

SHORT TERM MISSIONS FAQs

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WILL KEEP ME FROM GOING?

If you have a major health problem, you should consult your doctor before filling out the GO Form. Other than that, no! Anyone willing to be a servant to God and work with a team should consider going.

I WANT TO GO BUT I CAN'T COMMIT TIME FOR PREPARATION. WHAT DO I DO?

If your schedule won't permit you to be a part of a majority of the preparation, you should not travel this year and wait until you can make room in your schedule for it. However, that doesn't mean you have to be left out! The most successful teams include both travelers and non-travelers; the non-traveling team members pray, give and mobilize others to complete the mission. Commit to praying for a specific team or leader, designate funds toward an individual or team, prayerfully encourage a friend who may need a gentle nudge, or do all three!

DO I HAVE TO RAISE SUPPORT? CAN'T I JUST PAY FOR THE TRIP MYSELF?

While you can just pay yourself, we encourage everyone to raise support because we don't want you or others to miss out on an opportunity to grow! God is concerned about people being involved in His mission. This is an opportunity for you to grow in your trust of God and His provision, and an opportunity for others to be a part of what God is doing through your team. Your team leader will provide Biblical teaching, practical training and useful examples to help you through the support-raising process.

MAY I DRINK ALCOHOL OR SMOKE ON THE TRIP?

No. Most cultures do not expect Christians, let alone missionaries, to drink alcohol or smoke. Therefore, in an effort to avoid distracting those we are serving from our purpose for being there, we ask all team members to refrain from drinking and smoking while on the mission field.

IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG TIME COMMITMENT. CAN I JUST SHOW UP AT THE AIRPORT?

There is a time commitment involved because you're joining a team, not a trip. Your team will meet approximately six to eight times prior to departure to get to know each other and prepare for your time on mission together, and at least once after you return. You will study a manual together to better understand yourself, the culture into which you are traveling, and the specifics of your mission. Often, lasting friendships form out of short term mission teams as you practice the UP-IN-OUT rhythm of Missional Communities together.

IN A POST-9/11 WORLD, HOW DO YOU ENSURE THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS OVERSEAS?

Bay Area works closely with our local hosts, and we do everything in our power to ensure safety in health, food and travel. In almost all instances, we are assured of safety when following the direction of the local hosts. Ultimately, our security is in the hands of the Lord.