner here in the U.S. (i.e. share their social media posts, newsletters, etc.).
- Do you feel led to partner more with this ministry or is God leading you to serve in a different capacity?
- How did your expectations of the culture change once you arrived and experienced it for yourself?
- Did your view of the people you came to serve change once you began interacting with them?
- Did you find yourself frustrated by the culture or did you enjoy being away from the American lifestyle?

Think back on the desired OUTCOMES for the trip:

Moving towards Christ (Evangelism) – We want to provide faith sharing opportunities for every person—either before, in our training sessions, or during the actual mission trip. We hope that this will be the start of people wanting to openly share their faith even after the team returns.

Moving towards community (Small Groups) – Because we believe consistent and fruitful life change happens within the context of healthy relationships, we encourage everyone to get involved in joining/leading a small group. This will be the team while serving overseas, and then we would ideally like for each team member to participate in an actual small group once they arrive back in Tampa.

Moving towards calling (Generosity) – Our desire is for our participants to see the aspects of their lives through a global Kingdom perspective. We will challenge the generosity of people’s time, talents, and resources (Legacy) to intentionally serve others and reflect Jesus. The team often comes back “on fire” and with an even deeper calling on their lives. We’d love to see the time, talents, and resources spent to go on this trip continue once they return and get plugged into local opportunities to continue their growth and calling.

What are the next steps you can take in each area as a result of your mission experience? Write down your thoughts, pray, and make specific goals towards your future.

DEBRIEF AND EVALUATE

When you return from your trip, it is important for you to take time and reflect. Only God can make your trip a success. Be careful to give Him the entire honor and glory both in prayer—privately and as a team. Thank Him for all of the special unplanned miracles He did along the way. Thank Him for the pleasant and not-so pleasant things; those that brought joy and also growth.

TEAM DEBRIEF MEETING

You will meet with your team leader and mission team after you return.

This is a time to:

- Reminisce and thank God for His blessings.
- See how team members have transitioned back into their daily lives.
- Talk about how their overseas experience has impacted them.
- Corporately debrief the experience and make plans on how to engage in some type of ministry here in the States in order to continue the discipleship process. See “Outcomes.”
- Hold team members accountable to the plans/goals they made to engage further in ministry.

Remember, your mission trip is not a once-a-year obligation to fulfill, but an understanding that God expects us to live missionally and expand His Kingdom.

It is our desire that during your mission experience, you will catch this vision for Kingdom living and engage in outreach and service beyond your overseas experience.

TELLING YOUR STORY

- The Missions Department wants to learn more about your experiences during your recent trip.
- We will have you complete a brief survey. Your feedback is very important to us.

RESOURCES

SUPPORT LETTER SAMPLE

February 12, 2025

I am going to South Africa! I have an incredible opportunity to serve the youth this coming October! I am truly excited to come alongside our South African pastors and local partners to further their ministry amongst the youth of this beautiful nation.

Leila Janah once said that, "Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not." The unemployment rate in South Africa is over 50% and the local church there knows the importance of educating and discipling the next generation. The future economy of the country depends on them so they are working to create more opportunities for their young leaders. One of those is through their Power Camps.

We will arrive in Cape Town on Monday evening, October 2. Then, the very next morning, we will travel out to a very rural area (known as the Bush) and we will tent camp there for five days. We'll help with their Power Camp for their youth between 14-22 years of age. Most of the students come from very low income areas that are often ridden with high crime and limited resources, so this is an exciting break for them.

Many have never left their township so this is a whole new experience! It provides them with time in nature and it gives us their attention to help grow and disciple them. They will take their morning Bible sessions and have practical applications throughout the day—via pitching a tent, hiking, fishing, learning to swim, cooking on an open fire, and many team building activities. Then, each evening, there will be a Q&A time with our team where the students are free to ask any questions. It's an amazing time to disciple them in their walks with Christ and also teach them about responsibility, life skills, and leadership. They have hearts to learn and glean understanding, as do we.

Your earnest prayers are greatly needed and appreciated as I embark on this journey. I want to effectively listen, serve and share Christ while I am there. I also want to be open and receptive to learning a new culture and people group.

If God leads you to support me financially, that would be an added blessing; all donations are tax deductible. I would love to follow up with a phone call in two weeks. Please know that any amount is helpful and greatly appreciated. Ways to give: ... (Go Method Fundraising page link)

Thank you for all of your love and support!
Your Name

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Adapted and expanded from *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions*,
by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (Moody Publishers).



We live in a culture where every latte, sunset, or family gathering is fair game for a photo-op and social media post. But we have to be aware of how our love for photography and social media can play out on a short-term mission trip.

Reflect on the following guidelines to ensure that your photography and social media use affirms the dignity of low-income people:

1. GIVE YOURSELF BOUNDARIES:

When we enter another community, we need to set boundaries to help us remember that we are guests. The stories we hear and the scenes we see aren't ours to share with the rest of the world by default. We have to respect the dignity and privacy of the people we encounter. That means we should operate deliberately and willingly by a different set of rules in our photography and social media than we use at home.

2. RESPECT YOUR HOSTS:

Before your trip, ask your hosts about their preferences and policies for social media and photography. Some hosts may ask you to refrain from all social media use, while others may

request that you don't post or photograph certain events. In particular, hosts in closed countries or areas experiencing hostility toward Christians may request that you don't post or photograph anything at all. Submit to whatever guidelines and policies they provide, and enforce them with your team while on the field.

3. AVOID SPECTACLE MODE:

When entering low-income communities, if not careful, our use of photography and social media can be exploitive. We can unintentionally act as tourists, capturing and consuming the materially poor's images and stories as if they were a show to be observed. This dynamic dishonors the image of God in low-income people, and can contribute to feelings of shame and powerlessness that they might already feel.

4. BE PRESENT:

Even if your host allows social media, consider taking a break during your trip. Be fully present with those around you, and be aware of the Holy Spirit's movement. You will learn more, engage more deeply, and bless the people you visit more fully if you set aside the urge to document your experience for an online audience. You can share about your trip when you return. While on the field, simply be.



Visit chalmers.org/stm for more information about *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions*.

Buy the book on Amazon »

5. HONOR CERTAIN SPACES:

Don't post or photograph during worship services or when in people's homes. Put all devices away during those times, ensuring that you don't distract yourself or others from entering into worship and fellowship together. Further, pulling out a phone or camera in church might be seen as rude or sacrilegious. Similarly, when in people's homes, focus all your attention on engaging with them.

6. DO UNTO OTHERS:

Before photographing or posting, ask yourself how you would feel if your roles were reversed: How would you feel if people drove down the street photographing your daughter or niece without your permission? What if they then posted the images on Instagram? How would you feel if your son or nephew randomly appeared on a church's facebook cover image? Pause before shooting or posting, considering whether you are "doing unto others" well. Ask permission before posting pictures of or with people, and be extremely cautious of posting pictures of or with children.

7. AVOID THE SAVIOR SYNDROME:

Does what you are posting imply that you are saving people who are poor? Does it paint you as the hero and them as the helpless victim? Does it establish a provider-receiver dynamic where you have the answer to their poverty? Be especially careful of cliché phrases like "the least of these" or "bringing light and hope" in your posts. Use any social media updates to highlight the dignity of the community and what God is already doing over the long haul, rather than elevating your own role and impact.

8. TELL THE WHOLE STORY:

Do the pictures or posts you are crafting tell the whole story about the community? Are they highlighting the beautiful and redemptive things God is doing in a community, or only the heavy and painful brokenness of poverty? Don't reduce low-income people or communities to a caricature of desperation, but also don't ignore the reality of poverty. Avoid statements like, "They have absolutely nothing," or, "They are so happy all the time." You wouldn't like your life and identity reduced to a single slice of your wide spectrum of experiences. Don't do it to others!

9. DELAY YOUR POSTS:

Mentally running your posts through these filters requires diligence and hard work. It takes effort to retrain our brains to consider others' realities in our social media use, especially when in low-income communities. If you are unsure about a draft post, walk away from it for a half an hour and then look at it again. Or, consider showing your draft to other team members to see if it strikes them as appropriate and dignity affirming. Ultimately, if in doubt, don't post.

10. SHARE WHAT YOU LEARN:

There is a place for sharing what you experience on a short-term mission trip. When crafted with the above guidelines in mind, social media and photography can be a powerful way to advocate for the work and community you visited—especially after you return home. You have an opportunity to share with your friends what you learned during your trip, encouraging and challenging your peers to engage in the work God is doing in the world.



Visit chalmers.org/stm for more information about *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions*.

Buy the book on Amazon »

SUGGESTED BOOKS AND WEBSITES

BOOKS:

- >> *If You Really Want to Help: Redefining the War on Poverty* by Kurt Kandler with Bethany Bradsher
- >> *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton
- >> *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett, Brian Fikkert

WEBSITES:

- >> www.travel.state.gov - U.S. State Department - information on passports, country profiles, travel warnings, addresses of U.S. embassies overseas, and much more.
- >> www.cdc.gov - Center for Disease Control - health information, immunization requirements, and travel tips.
- >> <https://apply.joinsherpa.com/> - An extensive database that includes passport and visa requirements, border procedures, health declarations, passenger locator forms, quarantine measures, transit restrictions and vaccination requirements, all in one dashboard.

REFERENCES:

- >> *The NIV Bible, New International Version.* (2011). BibleGateway.com.
<http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>
- >> *The ESV Bible, The English Standard Version.* (2016). BibleGateway.com.
<http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/>
- >> Used with permission: *Short-Term Trip Participant's Guide*, Mission Hills Church.
- >> Used with permission: *Social Media Guidelines*, The Chalmers Center.

RADIANT GO PHILOSOPHY & STRATEGY

MISSION: Radiant GO (Go Global & Go Local) exists to move people towards Christ, Community, and Calling by fostering relationships outside of our church walls. We desire to lead holistic, redemptive, and community-centered partnerships around the areas of church planting, Bible-based children's programs, and evangelism.

VISION: We seek to radically impact the pace and depth of positive change in the spiritual and physical health of the poor* by anchoring with the local church and partnering with like-minded organizations. Specifically, by the year 2026, we seek to have one-third of the Radiant Church body participate in a Radiant Go experience and see personal growth in the outcome areas listed below.

*We see poverty alleviation as the ministry of reconciliation: moving people closer to glorifying God by living in right relationship with God, with self, with others, and with the rest of creation. *Poverty alleviation is NOT just the giving of material things.* It is about taking care of the whole person: the social, emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual aspects.

OUTCOMES:

- Moving towards **CHRIST** (Evangelism) – We want to provide faith sharing opportunities for every person during the outreach or mission trip.
- Moving towards **COMMUNITY** (Small Groups) – Because we believe consistent and fruitful life change happens within the context of healthy relationships, we encourage everyone to get involved in joining/leading a small group, hopefully a Radiant GO group.
- Towards **CALLING** (Generosity) – Our desire is for our participants to see the aspects of their lives through a Kingdom perspective. We will encourage generosity of people's time, talents, and resources (Legacy) to intentionally serve others and reflect Jesus across the globe.

PARTNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS:

- At least a 3 year assignment
- A commitment to the **local church** as central to their efforts
- Healthy engagement with the poor*, with a defined plan for **local leaders** to take ownership and empower themselves
- A sustainable ministry plan that works toward a permanent **community-based solution**
- A focus on worldview shift, not defining poverty as solely a material problem
- The ability for Local Outreach Partners to receive at least four (4) teams annually and Global Partners to receive at least one (1) team annually (these teams could be either Radiant member teams or church leadership teams)
- The ability to design experiences that allow Radiant to achieve the outcomes for its people
- **Clear and measurable outcomes** that demonstrate significant Kingdom impact in local and global communities
- **Regular and timely communication** and updates on ministry and personal/family health
- Willingness to be evaluated annually

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Evangelism – In all areas of life and in every part of the world, Jesus is the answer and the Bible is the foundation to every issue we face. In order to bring God the glory He deserves, we need to spread the Gospel to all corners of the world and in every sphere we find ourselves.

Next Generation Leaders – We believe that many of our current children, youth, and young adults hold solutions to many of the challenges facing our communities. We look for partners who are actively seeking to discover the God-given gifts in this demographic and removing obstacles that can rob them of living in their full potential.

Church Planting/Community Development – Our aim is to deeply invest in specific geographic locations across the globe (focus on 10/40 window), where we can develop relationships with local leadership and work together to establish Biblically based churches, along with goals and solutions that result in the community eventually empowering themselves and continuing their development in their own giftings and strengths.