



TRAINING MANUAL

**BEL AIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS**

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SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTIONS

Congratulations! You are about to embark on an exciting journey as a short term missionary from Bel Air Presbyterian Church! Over the four training sessions, we will be looking at the importance of motives and fears, working together as a team, crossing into a different culture, and the importance of the ministry that you are participating in. The number one thing we hear when people get back from mission trips is “I wish I had more team training.” Our hope and our prayer is that you will take advantage of this time to get to know the people that you will be serving alongside and to pray for this experience because it will be filled with wonderful surprises and rewarding challenges. Blessings as you embark on this journey. You are in our prayers.

–The Outreach staff.

ICE BREAKER:

- Choose one thing in your wallet or purse that is either very unique or very meaningful to you. And explain why to the whole group. Also include: your name, where you are from, if you’ve ever done a mission trip before, and your profession.

MOTIVATIONS AND FEARS

Tim Dearborn says that “motives are like rudders that steer our emotional ship. They control our attitude, influence our behavior, and determine the tone of our experience.” Look over this list of motivations. Which ones resonate most with you?

- Adventure
- Professional Development
- A new challenge, greater sense of fruitfulness
- Love of travel
- The desire to help others
- A desire to experience something exotic
- A commitment to evangelism
- A commitment to social justice
- The desire to be with other friends who are going
- The desire to separate for a while from current obligations
- The need for a change
- The desire to grow in my relationship with God and to depend on God more
- The desire to gain new insight into world need and how others live
- The hope that a new setting will resolve a pressing, personal problem
- To seek a new purpose for life
- To explore the possibility of long term mission service

Dearborn adds that “our fears are another dimension of our expectation. Unrecognized, they can control us. When faced and shared with others, they can lose their power over us.” Look over this list of common fears.

- Physical harm or illness
- Embarrassment
- Loneliness
- Looking foolish, making mistakes
- Failure
- Dying
- Depression and discouragement
- Conflict with teammates
- Financial difficulties
- Losing my place among friends back home
- Not being able to fit back into life at home when I return

What are your biggest fears about this trip? What do you think will help you overcome your fears? How could your teammates best assist you?

A FORK IN THE ROAD

In all of life we have basic decisions to make. One which is most important is the decision to have a good attitude or a bad one; a godly one or a selfish one; to take the high road or the low road. God illustrates this crucial decision for us in Galatians 5:16-26. It is imperative in a trip such as the one we are about to embark on that we take a close look at the Fruits of the Flesh vs. the Fruits of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:16-26.

Which of the Fruits of the Flesh do you think would be most destructive to our team? Why?

Have you ever been around people that exhibited these qualities? How did it affect those around them? How did it affect productivity?

*Which of the Fruits of the Spirit are most difficult for **you** to exhibit? Which are easiest?*

How important is it to you that your team be characterized by the Fruits of the Spirit, as opposed to those of the Flesh? How might we be able to encourage one another in this area?

IMPORTANT!

One essential component to all BAPC mission trips is the team covenant. **Read the covenant together OUT LOUD** and reflect on how the Fruits of the Spirit enhance these points.

Before us lies an important decision: *“Will I choose to exemplify the Fruits of the Spirit in my words and behavior as I prepare for this trip, or will I choose to bear the Fruits of the Flesh?”* Pray together that the Holy Spirit would give you the strength to choose the life that bears godly fruit and for him to give you wisdom to encourage one another in the same pursuit.

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Write your **Fundraising Letter** and compile a list of people who will receive the letter. Please bring your letter, envelopes, and addresses to your next team meeting. For guidelines and help please refer to the Fundraising section. You can do this!

2. **The Three-Minute Testimony:** Some of you will be asked to share your testimony on the trip, and some of you may have a great opportunity to share with someone you meet. *It is crucial that we think through our testimony and be able to communicate it clearly and succinctly.* The reasons we want to limit it to three minutes are because 1) people's attention spans tend to be about that long, 2) most Christians take too long and never "get to the point", and 3) if you are using a translator, a three minute testimony can easily become ten minutes. Now, there are three main elements in a testimony: **where you were, what God did, and where you are now.** It will be difficult for some of you to tell yours in less than three minutes, but don't give up. Type it out if necessary, and then cut out unnecessary portions. Over the next few weeks, you will each be required to share your testimony. Don't worry, your teammates will let you know if you go over your time limit!

LANGUAGE LESSON #1:

Hi. How are you? _____

I'm fine, and you? _____

Thank you. _____

You're welcome. _____

I clogged the toilet. _____

Good bye. _____

Do I look fat? _____

COVENANT & LIABILITY RELEASE

SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM

Please Read OUT LOUD: Session 1 of training

As a member of the mission trip team to _____, you are committing to be a part of a unique community opportunity. As representatives of Bel Air Presbyterian Church and, more importantly, of Jesus Christ, we are called to a certain standard of commitment and accountability. To be faithful to this call and to understand what it means, each participant is required to read, sign and commit to the following minimal standards in order to be a part of our Missions Trip Team:

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of my short-term mission trip. I agree to the following:

1. I will adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to try to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
2. I will abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions. And, I agree to deal with my anger or irritation in a constructive way.
3. I will go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip. I will refrain from meddling, complaining, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team, during the trip and while on site will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that travel can be difficult, and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed.
4. I accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip. I will attend all team meetings and functions before, during, and after the trip.
5. The training sessions are important to the success of our mission trip and I pledge to attend 4 out of 5 sessions. Note: The 5 sessions are comprised of one service project in Los Angeles with my team before we depart and the 4 study sessions in the team training manual.
6. I acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including, but not limited to such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation, potential danger from lack of control over local population, potential injury while working, and inadequate medical facilities.
7. I will fulfill to the best of my ability my duties at work sites and in the daily tasks of working and living together (help with meals, clean up, etc.).
8. I understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the local mission host, and to do my best to help them attain their long-term goals.
9. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all the members of the team, not just one another.
10. I will not participate in inappropriate sexual activity or activity which makes others uncomfortable.
11. I will abstain from using illegal drugs while in the host country and during all travels, including flights to and from our host country. While we do not teach that Christians should abstain from all alcohol, many of our fellow Christians who host us on

a mission do believe in total abstention. Please be responsible and culturally acceptable if you chose to have a drink or use tobacco. If my team leader enforces a policy, I will abide by it. No alcohol will be purchased by the church.

12. I will act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or mission organization. I will respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions which will help me to assimilate into the local community. I will remember that we are the new Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example.
13. I will refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, tape players, etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result after we leave will cause problems for our host, and jealousy and bitterness among the locals. If I feel compelled to give a gift to someone I have met, I will consult first with the team leader or host missionary before I promise or give the gift, and I promise to let him or her make the final decision on the matter. This covenant does not apply to small fellowship tokens we will discuss and have approved before leaving home.
14. I understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is skills such as music, art, carpentry, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.
15. I agree that in the even my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission trip shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
16. I agree to take an active role in my support raising and take personal responsibility if I do not raise all my support. I can raise support through asking for financial support from friends and family, from personal finances, and through fundraising drives.
17. I am responsible for the cost of the airline ticket once they have been purchased, no matter what happens. In addition, I understand that if for any reason I am unable to go on the trip, that the support I raised will go towards the team.

In signing this covenant, I state my intention to faithfully abide by it. I also understand that if I do not strive to uphold this covenant, I may be sent home at my own or my family's expense.

Team Member Signature _____

PERSONAL COVENANT & LIABILITY RELEASE FORM SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM

In signing this covenant, I state my intention to faithfully abide by it. I understand that changes or problems can be discussed with the leaders or in a meeting of the group. I also understand that if I break this covenant, I may be sent home at my own or my family's expense.

Mission Trip to _____

Team Member Name _____

Team Member Signature _____

Date: _____

****Please return signed copy to the Outreach Department****

SESSION 2: WORKING AS A TEAM

Open in prayer.

Share Three-Minute Testimonies. Watch your time!

Trip information update from the leader.

LANGUAGE LESSON #2:

What is your name? _____

My name is... _____

Nice to meet you. _____

Where's the bathroom? _____

I want to go home _____

In Session One, we discussed what motives and fears that we are taking into this trip. We also looked at the Fruits of the Spirit and the Fruits of the Flesh, and the importance of keeping these in mind as we venture forward in this experience. In this session, we will examine the challenges and blessings of working together as a team. As you participate in this study, remember the Fruits, and think of how crucial they are to a team's experience.

BLINDFOLDS & BIRTHDAYS

When we enter another country, it is important that **everyone on the team knows each other and is ready and willing to work together**. This exercise will test our ability to do so. For this exercise, blindfold each member of the team. Then, line up according to height. Then reorganize yourselves according to birthdays, this time **without speaking**.

Reflect on how easy or difficult you found the task to be.

If you were able to accomplish the goals, what did it take to communicate and work with each other?

RELATIONSHIPS

One of the most rewarding aspects of life can be relationships, but they can also be the most frustrating and disappointing. Mission trips can be the perfect setting for forging incredible relationships... or for relational disasters. It is of vital importance that the entire team is on the same page, working together for a common goal.

Read Philippians 2:1-11. Paul is illustrating for the church the attitude that they should have towards each other by looking at the example that Christ set.

Why do you think Paul said that it would "complete his joy" for them to be of "the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind?"

Using this passage and your own familiarity with his life, how did Jesus exemplify humility and sacrifice?

How would having an attitude like his affect our team's effectiveness?

List obstacles or complications that might jeopardize our effectiveness as a team.

What teams have you been a part of in the past? What made them positive or negative experiences?

What's the most effective role you feel you can exercise on a team?

What should your teammates know about you in order to enhance their work with you?

What goals do you have for your personal contribution to the team?

One of the potential pitfalls for a mission team is becoming a clique on the mission field. It is easy to spend all our time together when we are surrounded by people who speak a different language and a culture that lacks the amenities we are used to. However, we must remember that we are being sent to join a team that is already down there. We will be joining the ministry of the local church and the missionaries, who have been there much longer than we have. They have invested in the community, and we are joining them in their ongoing strategic ministry. Here are four keys to making the most of our partnership with them:

1. **Seek their friendship.** We will never become one of them if we only fellowship with ourselves.
2. **Share yourselves with them.** Be vulnerable. Build trust.
3. **Submit to their decisions.** Even when we disagree or think our way is better, we need to honor and submit to their decisions.
4. **Serve according to their cultural patterns.** One of the hardest dimensions of cross cultural ministry is learning to do things their way instead of demanding that they do them ours.

Pray that God would enable us to work together as a team. Address the specific concerns that were brought up, and ask God to help us work through those. Pray also for our host community – that God would be preparing them to receive us and that we would be able to build authentic friendships with them.

HOMEWORK

Do the “Facing Our Sharp Edges” exercise in Session Three.

SESSION 3: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN CULTURES: PART ONE

Open in prayer.

Share more testimonies.

LANGUAGE LESSON #3:

Where are you from? _____

I am from Los Angeles, California _____

Your country is beautiful. _____

I'm hungry. _____

I'm thirsty. _____

I miss my mommy. _____

Last session we looked at how difficult it can be to work together as a team as well as how rewarding it can be. Over the next two sessions, we will examine the greater challenge that crossing into a new culture presents. As stressful and frustrating as it can be, remember that everyone experiences culture shock or fatigue at some point in time. However, as a team, we are able to deal with it much more easily than if we were left to ourselves. As you participate in the following exercises, think about how these specific situations could potentially affect you and how your teammates can hold you accountable and lift you up in the face of these cultural circumstances.

FACING OUR SHARP EDGES

“Some have said that adjusting to another culture is as difficult as fitting a square peg into a round hole. People either change to fit into the new culture or they try to change the new culture to be like their own.” (Dearborn, 37) Imagine yourself in the following situation. Rate yourself on a scale from one to five according to the depth of personal trauma that you might experience, with one as easy and five as difficult:

1. You can't communicate because of language differences, and this produces many awkward, embarrassing situation.
2. No one seems to understand you or appreciate the sacrifices you've made to come and be with them.
3. You can't wear clothes that feel most comfortable to you because of others' customs.
4. The only time you can be alone is in bed at night.
5. No one gives you a straight answer. They seem to say yes to everything, even though they may not mean yes and have no intention of doing what you suggest.
6. Nothing starts on time. People state a starting time or agree to meet at a certain time, but often things begin an hour later.
7. You find yourself craving familiar food; even a Big Mac sounds great.
8. Worship services are very emotional, with many people speaking in tongues.
9. People stare at you wherever you go, and women and children often beg from you.
10. No toilets, no showers, no air conditioning.

Add up your score. How would you rate your flexibility and adaptability?

What other situations might be particularly difficult for you? Why?

Are there things that help you cope with these kinds of situations? What are they?

Despite the excitement of visiting a new place, **mission trips can be to stressful environments**. There are normally changes in food and water, different accommodations and lack of sleep on uncomfortable beds, not to mention difficult manual labor that we are not used to. It is common though to go through a series of reactions to your environment. This is called **culture shock**.

There are four stages:

1. **Honeymoon** – The experience of being in a new country is exhilarating.
2. **Hide** – “No one knows me here.” “I miss my friends.” “Toto, I’ve a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.”
3. **Hostility** – “What’s their problem anyway? They don’t even speak English. Their government’s corrupt, and the streets are unsafe. I hate this place!”
4. **Humble acceptance** – “Maybe it’s not so bad after all.” “This is actually a beautiful country.” “The people here are very caring and engaging.”

Some common frustration during stages two and three are:

- **Cultural alienation** – “Life’s not the same here.”
- **Personal dissonance** – “I don’t fit in here. I feel out of place.”
- **Activist frustration** – “Nothing works right here.”
- **Relational misunderstanding** – “No one seems to care about how I’m doing.”
- **Intellectual confusion** – “I’ll never figure out how to live here. I’m hopelessly out of place.”
- **Emotional tension** – “I don’t want to go outside anymore. I’m tired of feeling like a fool.”

This process does not happen to everyone, but if it happens to us, here are some helpful ways to ease the process.

- Take breaks. *Enjoy* the country and its culture.
- *Interact* with the culture. Learn about it.
- Take risks, be *bold*.
- *Don't hibernate* or withdraw from the host community or the team.

Tim Dearborn makes an important point about valuing different cultures. “God is inviting us on a **treasure hunt**. Our privilege is to be so led by the Spirit that we can find treasures in this new context that had been hidden from our eyes previously. Not only were they hidden from us because we’ve never been there before, they may have been hidden from the eyes of all the people who live there. Therefore God invites us to lift up before others’ eyes the ways God is at work among and through them, and all the strengths and gifts they are bringing to their own community.”

What things might keep you from engaging in this cultural treasure hunt?

How might it be detrimental to the team if you chose to observe only the negative parts of the culture? How do you think it would affect your relationship with the host community?

Read Philippians 4:8,9. How does this apply to our treasure hunt?

STEREOTYPES: A TWO WAY STREET

Common stereotypes that Americans have of others: lazy, inefficient, emotional, slow, unmotivated, rooted in traditions, corrupt leaders, naïve, overly interdependent, highly spiritual etc.

Common stereotypes of Americans: aggressive, preoccupied with tasks, harshly pragmatic, tense and pressured, discontented and lonely, corrupt leaders, educated, strongly individualistic, securely enjoying the “good life,” highly materialistic etc.

How do you feel about the common stereotypes of Americans? Are they true? How can we counteract stereotypes like these on our trip?

Do you hold to any of the stereotypes of non Americans? How could that affect our attitude and relationships with the host community?

HOMEWORK:

Read the "Ten Commandments of Short Term Mission." Be ready to discuss them in the next session.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

By Paul Cull

We hear much in missions circles about short-term outreach teams, their exploits and adventures. Usually, however, we hear only from the perspective of the team itself. This article, written from the perspective of a long-term missionary, is intended to bring a dose of reality to those planning and preparing for a short-term outreach. So you're ready for the Great Missionary Adventure. You've got your visa and your airline tickets, had the immunization tablets and shots, bought lots of film for your camera, and made some contacts with mission bases in your target country. You've heard about some short-term trips that didn't turn out quite as expected, but you're sure that this will be different. After all, you have a genuine burden for the people you will be visiting, and have received definite confirmation that the Lord will use you and your team to reach the lost during this trip. So, what remains in your preparation? My answer to this question would be one word: "lots". My experience with short-term teams and visitors has convinced me that we need to emphasize some basic points in order to increase the effectiveness of such teams and decrease the possibility of unpleasant things happening during or after the team's visit. Let's consider the ten commandments of short-term outreach. Bear in mind that these are written for outreach teams, such as church groups or teams from a Bible school, who have no specific technical training, and who are coming to work alongside an existing long-term base. There will be some exceptions to these rules, such as in the case of pioneering ministry to unreached areas, and the case of teams which have been formed of trained individuals for a specific technical task (i.e. medical, disaster relief or community development). We'll begin with the most important commandment:

1. Thou shalt always remember that the primary function of a short-term team is to learn, and not to help.

After months of preparation you're finally going to The Mission Field - and now someone tells you that you're going to learn and not to help! What about all those lectures about serving, all that preparation for witnessing, and those prophecies about the souls that would be won into the Kingdom through your visit? Try for a moment to see things from the perspective of the long-termers - those who have been working for maybe years in the same location, learning the language, gaining the trust of the community and living the gospel, often at great personal cost. A short-term team, especially one without local language skills, cannot possibly understand the often complex situation of the field: the superstitions and prejudices, the previous misunderstandings and perhaps even misrepresentations of the gospel, the way the culture views foreigners and Christianity, and the sometimes tangled relationships between local churches. All of these things take time to understand and appreciate, and quality time on the field is one thing that the short term team will never have. So what, then, is the purpose of a short-term mission? My belief is that the primary benefit of a short-term trip is to expose the team members to something a little like the reality of the mission field, to give them a taste (albeit, often sugar-laden) of the reality of the call, and to perhaps motivate them for later involvement in world missions. Am I saying that God won't use short-termers during an outreach? No, not at all. He can use all of us when and how He pleases, and often surprises us with the ways in which His grace can flow through us to the needy. However, we must remember that the task of evangelism and discipleship is often a long-term job, and obviously the long-term workers will play a more decisive role in this work. That brings us to the second commandment, which is like the first:

2. Thou shalt always defer to the long-term missionaries, even when thou dost not agree with them.

Remember that the long-termers, for all their human frailty, have spent more time on the field than you, and have consequently gained a greater understanding of the local situation. Try to respect their wishes and advice about security, team activities and timing, and even seemingly little things like dress code. They may not always be able to articulate or explain the reasons behind their decisions, however it is important to remember that they do have experience on the field that the short-termers do not have. That is not to say that you cannot recommend different activities, or question the reasoning behind current practices; however this should always be done in an attitude of humility and a willingness to learn.

3. Thou shalt surely leave all thy agendas at home before thou arrivest on the mission field.

It is essential that a short-term team be very flexible about the activities they will be involved in, and the results they expect to see. If you feel that God has shown you a strategy or revealed a plan for your team, be sure that all of the team's activities are approved by the leadership of the base where you will be staying. Short-term team which are truly coming to serve and work

alongside the long-termers will gladly abandon their own plans and expectations in order to help in the base activities; however teams who come with their own agendas will often be, at best, a distraction from the true work of the mission project, and could even be counter-productive. What if you feel that God has given you an activity or strategy for your team which doesn't fit in with what the project is doing? My advice would be to present your ideas to the leadership of the base where you are staying, and then leave it all with God. Maybe He will change the hearts of the leaders, maybe the idea was from God but the timing wasn't for now, or maybe you just plain heard wrong. Whatever the case, respect the wishes of those who are hosting you, and under no circumstances go against their advice or authority.

4. Thou shalt be prepared to spend large amounts of time doing nothing, for thus verily is the way of the mission field.

Short-termers, especially those who have not been exposed to different cultures, can often be frustrated by the time that is apparently wasted in travel arrangements and appointments which fall through. It is not uncommon for a team to wait several days in order to visit a project or activity, only to find it cancelled at the last moment! Yet all of this is a very real part of the mission field. Many cultures don't have the same value on efficiency and time management that we Westerners do, and for them it may be perfectly normal to spend several days - or more - waiting for a contact to arrive. For this reason, it is important that the team leave plenty of slack time in their schedule to allow for missed buses, guides or interpreters who never turn up, weather conditions which may make travel impossible, and a thousand and one other reasons why things will not always run like clockwork. Short-termers may feel that they have spent so much money in coming to visit, that they deserve priority treatment in order to obtain "value for money". Yet, we must remember that the team's visit is probably taking workers away from their true work and is, in reality, often an interruption in the busy life of the mission project. With this in mind, the short-termers must be prepared for days of inactivity, foregoing their own plans and expectations if necessary.

5. Thou shalt be careful to obey, in all details, the security rules and advice of the project which thou visitest.

Security is probably one of the biggest issues facing a short-term team on the field, yet it is often a neglected topic. While it is true that the Lord does protect us, in often miraculous ways, it is also true that we must act with wisdom at all times. Security issues include the personal security of team members and their belongings, the security of the project, its equipment and personnel, and wider issues involving the reputation and legal standing of the project, and its coexistence with the community. It is often difficult for a short-termer to understand the reality of security risks, especially as these are not always immediately visible. Street children, youth gangs, drug dealers, organized crime gangs, vigilantes, corrupt police officers, and hostile authorities may all pose threats which are not apparent at first sight to the newcomer. In addition, the project itself may be under scrutiny by the community, authorities or criminal elements, and apparently innocent activities, such as taking a photograph, hugging a child or an unguarded comment, may create immediate or long-term problems for that mission. For this reason it is essential that short-termers converse with the long-termers upon arrival, and establish security norms to be followed. It may be necessary for foreigners to always carry identity documents, to establish a curfew, or to define when and where photographs may be taken. It may also be necessary to guard money and valuables in a secure location, and to determine the places where the visitors can be on their own. If the team is large, consider splitting into smaller groups while visiting project activities for security or logistical reasons. Remember to always obey the security rules, even if you think they are excessive or unnecessary. By virtue of their having survived on the field, the long-termers have proven that these regulations really do work! Even if they prevent you from doing something which you are sure does not pose a threat to your security, remember that your hosts feel responsible for your well-being during the time of your visit, and that as such it is important for you to abide by the established security measures.

6. Thou shalt be both attentive and accurate in the communication with the mission base before thy visit.

It is vitally important that the team communicate important information clearly with the base prior to departure. Here is a preliminary checklist of useful items to discuss: • The number of team members, broken down by male and female, and singles and couples (This information helps your host prepare for your accommodation) • The availability within the team of members who can speak the local language • The level of physical fitness required to accompany the missionaries' regular routine, and • special equipment that may be needed (e.g. hiking boots or backpacks) • The inclusion within the team of members who have health conditions which may require medical assistance or supplies • The costs that will be involved in your stay, including transport, accommodation, food and miscellaneous expenses • The climatic conditions of the area (Should you bring an umbrella? Warm clothing? Sunscreen?) • Appropriate, culturally acceptable clothing • Baggage limits (Be aware of the methods

of transport that will be available to the team, and be careful not to bring more baggage than each team member can carry on his or her own.) Likewise, it is necessary to pay attention to any special advice or requirements from the mission base. Remember that the base may not be equipped to receive many visitors, so be careful to follow its advice if it requests that team members bring items such as cutlery or bedding.

7. Thou shalt be careful to pay for all the expenses of thy visit.

Although I've briefly touched on this in the previous item, it is important to clearly define the financial responsibilities of the team and its members before the visit. Remember that bases often run on a shoe-string budget, and that hosting a team can be a significant drain on their resources. Make sure that each team member has sufficient funds available to pay such expenses before leaving your country. It is also considerate to offer to pay the project in advance as this may be the only way it can afford to buy the necessary provisions for your team's stay. If a missionary host is acting as a guide or translator for the team, don't forget to offer to pay the expenses of their travel, including incidentals, such as food while on the road. Although the team will probably be paying the project for the expenses of their stay, it is possible that individual missionaries who are helping the team could easily end up out-of-pocket at the end of your trip.

8. Thou shalt take great care in thy giving and thy spending, lest thou appearest to be filthy rich.

As much as we love to give, especially when confronted with the reality of urban poverty, it is important to be discreet and wise in our giving. Check with the full-time missionaries before giving to beggars or children, as it is probable that the missionaries will have a better understanding of the situation and will know whether giving, in a particular case, will be beneficial or harmful. As a general rule, if someone asks for money for food, it usually better to buy food rather than give money which could be misspent. It is also good to be restrained in unnecessary personal expenditure, such as junk-food, as what we may consider to be inconsequential can appear to be extravagant to those in the third world.

9. Thou shalt be careful to respect the doctrinal and theological views of the project which thou visitest.

Despite the increasing emphasis on networking and interdenominational partnerships within missions, it is nevertheless necessary to remember to respect the ministry model and theological framework of the mission that you will be visiting. Find out what is and is not acceptable to them in terms of "ministry": i.e. whether it is acceptable to pray for individuals, or to speak in tongues, or preach on certain topics. Be especially careful with the more debated topics, such as the end-times, renewal-type physical manifestations or prosperity teachings.

10. Thou shalt surely keep thy word in regards to follow-up activities.

Remember: if you make promises to the missionaries or to locals while you are on the field, be careful to fulfill your word when you return home. For example, if you've promised to send copies of the photographs you've taken or video that you've filmed, be careful to do so quickly. Likewise, if you've promised to make some inquiries or send some items, remember that the missionaries may be eagerly awaiting your reply, even if they did not say so. It is also a nice touch to write a letter or send an e-mail message following your visit, thanking your hosts for their assistance. After reading through all of this, you may be wondering whether a short-term missions trip is a really a good idea after all. The answer to that is a qualified "yes" - as long as you keep your expectations realistic, and remember that your trip will almost certainly be much more beneficial to you personally, than to your hosts. After you have been confronted with the reality of the modern mission field, of the suffering and abandonment of so much of the world's population, of their poverty in the face of our affluence, don't be surprised if you find yourself with an increased burden to be involved in world missions, maybe eventually in a long-term position in the field. It could all start with a simple, short-term trip.

Paul Cull is leading the "Projeto Casa Esperança" (House of Hope Project), a small mission ministering to at-risk children and teens in the city of Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information about the project, visit the home page at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pcull> or write to: Projeto Casa Esperança, Caixa Postal 96.868, CEP 28.601-970 Nova Friburgo - RJ, BRAZIL.

SESSION 4: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN CULTURES: PART TWO

Open in prayer.

Share more testimonies.

LANGUAGE LESSON #4:

Jesus loves you. _____

God bless you. _____

Praise the Lord! _____

Can I pray for you? _____

In Session 2, we discussed the importance and difficulties of crossing into other cultures. They can be stressful environments that alter our regular lifestyles, *but the benefits of rising to this challenge far outweigh any challenges or difficulties we might encounter*. In this session we will look at some important things to keep in mind as we seek to build bridges between our culture and theirs.

REMEMBER THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:

1. Thou shalt always remember that the primary function of a short-term team is to learn, and not to help.
2. Thou shalt always defer to the long-term missionaries, even when thou dost not agree with them.
3. Thou shalt surely leave all thy agendas at home before thou arrivest on the mission field.
4. Thou shalt be prepared to spend large amounts of time doing nothing, for thus verily is the way of the mission field.
5. Thou shalt be careful to obey, in all details, the security rules and advice of the project which thou visitest.
6. Thou shalt be both attentive and accurate in the communication with the mission base before thy visit.
7. Thou shalt be careful to pay for all the expenses of thy visit.
8. Thou shalt take great care in thy giving and thy spending, lest thou appearest to be filthy rich.
9. Thou shalt be careful to respect the doctrinal and theological views of the project which thou visitest.
10. Thou shalt surely keep thy word in regards to follow-up activities.

Which of these resonates the most with you? Do they make sense in light of the author's explanations?

What do you think would be the consequences of not following these guidelines?

*The Tenth commandment is commonly broken. How do you think **broken promises** and **kept promises** affect partnerships between churches and communities?*

How important do you think it is to humble ourselves and show respect for our host community?

BOMBS & BRIDGES

In this exercise we will look at how important it is to be good listeners and communicators... and also what can happen when we're not. Dearborn p. 69.

Have everyone choose a "bomb" and a "bridge" from the following list without telling anyone.

Bombs:

Forget names

Avoid eye contact

Glance around room

Interrupt

Question others' facts

Overreact

Overprotect—treat others as childish

Bridges:

Use names

Maintain eye contact

Focus on the people in your group

Wait until others are done

Affirm other's ideas

Maintain decorum

Affirm other's worth and independence

- First, converse with each other for five minutes about the past week, with each person trying to use their bomb and bridge during the conversation.
- Second, change the topic, and for five minutes, imagine you are trying to make a decision as a group about where to eat. Each of you has a different desire. Be sure to use your bomb and bridge again.
- Finally, discuss the experience, guessing the bridges and bombs used by others. Then, as a group, *summarize the keys to effective listening.*

QUALITIES OF A GOOD MISSIONARY

The following is a list of qualities that international leaders look for in missionaries. Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest. Dearborn p. 53.

- Loves Christ.
- Loves people.
- Wants to become friends with people in the host culture.
- Willing to serve alongside others and together, discover God's will.
- Flexible and doesn't always insist on her own way.
- Willing to learn how God's strength is perfected in weakness.
- Able to laugh at himself.
- Desires to work as part of a team.

In which area do you think you are the strongest? In which are do you most need to grow?

In addition to these qualities, name three other gifts that God has given you that you think will be useful in this cross cultural experience?

How can your teammates pray for you?

FUNDRAISING | SUPPORT LETTER GUIDELINES

When should I send my letters?

-E-mail or Mail your letters 3 months before your trip leave or on your second training session together. **You need to be fully funded one month before you leave on your trip.** It's appropriate to state your deadlines in your letters.

Drafting and Writing your Letter

- Type your letter on a 8 ½ X 11 sheet of paper, using a clear, easy-to-read font. Make all of your necessary copies prior to signing your name so that each one is signed personally. You can also handwrite a short note on the bottom of each letter to make it more personal. Make sure you have at least one other person proofread your letter. You may want your team leader to read it before you send it out. Your request for prayer support should have priority above the financial support.
- Be informative and concise. Try to limit your letter to one page only. Use short paragraphs rather than one long one. A recommended format, in order, would be 1. description of the project. 2. Necessity of the project 3. Your involvement 4. The need and request for prayer and funding support.
- Consider using several letter formats for your Christian friends, co-workers, and non-Christian friends. Keep in mind that many of the terms we use as Christians, although meaningful to us, may appear foreign or strange to others. Another option is to write a generic letter with a personal note attached to each one.

Having trouble asking for Money?

- Many of you will have difficulty in requesting personal financial support. Let this be a part of your spiritual journey to go on a mission trip. It's hard to ask for money. It's humbling. But keep in mind, Christians aren't supposed to be self fulfilling. It's OK to ask for help, allow people to come along side you. It's much harder to receive than to give. Let these truths sink into your heart and pray through the process.
- Word your letter so that the request (and the response) for funding is directed toward satisfying the need for the overall missions project, which includes your participation. In fact, IRS regulations require that the donors give money to the project, rather than to the individual.
- Send as many support letters as you can, keeping in mind that you may not have 100% response. **Submit a list of the people and their addresses you send your letters to your team leader and the outreach coordinator.**

Directions: How to make a contribution

- Checks for funding support should be made out to **Bel Air Presbyterian Church**, and are tax deductible. Checks should be designated for the mission team (e.g. "Ukraine"), but NOT to the individual. If your name appears on the check, even if it is just on the memo line, the check is no longer tax deductible. Whoever is contributing via check must write the name of the person to receive the donation on their envelope or an enclosed note.
- IMPORTANT - Fundraising Donations are Available Online: Donations can be made online for specific team members by going to **belairpres.org** at [Outline Contributions] – [2007 Mission Trips Contributions] ** *We highly encourage this method of contribution*** Please include this in your support letter. It expedites the fundraising process and it's easier to track.
- Be sure to include a donation envelope from the Outreach Department with each of your letters, and write in your trip location (e.g. "Mexico") and your name on each one so that the donations are applied to the correct team.
- Please keep in mind you must be fully funded one month before departure date. Also, please remember Bel Air Presbyterian Church is a Church, not a bank. It takes time to process all the donations and get them into spreadsheets for you. Bel Air will e-mail the team leader frequent donation updates. The leader will have the most up-to-date finance forms.
- You are expected to write a thank you note to each supporter in the month following your trip or a postcard from the trip destination.

January 20XX

Dear Family & Friends,

During UCLA's spring break, I am joining a college mission team from Bel Air Presbyterian Church on a mission to Mexico City. The trip will be from March X – X and is sponsored by the organization Partners in Hope. This organization places us and trains us for our mission in hopes that we will learn and grow just as much as the people we are going to help. To facilitate this hope and goal, our team will stay, for most of the trip, with families in Mexico City. On the trip the team will be volunteering in a variety of ministries throughout the city. We will learn about Mexican culture and the role of Christianity in Mexico. To help us better understand the roots of the culture and religion we are surrounded by, we will learn recent Mexican history. We will be able to see, first-hand, how micro-enterprise is changing the lives of the poor.

As many of you know, I attended Mission Arizona with La Crescenta Presbyterian Church every spring break in junior high and high school. This Mexico mission trip will be a continuation of the mission work, spiritual renewal, and personal growth that began for me in those years on the American Indian Reservation in Arizona. I am confident that this trip will be an extremely humbling experience. I am praying that God will test, and then solidify my faith through this powerful experience while using me to minister to others at the same time.

Above all else, I ask for your prayers for the whole mission team and myself going to Mexico City. In addition to prayers, any financial contribution you could make would be helpful. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. Please note that checks are tax deductible only if made out to Bel Air Presbyterian Church, with a designation in the memo line for "Mexico." Fundraising Donations are also available Online. If you'd like to donation online visit belairpres.org under the quick Links menu-choose [Outline Contributions], then [2007 Mission Trip Contributions]. Please put my name under the section that says "team-member you wish to support".

Thank you and que Dios te bendiga!

Tommy Teammate

April 20XX

Dear ,

Добридень! That means “hello” in Ukrainian...and it’s a big hint to where I will be going this summer! This July, I will have the opportunity to grow in my own walk with God by joining a team from my church, Bel Air Presbyterian, to minister in Lutsk, Ukraine. This trip is being organized through New Hope, International (NHI), an organization that provides training and materials for church leaders in former communist countries. NHI is one of Bel Air’s mission partners, and our church has chosen to focus this partnership on NHI’s work in Ukraine.

During the two weeks we will be in Ukraine (July X-X), we will be helping to hold a camp for high school youth just outside of Lutsk. Many of the youth who will attend this camp do not attend church, and many may never have heard the gospel presented in a clear and relevant way. In fact, God is seen as irrelevant to these children who grew up under communism and are facing a bleak future in a country whose economy is struggling. We hope that in the course of the activities and small group Bible studies, we will be able to show them God’s love and that he wants to be a very important part of their everyday lives.

I am hoping that you will be able to join with me in this ministry in one of several ways. First and most importantly, I am hoping that you will be committed to praying for me and for my team. It is essential that this trip is bathed in prayer! Another way you can help is to donate gear. Our team would like to take six sleeping bags and three three-person tents with us to stay in during the camp. Once our trip is done, we will donate these items to a church in Lutsk for future youth camps. If you have extra camping gear that is in good shape but is just taking up space in your garage, please consider donating it to us! Lastly, I also need financial support. I must raise around \$1800 to cover airfare, food, materials and other expenses of the trip. If you would like to help with prayer or finances, please return the enclosed envelope to our church indicating what way you’d like to help. If you are interested in donating gear, please contact me directly. Fundraising Donations are also available Online. If you’d like to donate online visit belairpres.org under the quick Links menu- choose [Outline Contributions], then [2007 Mission Trip Contributions]. Please put my name under the section that says “team-member you wish to support”.

Thank you so much for your interest and support. I am looking forward to letting you know all the many ways God uses us in Ukraine this summer – and that is only possible through the prayers and support of people like you! Thank you for being such a blessing to me.

For His glory,

Tiffany Teammate

Dear Family & Friends,

This July, we will join other members of our church, Bel Air Presbyterian, to minister on the Navajo reservation in Indian Wells, Arizona. We will be assisting the elderly on the reservation by helping them clean their homes and yards and chopping wood in preparation for the cold winter. Our goal is twofold: to create a lasting bond with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Arizona, and to assist the elderly residents of the reservation in a tangible way.

Nothing is more important to us than our relationship with Jesus. We are hopeful that this short-term mission trip will help deepen our faith, and we hope that you will be able to join us in this ministry. First and foremost, we hope that you will pray for our team and for us. Prayer is essential!

Another way you can help is to donate financial support. We will pay our own way on this trip, but others in our group may not be as fortunate, and the costs are substantial since we are paying for food, housing and transportation, as well as donating the tools we'll be using. Moreover, Bel Air is sending out mission trips to Eastern Europe, South America, Africa and India this summer. Each of these groups also needs financial support. Any help you can give, even in the smallest amount, will be put to good use! Fundraising Donations are also available Online. If you'd like to donation online visit belairpres.org under the quick Links menu- choose [Outline Contributions], then [2007 Mission Trip Contributions]. Please put my name under the section that says "team member you wish to support".

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support. We are looking forward to updating you with all the many ways God uses our team on this trip.

God bless you,

Tina & Tyler Teammate

FAQS ABOUT SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS 2007

Besides the team training, how can I prepare for the trip?

The best thing you can do is to pray! Pray for yourself, your team, your team leader, and the people you will be meeting & helping. Ask some of your friends and family to join you in dedicated prayer for this trip. In addition, it will help you to start learning more about the location you will be going to.

Can I fly separately to or from the trip location?

You are expected to travel with your team at all times during the trip dates. Team members cannot arrive late or depart early from the trip, and team members are not permitted to take trips apart from the team while in the host country. Some exceptions can be at the discretion of the Outreach Department and all requests for deviated travel must be presented with your application and NO LATER than the first team meeting. If you choose to travel elsewhere, you will be responsible for the price difference in the ticket as compared to the group flights. Your team leader can give you more information on this option. You must tell the Outreach department your travel deviations BEFORE the plane tickets are purchased.

What happens if I need to change or cancel my ticket?

Once we have purchased tickets, we consider them to be unchangeable. If you decide to change or cancel your ticket for any reason, you are responsible for extra expenses incurred. It depends on the airline and the group contract. Cancellations and change fees will vary airline to airline.

What does the “trip cost” cover?

We do our best to publish an accurate estimate, but this is also subject to change. We try to make it change to a *lower* price if possible! When you raise support for this trip, it goes to pay for your airfare, food and lodging during the trip, printing of mission training materials, and other various fees. **It DOES NOT cover your passport or any vaccinations you choose to get. You are also responsible for the costs of souvenirs and other personal expenses.**

Does our team raise support?

Bel Air has a team support raising policy in accordance with IRS regulations. All donations to short-term missions go into one single account that is used for all the mission trips in a given year. If one person on your team raises “extra” money (more than the per-person cost of their trip), the “extra” money will help cover another teammate who does not raise the per-person cost. Similarly, if one team raises more than their trip cost, that “extra” money will help pay for another mission team that does not raise enough. Although we keep an individual support account record (that is, the record of your friends and family who send in donations), this is not “your” account or “your” money. That list is to let you know who has sent in funds so that you can send them a thank you letter and follow-up with them when you return from your trip. All the money that comes in will be used to pay for mission trips. That means that even if you raise more than the per-person cost for your trip, by IRS regulations, none of that money can be returned to you, or refunded to donors. It will and can only be used to cover the cost of your teammates or other short-term mission trips. Please also note that your application fee for the trip is non-refundable and is not considered to be a tax-deductible contribution. If you have questions regarding this policy, please speak with the Director of Outreach or our Finance Department.

I’ve never sent out support letters before. Will we be trained?

Yes. You will receive more information, guidelines, and example letters that will help you compose your own letter. You will be required to submit a copy of your support or prayer letter to your team leader to approve. The Outreach Department will keep a record of your support account, which will be sent out to you periodically, usually at each team meeting.

Do I need a passport or visa?

Only if you are traveling to a country other than Mexico or the U.S. For Mexico, you need either a valid passport or your original birth certificate. Regulations may change on this, so check with your team leader. For other trips, you are required to have a current, valid passport that is valid for at least 6 months past your date of return. Your team leader will let you know if you will need any visas, and will help you through the process. Please note that any passport or visa fees are up to you, and are not covered by your “trip cost.”

Do I need to get any insurance? What about vaccinations?

Check with your insurance provider to see if you are covered in foreign countries. Many times, your insurance company will reimburse you for medical costs overseas. If you are not covered, please ask your team leader for information on daily or weekly overseas insurance. Insurance, vaccinations, and immunizations are not covered in the trip cost.

What kind of training will we receive?

You will be attending training sessions along with the rest of your team. Normally four sessions plus a service project in the city. These sessions will cover preparations, cultural learning, and missiology as well as give you a chance to get to know the rest of your team and practice a new language. Dates and times for training sessions will be determined by your trip leader.

What if I don't see a trip in the brochures that I am interested in, but would still like to go on a short-term trip?

Contact the Outreach Department. Bel Air has over 20 different ministry partners, many of whom offer a wide variety of short-term trips. They will be able to give you more information and help you find a trip that fits your calling.

SHORT-TERM MISSION POLICY

Bel Air Presbyterian Church is fully committed to equipping our members to communicate the love of Christ to all cultures both locally and worldwide. One of the main goals of the Outreach Committee at Bel Air Presbyterian is to provide the training, prayer support, encouragement, accountability, resources and the infrastructure necessary to succeed in this endeavor.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:38

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” Eph 4:11-12

DEFINITIONS

Missions: the ministry of communicating Christ’s love to people in a non-church environment. As such, missions ministries are generally located abroad, but may occur in United States in an environment outside of our own cultural or economic norms, such as in the inner city or with specific ethnic groups.

Long-Term Missions: the ministry of communicating Christ’s love to non-churched people in a non-Christian or in a cross-cultural environment that requires a commitment of more than two years.

Short-Term Missions: the ministry of communicating Christ’s love to people in a non-church or in a cross-cultural environment for a period of less than two years and more than three months

Short-Term Missions Trips: The ministry of sending church members for a period of less than two years.

At Bel Air Presbyterian Church, there are four types of short-term missions trips as follows:

| Type | Duration | Comments |
|------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 1–3 weeks | In general, Type 1 projects involve ministry in the USA or in a nearby friendly country with a specific people group and/or the poor. This is ideal for college students, working adults, or families. |
| 2 | 4–6 weeks | In general, Type 2 projects involve ministry abroad or in North America, but of longer duration than Type 1, with a specific people group and/or another specific Christian ministry. For ministry trips abroad, it is strongly encouraged that the trips be at least 4 weeks in duration. This is ideal for college students and some working adults with flexible schedules. |
| 3 | Up to 3 months | In general, Type 3 projects will involve ministry abroad or in North America with a specific people group and/or other specific Christian ministry. This is ideal for those desiring a more comprehensive mission experience. |
| 4 | Up to 2 years | In general, Type 4 projects will involve ministry abroad or in North America with a specific people group and/or other specific Christian ministry. It is specially designed for those who are seriously considering serving God as full-time career missionaries. |

Purpose of Short-Term Mission Trips: The goals of a short-term missions trip will vary from one project to another and even from one volunteer to another. However, some or all of the following goals should be intentionally incorporated into the purpose of all short-term mission trips:

- Means of serving God in the cross-cultural ministry of missions.
- Means of providing hands-on support and encouragement to long-term missionaries, especially those supported by Bel Air Presbyterian, and/or to sister churches in covenant relationship with our church.
- Means of learning first-hand what missions is all about.
- Means of determining if one's calling is in full-time Christian service.
- Means of preparing for life at home as a Global Christian.
- Means of preparing for a missionary career

Requirements and Application Process for Bel Air Presbyterian-Sponsored Short-term Mission Teams: The volunteer must meet all of the requirements in order to participate in a short-term mission trip. The requirements vary depending on the type of trip, as summarized below.

| Type | Requirements |
|------|---|
| 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The volunteer must be a professing believer with an active and obvious commitment to Jesus Christ. 2. The volunteer must complete the application and covenant forms. 3. The volunteer must successfully complete the specific orientation and training for the short-term mission project. |
| 2 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The volunteer must meet all of the requirements for Type 1. 2. The volunteer must be a current and active member of Bel Air Presbyterian, or a regular attendant for at least 6 months prior to the date of departure. 3. The volunteer should demonstrate personal, emotional, and spiritual maturity. 4. The volunteer must successfully complete the specific orientation and training for the short-term mission project. |
| 3 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The volunteer must meet all of the requirements for Type 2. 2. The volunteer must complete all training and reading material, if applicable, as assigned by the sponsoring mission agency and/or Bel Air Presbyterian Church. 3. The volunteer should demonstrate personal, emotional, and spiritual maturity. |
| 4 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The volunteer must meet all of the requirements for Type 3, and be a member of Bel Air Presbyterian Church. 2. The volunteer must complete a Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course (or some similar course). 3. The volunteer must complete all training and reading material, if applicable, as assigned by the sponsoring mission agency and/or Bel Air Presbyterian Church. 4. The volunteer should demonstrate personal, emotional, and spiritual maturity. |

ENDORSEMENT

- Only those short-term mission trips that are approved by the Bel Air Presbyterian Church will be officially endorsed by the church.
- Official endorsement is necessary prior to any formal public communication; including announcement, distribution of prayer letters, request for prayer support, and/or fund raising activity.
- Each volunteer must also be endorsed by the Outreach Committee.

FUNDING FOR BEL AIR PRESBYTERIAN-SPONSORED TEAMS

- The volunteer has the primary responsibility for financial aspects of the short-term mission trip. The volunteer is encouraged to establish a financial support base through some of all of the following means:
 - o **Bel Air Presbyterian's Short-Term Missions Budget:** Each year, the Outreach Committee will set aside a portion of the budget for directly subsidizing short-term mission projects. The amount of the subsidy will vary each year, depending on the available funds, the cost and duration of the trips, the size of the team, and other factors.
 - o **Personal Earnings:** Each volunteer is expected to contribute with the maximum possible to the trip.

- o **Others in the Body of Christ:** Each volunteer is encouraged to seek financial and prayer support from people in his or her sphere of relationship (friends and relatives outside of the church) in order to establish a team of supporters for the mission trip at home. This is encouraged even if the church subsidy and/or personal earnings would cover all of the expenses of the trip.
- The money raised for the mission trip should be sent by donors directly to the church, designated for the trip in general, or for a particular individual. It will be used to cover expenses for travel, lodging, food, relevant fees, and the cost of the mission itself.

POLICY REGARDING NON-BEL AIR PRESBYTERIAN-SPONSORED TEAMS OR VOLUNTEERS

- First priority for financial and/or prayer support for short-term mission trips is given to Bel Air Presbyterian-endorsed projects that are directly sponsored by the church or by a reputable mission agency approved by the outreach committee. In addition, at least one member (for Type 1-3 trips) or a regular attendee of the church (for Type 1 trip only) should be directly participating in the project.
- Lesser priority will be given to the following categories:
 - o Category A: Bel Air Presbyterian-endorsed short-term mission trips but volunteer is not a member or regular attendee of our church. He/she may receive financial and/or prayer support from Bel Air.
 - o Category B: Non-Bel Air Presbyterian-endorsed short-term mission trip but volunteer is a member or regular attendee of our church. He/she may receive financial and/or prayer support from Bel Air.
 - o Category C: Non-Bel Air Presbyterian-endorsed short-term mission trip and volunteer is not a member or regular attendee of our church. He/she may receive financial and/or prayer support from Bel Air Presbyterian. However, this situation would receive the lowest priority.
 - o Requirements: These are the requirement for obtaining any financial or prayer support for the short-term mission trip by Bel Air Presbyterian for Categories A through C.
 - i. The volunteer must meet the requirements for a comparable church-endorsed trip (i.e. trip types 1-4).
 - ii. The volunteer, the volunteer's church, and the sponsoring mission organization must share the evangelical vision and core values of Bel Air Presbyterian.
 - iii. The volunteer must submit a written description of the mission trip, its goals, and the amount of financial support needed.

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