

OLD NORTH CHURCH SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP POLICY STATEMENT

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our trip together. As a member of this Old North missions team, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of a local missionary/church. If my hosts are offended by bare arms, shirtless backs, and exposed legs, I'll cover them. If they offer me goat meat stew or other strange dish, I'll try it! I'll remember the missionary's prayer: "Where you lead me, I will follow; what you feed me, I will swallow!"
2. Remember that we have come to learn, as well as minister. I may run across procedures that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things". I'll be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
3. Recognize that the purpose of this trip is to witness and demonstrate faith lived out in a new setting. I will keep these purposes foremost in my mind and with God's help do my best to accomplish these purposes.
4. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
5. Respect my team leader and his/her decisions.
6. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.
7. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
8. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the local church is here for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights, and instructions.
9. Attend all team preparation and follow-up meetings. If an unavoidable circumstance prevents me from attending, I will notify the team leader and make necessary arrangements for the meeting that is missed.
10. Comply with all requirements regarding passport, visa, finances, health, team responsibility, etc.
11. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics.
12. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my spouse is on the team, we will make effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another.
13. Prepare myself spiritually through personal Bible study and prayer. I will regularly uphold my teammates in prayer.

Signed _____ Date _____