



MISSIONARY JOURNEY TRAINING MANUAL

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Missionary Journey Training Manual

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PRE-TRIP

Training Requirements

There are certain requirements that must be followed in order for your missionary journey experience to be productive and fulfilling for you and your entire team. Please understand that we expect *everyone* to follow the same requirements, regardless of past journey experience.

Global Missions Training Manual

Everyone will receive a training manual at the first General Training meeting. *Each team member is responsible for knowing and understanding the contents of this manual.*

Email communication

Email communication is imperative when mobilizing mission teams. Please make sure you have registered with a *working email address* that you *check frequently*. Please let your team leader know if your email address changes during your training.

Training Meetings

Each missionary journey applicant will be required to attend the meetings provided for by the team leader of the mission trip. These are not optional. If you miss a meeting it is your responsibility to connect with the team leader and gather the information missed.

The Missions Process

Olive Baptist Church

Leading OBC in the Mission Ministries is a great privilege and responsibility. What a joy to see a believer grow in their walk with the Lord as they serve Christ in a Missional lifestyle! I pray that over time every member and attendee of this great church will participate in mission work somewhere in Northwest Florida, America, and the World.

I am often asked, "What is the process that determines our National and International mission work with the church?" This is a great question to be answered.

First, **our desire as a church is to partner with the International Mission Board (I.M.B.) and the North American Mission Board (N.A.M.B.) of the Southern Baptist Convention for our missionary journeys when able.** Does this mean we don't love or appreciate other mission organizations? No, not at all. Without other Great Commission organizations the spreading of the Gospel would be slowed drastically. But I must ask **"if we as Southern Baptists have over 10,000 missionaries serving in the field and we as a church support them in finance and prayer, why would we NOT want to partner with them in work?"** Together we achieve more!

Second, **all missionary journeys are strategically chosen.** We don't just throw a dart at a map and say, "Let's go," nor do we allow "need" to determine a ministry opportunity. There are many fine opportunities out there to get involved in, but as a church, it is our duty to identify where the Lord is leading us to work. We are presently partnered in many different regional, national and international locations which were chosen through prayer and contacts we have with missionaries that are likeminded and/or NAMB and IMB of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Third, included in the selection process is **1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." Sowing, watering, and reaping are included in what we like to call "balanced evangelism."** We have partnerships all around the world involving these three ministry areas to accomplish balanced evangelism. **This strategy gives latitude for involvement for the lay person and a balance to the ministry. All of our ministries will involve 4 Core Values of ministry:**

- **Evangelism and Discipleship** (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 14:21-22): Jesus commands us to Go/Baptize/Make Disciples (obedience)/Teach.
- **Planting and Connecting Churches** (Acts 14; 19:1-7; 20:17-20): We are called to plant reproducing communities.
- **Sustainable Models** (1 Thess. 2:9-14; 2 Cor. 11:7-12): Outside of NAMB and IMB we desire to develop ministries toward financial independence.
- **Teachable** (Titus 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:2): Strong leadership must be trained and developed for future growth.

Finally, I pray this has helped you to become aware and informed of the process; however my deepest desire is for you to engage in an International or National Missionary Journey in the future. What does God desire for you to do in Global Missions? An exciting journey awaits your discovery.

Engaging the Culture to Reach the Culture,

Eric Miracle
Minister of Missions

Prayer

Prayer is the foundation of everything we do both as believers and as we are commanded to share the gospel. Pray before, during, and after. Without the Spirit of God, power of God, and Truth of God we are destined for failure.

Prayer Partners:

“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

- John 14:13-14

As a mission’s team member, we want to make sure we cover the trip in prayer. Because of this, we request that you have a team of five prayer partners that will be praying for you constantly before and during the trip. We want to make sure that our trip is bathed in prayer, because our goal is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commission. Due to this, we must be focused in prayer over what we do, how we do it, and why we do things.

What to Pray for your Mission Teams?

- Daily Life Problems
- God’s Protection from Satan’s Attacks (2 Corinthians 10:4, Ephesians 6:10-12) and from Harm and Danger
- The Anointing of the Holy Spirit in their Lives (Ephesians 5:18, Acts 1:8)
- Their Spiritual Life
 - A consistent prayer and Bible study which leads to spiritual growth
- Their Work and Ministry
 - That God will lead them to open hearts and that those who are seeking will find Christ
 - That the Christians will grow in the Lord
 - That they may set priorities and use their time wisely
 - For the national church and its leaders
 - For the decisions of the mission and the national church
- Their Physical Health
 - Eating different foods, or problems with the water supply
 - Climate and the weather
 - The need for times of periodic recreation and rest
 - For safety while traveling
- Their Emotional Health
 - For victory in any struggles with depression, discouragement, frustration, worry and loneliness
 - For positive attitudes, humility, flexibility, friendliness, sensitivity, a good sense of humor and patience
 - For peace of mind about family and events happening back home
- Cultural Awareness
 - For wisdom to understand not only the outward actions but the thinking process

- Their Finances
 - Support needed to go
 - Provision upon return
- Their Relationships
 - With other team members
 - With national workers
 - With non-believers
- Home Assignment
 - Adaptation to coming back home
 - Travel safety
 - Servant attitude in the churches

A Guide to Prayer Walking:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

For many people the idea of prayer walking can be intimidating and awkward. We may be afraid that we will mess up or look funny. Most people don’t understand the concept of prayer walking a neighborhood, school, or village.

What is prayer walking?

When someone prayer walks, he/she simply aims to be more intentional about listening to God and allowing God to help them see the people, places, and situations of their area as God sees it. We become more aware of the dynamics of our surrounds and spiritual warfare. By practicing prayer as we walk our perspectives begin to change. We can learn God’s desire to use us as we interact with those around us and to pray for Kingdom expansion.

5 helpful guidelines for prayer walking around the world:

1. Pray for discernment – that God will reveal what He knows about the people, events, and things of the community; that you will develop the eyes and ears to understand what you see and hear what God is already doing in the community or among the people.
2. Pray for blessing – over houses and people you see and interact with. Pray for God’s intervention in their life so that each one can recognize God in their life.
3. Discover the neighborhood – take a mental note of the resources and opportunities in the community that could be used by God through you, your team, and the missionaries.
4. Interact with the neighborhood – talk with anyone who is interested about their kids playing, problems they are having, and whatever they bring up in the conversation. Encourage people and give a smile.

Passports & Procedures

One of the first steps to going on a mission trip is obtaining a passport. Unless your mission trip is based in the United States, you must have a passport. At one point in time you did not need a passport to travel to Mexico or Canada, but that is no longer the case. To travel outside of the United States, a passport is required.

Passports cost \$110 for a basic passport book, and there is a \$25.00 execution fee for a total cost of \$135.00. Passports generally take 5-6 weeks to be completed and mailed to you.

To obtain a passport, you will need the DS-11 form (this can be found at the hyperlink below), evidence of U.S. citizenship (Birth Certificate, expired passport, etc.), photo identification, and a 2x2 color photo.

For more information on passports, please follow this link:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports.html>

Step 1

Print Form DS-11 from the U.S. Department of State's website. You can fill it out online or print it out and fill it in by hand. Don't sign it yet; you have to do that in front of the postal employee processing your application.

Step 2

Check the State Department's Passport Acceptance Facility Search Page to find the nearest post office that processes passports. It will also list

hours and whether you need an appointment, as well as a contact number if you have questions. Make an appointment, if necessary.

Step 3

Gather your identification documents. To prove you are a U.S. citizen, you can take your old, undamaged passport, a birth certificate, a consular Report of Birth Abroad or Certification of Birth, a naturalization certificate, or a certificate of citizenship. Valid forms of identification include the old passport, a naturalization certificate, a driver's license, or a military or government I.D.

Step 4

Make a copy of the valid I.D., including front and back.

Step 5

Passport Tip!

All passports must be obtained in person and many passport locations do not take credit/debit cards. Checks or money orders are the most commonly accepted forms of payment. You will need two separate payments, \$110 to the U.S. government and \$25 to your local government

Have a passport photo taken. Many photo shops and drugstores provide this service, and some post offices even have the proper machines to take the photos. If you decide to use a photo you already have, make sure it meets the requirements. The photo itself must be 2-by-2 inches, and your head should be between 1 inch and 1 3/8 inches. It must be a color photo with a white or off-white background, printed on photo-quality paper. It should be less than 6 months old to show what you currently look like in a full-on facial shot, and you need to maintain a neutral expression with your eyes open as the picture is snapped. Wear normal street wear and no hat or other head gear unless your religion requires it on a daily basis. You can wear prescription glasses if you normally wear them, but make sure the camera flash doesn't create a glare in the photo.

Step 6

Gather all of your documents and the processing fee, which is \$110 at the time of publication, and go to your post office. You can pay by check, money order or bank draft; some post offices also accept cash. Check with yours before you go.

Step 7

Check at the post office's information desk if you don't see a specially marked area for passport services. The agent processing the applications can answer any questions you have.

Double Check

CAREFULLY CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CURRENT PASSPORT! International travel laws require you to have at least 6 months of validity left on your passport from the planned time of *re-entry* back into the United States as well as *three* blank pages in your passport book or you can be denied access for departure at the airport.

Passports on the Field

Note: Your team leader will have a color copy of your passport with them. Once you are through the airport and traveling ALWAYS keep your passport and the color copy with you. If you are stopped in the country make sure to initially share the copy as giving up your passport may result in travel delays and separation from the team.

Obtaining Your Travel Visa:

- The process for obtaining a Visa varies from country to country. Most countries stamp the Visa into the passport. Normally when we are ready to obtain the Visas, we will collect all passports of the group and send them to Washington, D.C. This can take a few weeks before we receive them.

Planning

A lot of time is spent planning out mission trips. Plans are set between the missionary on the field, the team leader, and the missions department. The plan is put into motion as soon as we touch down, but please keep in mind there are things outside of our control. Weather, governments, and people can all get in the way of our plan and the plan has to be adjusted. Please know that your missions department has made many back up plans, and back up for the back up plans, so please be flexible when we provide you with the plans. If a team leader needs you to do something else than you expected to do, please be aware that it is in the best interest of the group and for the overall mission, so please be flexible with the planning of the trip.

Costs

As most of us are aware, mission trips can vary in price based upon location, length of the trip, the amount of people going, and the cost of living in the area. Due to this, we have a set mission guideline we try and follow at Olive.

- 10 Months Prior to Departure - \$200 Deposit Due
- 5 Months Prior to Departure – ½ Total Trip Cost is Due
- 1 Month Prior to Departure – Total Cost for Trip is Due

It is important to note that mission trip deposits are nonrefundable. Plane tickets are generally scheduled around 4-6 months, and those tickets cannot be transferred to someone else. If you need to back out of the trip, we understand, but we are not always able to refund the flight costs.

NOTE: In certain emergency situations, Olive will work with you on a refund. Those situations include a serious medical issue, a death in the family, or something extreme. If a situation like this occurs, speak with the missions department and we will work with the travel agency to see if a refund is possible. Sometimes the airlines give penalties for canceling flights. If this were to occur we would need to pass along the penalty to you.

Mission Trip Timeline

1 Year	Interest Meeting
	Dates
	Ministry Opportunities
	Deadlines/Costs
10 mos.	Meeting
	Forms Due
	\$200 Deposit Due
	Support Letters Sent
	Apply for Passport
	Language Training
7 mos.	Meeting
	Copy of Passports Due
	Apply for Visas
	Evangelism Training
5 mos.	Meeting
	1/2 total cost due
	Ministry Training
4 mos.	Meeting
	Order Plane Tickets
3 mos.	Meeting
	Team Building
	Basic Language Review
	Evangelism Review
2 mos.	Meeting
	Prayer
	Basic Language Test
1 mos.	Meeting
	Final Payments Due
	Cultural Training
1 wk.	Meeting
	Airport Info
	Last Min. Questions
	Sun. Prayer for Team
Mission Trip	Departure Day
	2 hrs. before flight @ airport
	luggage under 50 lbs.
	Petty Cash and Forms
2 wks. After	Follow-up
	Evaluation of trip
	Pics & Summary to Missions Office
	Team Gathering
	Send Summary Letter to people who supported

Writing Your Testimony

Testimony tips and guidelines:

- Start with a 30 minutes testimony
- Next shrink it to 15 minutes
- Then shrink it to 3 minutes. Each form of your testimony can be used in various settings depending upon the amount of time.
- Realize that different people have different kinds of testimonies. Some have very riveting salvation testimonies, in which they remember distinct lives before and after Christ. Others may not remember life before Christ, but may have a long history of not living for God followed by a “return” to a more meaningful Christian walk. Think through **YOUR** story. It does not have to look and sound just like the next person’s story to be a good testimony.
- Avoid “churchy” words or phrases that may not be understood such as “saved”, “revival”, “walked the aisle” and “born again”.
- Do not give specific ages, instead saying “at a young age”, or “after I grew older”.
- Be careful not to glorify the old life by giving excessive attention to sin.

Writing your draft copy: (Just a sentence or two on each of the five points)

- Give your name and a one-sentence description of what you do
- Tell why you are in the country
- Share your salvation testimony
 - Your life **before** Christ
 - How you were **drawn** to Christ
 - Your life **since** Christ
 - How you have faithfully served God
 - Your decline or complacency after salvation
 - The realization moment or time period
 - Your recommitment/return to Christ
 - How God has used you
- Include one scripture that ties in with your testimony
- Conclude with a **challenge** to accept Christ

Polishing your testimony:

- Proofread your testimony and edit anything that is confusing or redundant.
- Do not be offended when we offer suggestions to improve your written testimony.
- Ask others to proofread your testimony, checking for understanding and an easy flow to your story.
- Write the final copy of your testimony.
- Get comfortable with your testimony by reading it out loud many times, making frequent eye contact in the mirror or with another person.
- Make an outline of your testimony and use this to “tell your story” out loud instead of reading it word for word.
- Practice different ways of sharing your testimony. Tell your story in two minutes or less for use during quick encounters on the roadside. Extend your testimony by inserting an applicable Bible story or the Romans Road as a lead-in to your challenge for the listener to accept Christ. Be prepared to use your testimony whenever and however the need arises.

Sharing Your Story

Introduction

Offer one or two sentences telling who I am and why I want to share my story.

Before I accepted Christ

What was my life like before I accepted Christ?

What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security or happiness from?

How did those areas become unfulfilling or begin to let me down?

How I received Christ

When and/or how did I hear the gospel?

After I accepted Christ

What are some specific changes I have seen in my life since becoming a Christian?

What is a verse that specifically relates to my experience?

Conclusion

Invite my listener to learn more or entreat them to follow my example.

Packing

Your first step when packing should always be to make a packing list! Here is a short list of what you should include on the trip!

- Clothing
 - Be sure to bring enough clothing yet keep it minimal. The option to wash clothes may not be an option.
 - Please ensure the clothing you pack is appropriate for the weather conditions and the culture you visit.
 - Footwear: Wear comfortable shoes that can be worn to walk long distances in. Multiple sets of shoes may be helpful.
 - *Flip-Flops: Many people prefer to bring flip flops to wear in the shower for hygiene reasons.*
- Personal Hygiene & Health
 - Toothbrush/Toothpaste
 - Soap/Shampoo
 - *Pain Relievers*
 - *Sunscreen*
 - *Dryer Sheets (are a cheap method for insect repellent)*
 - 2 Towels
 - Deodorant
 - Bug Repellant (Containing DEET is recommended)
 - Toilet Paper (depending on destination)
- Additional Items
 - *Ear Plugs*
 - *Rain Coat/Umbrella/Poncho*
 - *Phone Charger*
 - *Alarm Clock*
 - *Sheets/Blanket/Pillows (optional, based upon location)*
 - *Miniature Flash Light*
 - *Outlet Converters (optional, based upon location)*

Items NOT to bring:

- Weapons
 - Guns/Knives/Explosives
- Scissors/Trimmers
- Aerosols
- Lighters
- Distractions
 - TV/Movies can be a major distraction and prevent full focus on why we are going. Leave these at home.
- Expensive Electronics
 - There may be times where your bags are not supervised. It would be wise to leave these at home where conditions are safer.
- Expensive Jewelry/Clothing

- Feel free to bring some dress clothes, but we will be in the field working most of the time and expensive dress clothes and jewelry can give a bad example and be a problem.
- Negative Thoughts
 - 2 Corinthians 10:5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- Fears!
 - We will be in places that may be dangerous, but we serve a God that is bigger than any threat. Trust Him!

Carry On Bags:

Your carry-on bag should hold things that are useful to you on the ground. There may be times where your luggage gets lost, so here are some things we recommend bringing with you in a carry on:

- Bible
- Pen/Paper/Notebook
- Cell Phone Charger
- Camera
- Books/Entertainment/ Language Guide
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/ Chap stick/ Disposable toothbrush packs
- Sealed Snacks/ ***Empty*** Water Bottle
- Change of clothes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Sunglasses
- Headphones (For movies on plane)

Additional Packing Notes:

- Make sure your suitcase has proper identification.
- Sometimes it may be wise to bring a disposable suitcase (these can be obtained cheaply at Goodwill, etc.) and disposable clothing that you can leave behind to save money on baggage fees.
- Keep medication in original containers and at the top of your luggage. Needed medicine should be in your carry-on bag.
- Keep all liquids in a zip lock container and on top of your luggage
- Roll your clothes; do not fold them, to save space. Try to either roll clothing or place in 2 12/ gallon Ziploc bags to divide them.

Immunization Information & Medication

IMPORTANT! It is the responsibility of the traveler to make SURE that the immunization requirements of the particular country being visited are met. Please visit www.cdc.gov to see what immunizations are REQUIRED and what immunizations are SUGGESTED with plenty of time to spare before leaving the United States. Please plan accordingly! See below for a list of suggested locations for immunizations.

1. Escambia County Health Department
 - 1295 W. Fairfield Dr., Pensacola, FL 32501; 850-595-6554
 - 8390 N. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32534; 850-484-5151
2. Santa Rosa County Health Department
 - Milton Office: 5527 Stewart St., Milton, FL 32572; 850-983-5200
 - Gulf Breeze Office: 5840 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563; 850-934-4074
3. General or Family Physician
4. Mobile County Health Department
 - 251 N. Bayou St., Mobile, AL 3603; 251-690-8158

Typical Immunizations Needed:

- Routine vaccines (most of these are given to students in school)
 - Tetanus
 - Chickenpox
 - Measles
 - Etc.
- Hepatitis A (depending upon location)
- Hepatitis B (depending upon location)
- Yellow Fever (depending upon location)
- Malaria (depending upon location)
- Typhoid (depending upon location)

Malaria Medication (if needed for your location):

- Malarone
- Chloroquine
- Doxycycline
- Primaquine

Note: Always check for a generic form of the medicines. Some shots can be combined and others may have a pill form if desired depending upon the cost. Health Departments or Medical Offices may not have the vaccines in stock and could take weeks to a month before they arrive. Offices will only order what they know is needed.

Here are some common medications you want to consider bringing with you. (We listed a couple of examples. You don't have to bring this exact brand, but just giving some ideas!)

- Anti-Diarrheal
 - Example: Immodium AD
- Anti-Nausea
 - Example: Emetrol
- Antibiotic
 - Example: Cipro (Prescription needed)
- Vitamins
 - Example: One-A-Day
- Heartburn Relief
 - Example: Tums
- Pain Killers
 - Tylenol
- Sleep Aid
 - Tylenol PM

Airline Travel

Nearly all mission trips will involve airline travel, so it is important to understand some best practices of airline travel that will make your trip a bit easier!

- Airline Clothing
 - Wear shoes that are easy to remove and clothes that do not require a belt when traveling through the airport. This will make security checkpoints easier
- Money Belt
 - Take a money belt that can be easily concealed and kept on you to prevent theft.
- Follow the 3-1-1 rule closely
 - This rule means that any fluid or substance be 3oz. or less in a plastic Ziploc bag on top.
- Suitcase Weight Limits
 - Even carry-on sizes are specific and incur penalties. (i.e./ Delta is 22x14x9)
 - Know your suitcase weight limits and stay under the weight limit by 5-10 lbs.
 - Weigh your suitcase before your trip so there are no unexpected charges when you arrive at the airport.
- Arrival Times
 - For International Flights arrive 2-3 hours early
 - For U.S. flights arrive 1-2 hours early.
- Baggage Fee Policy
 - Every airline has its own baggage fee policy, be aware of the policy before flight and be financially prepared.
- Traveling through the Airports
 - Remember 1 leader in the front, 1 leader in the middle, and 1 leader at the end of the group to make sure everyone makes it through.
 - Splitting up into teams of 2 can help disperse the group.
 - When traveling have a buddy and know where your buddy is at all times.
 - Always go to the gate for departure as a team and then take time to go to the bathroom or grab something to eat.

Note: Part of the experience of a mission journey is time spent with the missionary team. To assist with team unity we ask that anyone who has airline status and ability to relax in the airline club hangers would refrain from doing so. This tends to segregate the group and we lose opportunity to connect with each other prior to the trip.

Security Checkpoints

Security checkpoints & customs are a common place of frustration for travelers, so please be ready and pay attention while passing through security. Here is what you should need:

- Documentation:
 - Driver's License (If you have been asked to drive)
 - Passport
 - Know where your visa stamp is located in the Passport
 - Airline Tickets
 - Immunization Records
 - Emergency Contact Information
 - Destination Contact Information
 - Money/Credit Cards

- Technology
 - Remove ALL ELECTRONICS and shut them completely off for screening.

Customs:

- Always carry a pen
- Keep your passport, contact info, and flight ticket easily accessible for filling out forms or asked by a Customs Agent.
- Keys for locks should be easily accessible
- If your VISA says tourist, be sure to check tourist.
- Always be courteous and respectful
- Remember who you are going to visit and why you are going: As a tourist!

Custom's Form:

The Customs Declaration Form will require the following information so plan ahead.

1. Print Last name, First name, and Middle initial or name.
2. Date of Birth
3. No. of family members traveling with you.
4. Current Street Address in the US
5. Name of the country that issued your passport
6. Passport Number
7. Country of Residence.
8. Name of Countries you visited or will visit.
9. Name and address of someone in the country you will be staying

10. Airline Name and Flight Number
11. Mark an X in the tourist box only!
12. Mark an X in the Yes or No box. Are you bringing with you:
 - a. Fruits, plants, food, or insects?
 - b. Meats, animals, or wildlife?
 - c. Disease agents, cell cultures, or snails?
 - d. Farm, ranch, pasture
13. Mark an X in the Yes or No box.

Have you or any family members traveling with you been in close proximity of such as touching or handling livestock?

14. Mark an X in the Yes or No box.

Are you or any family members traveling with you bringing \$10,000 or more in U.S. dollars or foreign equivalent in any form into the United States?



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Customs Declaration FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 1551-0009

19 CFR 122.27, 148.12, 148.13, 148.110, 148.111, 1498, 31 CFR 53.96

Each arriving traveler or responsible family member must provide the following information (only ONE written declaration per family is required):

1. Family Name
- First (Given) Middle
2. Birth date Day Month Year
3. Number of Family members traveling with you
4. (a) U.S. Street Address (hotel name/destination)
- (b) City (c) State
5. Passport issued by (country)
6. Passport number
7. Country of Residence
8. Countries visited on this trip prior to U.S. arrival
9. Airline/Flight No. or Vessel Name
10. The primary purpose of this trip is **business**: Yes No
11. I am (We are) bringing

(a) fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, food, insects:	Yes	No
(b) meats, animals, animal/wildlife products:	Yes	No
(c) disease agents, cell cultures, snails:	Yes	No
(d) soil or have been on a farm/ranch/pasture:	Yes	No
12. I have (We have) been in close proximity of (such as touching or handling) **livestock**: Yes No
13. I am (We are) carrying **currency or monetary instruments** over \$10,000 U.S. or foreign equivalent: Yes No
(see definition of monetary instruments on reverse)
14. I have (We have) **commercial merchandise**: Yes No
(articles for sale, samples used for soliciting orders, or goods that are not considered personal effects)
15. **Residents** — the total value of all goods, including commercial merchandise I/we have purchased or acquired abroad, (including gifts for someone else, but not items mailed to the U.S.) and am/are bringing to the U.S. is: \$
- Visitors** — the total value of all articles that will remain in the U.S., including commercial merchandise is: \$

Read the instructions on the back of this form. Space is provided to list all the items you must declare.

I HAVE READ THE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND HAVE MADE A TRUTHFUL DECLARATION.

X

(Signature)

Date (day/month/year)

Additional Travel Notes:

Travel is different for everyone, so there is no set way to make everyone comfortable. It is wise to never check essential items such as passport, money, identification, jewelry, or electronics. For your comfort, it is smart to wear layers for flights, as temperatures may change drastically between take off and destination. Your shoes should be easily removable to make passing through security easier. Finally, when you get through security, head straight for your gate, meet with the team and team leader, and then go to the restroom or to get food.

Notes When Flying:

- Drink lots of fluids and little to no carbonated beverages. This helps with jetlag and fatigue.
- Exercise your legs while sitting or get up and stretch when possible for better blood flow.
- Try not to cross your legs which hinder blood flow.
- Each hour difference from your time zone equals one day of recovering when returning back to the United States.

Training

Training will be done outside of this manual in a relevant and specific manner to your trip. The following information might be covered by your team leader prior to traveling on the mission field.

1. Evangelism Training
2. Evangelism Testing
3. Language Training
4. Language Testing
5. Specifics of the country and culture you are traveling to.
6. Spiritual Gifts Survey

Culture Shock

Every person will experience some level of culture shock, whether it is mild or extreme, and it usually is based on similarity to your own culture, the length of the trip, where you travel, your personal level of adaptability. Culture shock isn't a bad thing. God can use this feeling to stretch our view of the world, our view of people, and challenge our personal values and how we live. Some people feel it while overseas, some upon returning home, and others in both environments. The lessons you learn from traveling will not end the moment you set foot on familiar ground. Be ready to have your life shaken up a bit. Get excited!

Engage them... The focus of the mission trip is people, and you must be willing to engage the people you meet! From the nationals who want you to learn their culture and welcome you with open arms, be open and work to initiate conversation. Ask questions that are level and not based from a position of judgment or criticism and be willing to learn and admit that you do not have it all figured out. You'll learn so much more if you don't fake it! Learn to laugh at yourself. Everyone will make cultural mistakes—learn to apologize and move on. Your hosts will appreciate your effort to learn. Spend time with the people, learn from them, develop caring relationships with them, and connect with them as deeply as you can. Give of yourself and you will receive back a hundred fold.

Enjoy their home! Enjoy the location you are in! Whether it be the food, energy, way of life, everything. Remember that God made these people and that their differences make them unique and God loves their uniqueness just as He loves yours! In other cultures, people think differently and look at life differently. Try to find the instructive elements of that difference and challenge your own way of thinking. Learn to see the similarities and bridges between your home and their home, between you and them.

Adapt yourself... No matter what country you visit, you will need to change your tactics to fit in and to reach people. The way you dress, your volume, your actions, everything—consider yourself a work-in-progress, needing continual editing. Be humble and flexible to the advice or direction of your team leader and the local missionary. Always demonstrate respect for age and status.

Adapt to their view of time. Dress modestly, in accordance with cultural rules and with appropriate attire for the job you are doing. Don't let your image reflect the common misconception about Christians from the United States but work to reflect your true values from Christ. Seek to live above reproach in regard to the opposite sex. Singles of both sexes should be extra cognizant and careful about what they say, how much affection they show, and the gestures and facial expressions they make.

ON THE FIELD

Team Leader

- The team follows the direction of the missionary or their designated leader. In turn the team will follow the direction of the trained OBC Team Leader.
- The Missionary or Church Planter will coordinate training, information, and change of plans with the OBC Team Leader of the Mission Trip. They do not need your expertise to gather information ahead of schedule or solve a problem. The fewer chiefs the better. Wait and be patient. If the Team Leader needs to discuss something with the team allow them to ask the questions and request a brainstorming time for the trip.
- Ask the team leader how you can help them.
- Be the leader you wish you had. Be the team member your leader wish they had.

Currency Exchange

As you travel on a mission trip typically situations come up where you will need to use local currency. Plan ahead and find out what the currency name and exchange rate would be from U.S. dollars. The most accurate and live currency exchange rate for all countries can be found online www.xe.com/currencyconverter or by downloading the app (XE Currency).

To exchange the U.S. dollar to the local currency where you are traveling plan to either call your local bank one month ahead of the trip date and ask if they have or can gather the currency for that country, plan to exchange at an airport or local bank in that country. Sometimes the exchange rate is better in the United States. Please note that most countries will request you have U.S. dollars in new \$50 or \$100 dollar increments when transferring overseas.

In Foreign Soil

Here are some important things you need to know when looking at how to behave and carry yourself overseas.

1. You will be the minority. You may have feelings of isolation.
2. There are times when teams get off the plane and immediately feel a spiritual darkness. Remember we are fighting a spiritual war.
3. Sometimes people feel disoriented.
4. Act with boldness. You have prayed and paid for this trip. Make it count.
5. You are a representative of Christ, OBC, and the local Church in that area. Know location and times about the Church. Always speak as though you are from that Church using words such as, “My, we, us, etc.”
6. Always be aware of your surroundings. Keep up with your stuff (i.e./ backpack, passport, money, jacket, etc.).
7. Remember you are a guest, not a host. You are in their country and things are different. Be respectful and courteous.
8. All cultures are different and sometimes terminology is different. That means be careful what you say, how you word things, and be aware of common practices.
9. The “unspoken rules” of time and space don’t apply universally. Some cultures aren’t so time driven as America and others don’t maintain the same personal space levels as America. Be aware of this beforehand.
10. Each person may have a different view of work, attitude, and care than you. Don’t try to force your view onto others. Work to build relationships.
11. Words are powerful. Communication, habits and words are different. Guard your words very carefully. As a guest, do not criticize, make fun of, belittle or reject anything you encounter. These things are a part of their lives. Criticizing them will undoubtedly offend.
12. There are different views regarding the sexes, marriage, and the family. It is not your responsibility or place to decide whether these are best or even right. Respect their views and their preferences.
13. Make new friends and mix with your fellow team members.
14. Never go anywhere alone. For safety reasons, always have 2-3 together at all times.
15. No PDA (Public displays of affection) will be tolerated with each other or the nationals. Many cultures consider demonstrative behavior (even between husbands and wives) to be extremely inappropriate in a public setting.
16. Unless you are sick, you will stay with the team every day for the entire time!
17. When we stop you stop. When we eat you eat. When we go to the bathroom you need to go to the bathroom. Everything has a domino effect.
18. Free days require the team to stay together. We can’t see everything. If everyone splits up we tend to have problems finding people and leaving on time.
19. If the team purchases food at the grocery store we need to purchase basic items and simple items everyone can eat. We cannot buy items for one or two people.
20. Expect to either have a bunk bed or share a bed depending upon the accommodations.
21. Expect to work rain or shine.
22. Expect to get up early and work late.
23. Expect to be stretched.
24. Expect that your expectations won’t all be met on the trip. Sometimes we create a false view of the trip.

Common Values and Connections:

- Always remember that the love of Christ is a bridge over any cultural differences.
- All people want to experience love, respect, and appreciation for who they are.
- Social activities like sports, music, art and drama can connect people across cultural and linguistic boundaries. Use these opportunities and other gifts to build friendships.
- Showing kindness, love, and respect speaks louder than any words you can say.
- Every person needs to know Christ as their Lord and Savior, this is the focus.

Food & Drink

While on a mission trip, you will get the chance to experience many new kinds of foods and drinks. Food that is strange to you is daily fare in your host country. Although we encourage you to try foods that are given by missionaries to you, be careful with what you eat.

Be a gracious guest and eat what is put before you. In many cultures it can be seen as offensive and sometimes the people make more food than they have in weeks in honor of you and your team as a celebration. A good practice is to sample everything and find someone on the team who loves that certain food and share with them.

Some foods may not be agreeable with you, so be prepared to deal with this situation. It may be wise to bring medicine that will help you adjust to the variety of foods you will eat. This is especially the case if you have a common tendency to have digestion problems.

Please keep in mind that unless you have a food allergy, you will be expected to eat what is given to you or quietly and respectfully push the food around as though you are eating. We have to make a good impression and as a group we do not want to seem inhospitable or unthankful.

- Don't eat vegetables or fruit your missionary hasn't given you.
- Only fruit that can be peeled should be eaten. Expect to eat what the locals are eating.
- Outside of the U.S. don't drink anything with ice.
- Outside of the U.S. don't drink water unless it is in a bottle and you watch them open it.
- Outside of the U.S. don't brush your teeth with anything other than bottled water.

Flex & Go

“Flex & Go” means:

- Always recognize we are in a different culture with a different value system of time.
- Always be ready to change plans and go when they tell us. It is only bad manners if they are waiting on us.
- Memorize it, Meditate on it, and Share it!

Reasons for change:

- Satan doesn't want something to work out
- Weather
- Problems with government
- Problems with location
- A new resource or opportunity opened up that would be to our advantage
- Something seems dangerous

What could change?

- When we leave for an event.
- The day or time of the event.
- The event itself.
- Who we partner with for the event.

How to handle a situation that changed?

- Stay calm
- Remember plan A sometimes was our plan and never God's intention. We only have to align ourselves with God's plan A.
- Remember the main reason for being there on the field. The purpose of a mission trip is a direct correlation from the commandment of God. The projects of a mission trip are a direct correlation from the communion with God.
- If our partner or contact believes this will help their ministry better then we want to do so.
- Trust the team leader and missionary contact is making the best decision based upon the circumstances.
- Remember no one ever likes change unless they are the person changing something for their benefit. Help encourage the missionary contact, team leader, and team instead of choosing to use negative or pessimistic words in the midst of a circumstance that was altered.
- Ask your team leader if you can do anything to help them.
- Use the waiting time to prayer walk or engage a national.

Dealing with Conflict

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

- Galatians 5:22-23

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

- Eph. 4:29

Conflict will happen during mission trips. Lack of sleep, uncommon situations, and spiritual warfare will lead to conflict. There are a couple of things you can do to communicate during conflict.

- Remain calm
- Take a time out. This allows tempers to calm down.
- Resolve conflicts quickly. When problems arise, go directly to the person you are having an issue with and deal with it in a private and mature manner. If a resolution cannot be reached, go to your team leader. DO NOT resort to seething resentment or slanderous gossip. This will only tear a team apart.
- Speak in a normal and a soft voice. Raising your voice or temper only escalates the situation.
- Ask yourself why that person might have responded in that manner. Understanding why they do what they do helps to see their struggle.
- Never take something personal even if it was meant to be.
- How could you have responded differently each day?
- Utilize good eye contact.
- Show you care.
- If they don't feel they are being heard try and repeat what was just said for clarification.
- Sometimes the best way to fix a problem is apologizing when we know someone has been offended.
- Ask how you can move forward as a team for God's glory?
- Remember, Satan wants to break the unity and cause chaos in the group. If a team member or team is focused on conflict within then they are less focused with the goal of the trip.
- Complaining can lead to disobedience.
- Some of the most stressful times on the trip will be the funniest stories at a later date.

Encouraging Others

7 Simple Ways to Encourage Others:

1. Show genuine interest in others.
2. Acknowledge what's important to them.
3. Compliment individuals when you see them do something.
4. Say, "Thank You" even for the little things.
5. Reciprocate the favor if someone has done something nice for you.
6. Respond with an act of kindness that is unexpected in the moment.
7. Offer to help if someone is tired, stressed, or unable to complete a task.

Stereotyping

A stereotype is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing. When on missions, we must avoid making any kind of stereotype and embrace people for who they are and where they are. We must make sure our attitudes and perceptions are not based upon cultural stereotypes that will make us ineffective in fulfilling the Great Commission. Be honest with yourself and with fellow team members as you recognize stereotypes in yourself, and be sure to talk with other members about it. This will help you move beyond the stereotype and work to forge genuine relationships.

Common American Stereotypes of others:

Negative	Positive
Uneducated	Good Family Life
Superstitious	Friendly
Inefficient	Sincere
Naïve	Content
Lazy	Enthusiastic
Inflexible	
Needing Great Help	

Common Stereotypes of Americans by others:

Negative	Positive
Loud/Arrogant	Confident
Superiority Complex	Educated
Aggressive	Efficient
Wealthy/Materialistic	Successful
Corrupt/Violent	
Demanding	
Competitive/Selfish	

Translators

Tips for Speaking with a Translator Overseas:

1. Share Notes – If possible show your translator your notes before the presentation so they can review and understand the thought process. Make sure the interpreter knows what Scripture you will be reading. Often it is easier for the translator to read in their language instead of you reading the English version.
2. Speak Slow – People naturally speak faster on stage or in front of a large group.
3. Short Sentences – Use short sentences. Do not speak in 3-5 sentences before stopping as the interpreter will have to remember all of the information and summarize what you had said.
4. Eye Contact – Use eye contact with the crowd and do not look at the interpreter to show focus and priority.
5. Repeat – If the translator asks you a question repeat slowly or try another word/sentence that means the same thing.
6. Time – Recognize that using an interpreter takes up more time if you are sharing your testimony or a message.
7. Content – Sometimes we can simplify a thought or content, but too often we dumb down the Gospel. You can use a heavy thought or statement without using difficult words.
8. Words – Sometimes words in English and that language in various countries may have different meanings.
9. Examples and Jokes – Be careful using examples. Make sure they relate to the culture and not just to the United States. Jokes often times are not understood unless it is simple and universal.
10. Compliment – always welcome and compliment the people with their love, hospitality, and beautiful country.
11. Same Letters – Avoid using alliteration or acronyms as they do not translate well with different languages.

Taking Pictures and/or Videos

Please remember to ask the parents of any children you would like to photograph. In some countries they believe you are taking their soul by snapping a picture. In other places they have been exploited for the location and do not want you to do so. When you return home you will want to share the pictures and videos of your journey with others. A great way of doing this is by sharing them with Olive Missions for our website. We would ask that you only give us your top 5 pictures if you plan to share them with us.

Pictures We Can Use:

- Interaction with locals
- Ministry pictures
- Acts of service
- Worship

Pictures We CAN'T USE:

- Food
- Staged or posed pictures
- Animals unless it is part of a city or village scene

Security Training

Code 1: **Open** Communication. Presence of missionary and evangelism is openly known and practiced.

Code 2: **Cautious** Communication. Environment is tolerant but suspicious towards evangelism. Consequence of miscommunication is loss of voice among the people group. There may be limited physical danger and the risk of loss of presence. Communication is indirect and guarded. Communication with public is prudent and limited.

Code 3: **Restricted** Communication. Environment is intolerant and antagonistic towards evangelism. Consequences include loss of voice, freedom or access to the people group. Field personnel relate to the IMB through a limited circle of administrators. Communication to the field is restricted to the essentials and is routed through the Regional Office. No public statements about their work.

Steps for Security and Travel:

1. Remember you are traveling as a tourist. What would a tourist go to that location to see?
2. Never share about the Church or the missionary partners.
3. Always know something about the person you are writing down who you will meet there. For example, make sure you know their names and something about them as a person such as likes, family, etc.
4. Keep your luggage labels or tags covered and not easily readable.
5. Always keep a lock on your suitcase.
6. Always turn off your electronic devices until you are away from the airport security as new technology can scan your equipment for vital information.
7. Place a password or encryption on your electronics. It is possible to rapidly download info from a device even if it is turned off w/ little electronic prints on someone's glove.
8. When using electronic equipment in a public place look around to see if someone is standing near enough to view what you are doing.
9. Always lock the doors of the hotel or bathrooms behind you.
10. Always stay in a group of 2 or more people and never wonder off by yourself.
11. Look behind you when walking to see if someone seems to be following you.
12. Do not speak loudly in English when traveling. You may not blend in, but try and keep low profiles to show signs of respect for the country.
13. Do not wear expensive jewelry or clothing when travelling.
14. Be a chameleon as best as possible.
15. Do not show or count your money in a public setting. Always prepare to separate your money into smaller bills for easier access without retrieving them to see what you have.
16. Keep special, expensive, or personal items in the center of pockets and not on the outside.
17. Always be mindful of those around you. Notice if someone is walking too close.
18. Never set down an expensive or personal item without someone else watching it.
19. Always be mindful of your backpack and pockets. If needed keep your hand in your front pocket over the item you are protecting. If needed move your backpack to the front and place your arms around it.
20. Never watch a group arguing or fighting as many times this is a distraction method for trained thieves.
21. Always ask your missionary partners where the boundaries are to travel safely. If an area does not look safe choose a better way or head back to the lodging area.
22. When engaged for information as to why you are there always use simple childlike explanations. Never give personal information out. Playing dumb helps to move the process along.

Note: Certain Mission Trips will require a Special Travel Safety Course to assist security tips, travel, and support.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What ages must children be to go on a missionary journey?*
 - Some of the regional and national journeys are very family friendly for children of all ages. However each journey is unique, and the decision on whether younger children are allowed on any given trip, especially the international journeys, will be decided by the mission partners, team leader, and the Minister of Missions. This decision will depend on factors such as the location, the maturity level of child, and the intended ministry during the journey. All journeys are spiritually strenuous, and many are also physically taxing. It is important for parents to understand that these journeys are a team effort, and it is vital that nothing inhibits the ministry focus. Because the productive roles of the parents will be somewhat limited with younger children along, it is important that a careful assessment is made for each instance.

2. *Who will be leading the missionary journeys?*
 - Team Leaders are either pastors or lay people with experience and training. Most have been on journeys before and are very familiar with the process of leading a team. All are pre-approved to lead a trip by the Missions Committee or the Missions Minister.

3. *Is there a deposit for my journey?*
 - Yes, each journey requires a deposit to be paid in full by your 2nd Team Meeting. The deposit amount is a nonrefundable \$200.

4. *What if I fundraise more money than I need to pay for my journey?*
 - Federal tax law states that all funds received assist the entire team project, so excess money that is raised will be put toward the total journey cost and divided among those on the team that have not yet raised their full amount. That being said, each person is ultimately responsible for their own journey cost. Unless a deduction is given due to excess funds from other individuals, any funds not raised at the end of the fundraising period must be paid in full by all team members that have not met their fundraising goal.

5. *Can I use frequent flyer miles to pay for the airline portion of my journey?*
 - It is possible to use your frequent flyer miles, but several conditions must be met. First, your Frequent Flyer airline must match the carrier that is used to book the flight for the journey or a portion of the journey. Second, you must be able to get a ticket that exactly matches your team's itinerary so there are no logistical delays in transit. Third, the process of booking a ticket with frequent flyer miles will be your personal responsibility instead of Olive Baptist Church's.

6. *Can I receive frequent flyer miles for my mission trip journey from the airlines?*
 - It is your responsibility to request flight miles either before or once at the airport from the airline company the team will be using to fly.

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POST-TRIP

Returning Home

Questions to Ask:

1. Where did you see God today?
2. How did you grow on this trip?
3. Remember you are leaving the location, but those God has called to be missionaries must remain to continue the work set before them. How can you help them while back home?
4. Who do you know that needs to experience a mission trip? Will you encourage them to go?

One of the hardest, yet most unexpected, things to deal with on a mission trip is reintegrating back into your own culture when you come home. There are many people who think everything is great but seem to have emotional or social problems when they come home. This is known as “Reentry Stress” or “Reintegration Stress”

What is Re-entry or Reintegration stress?

- This is the opposite of culture stress. This is the feeling of disorientation brought on by entering your familiar setting where the reality no longer feels the same.
- This is generally associated with coming home and things are seemingly the same, yet you inexplicitly know something is different but you can't explain what.

Common Symptoms of Re-entry Stress:

- Disorientation – Feeling out of place or that you no longer fit in with your peers.
- Loneliness – Feelings of Isolation or being “lost in the crowd”
- Restlessness – A desire to “get away” from those who don't understand/care.
- Exhaustion – A feeling of tiredness or listlessness that doesn't go away
- Identity – A feeling unable to cop, feeling like “just another cog in the wheel”
- Attitude – Feeling critical of home country (waste, extravagance, etc.)
- Superiority – Feeling that you stand aloof from others because of your experience.
- Defensiveness – Feeling defensive in responses about missions and other areas of life.
- Dissatisfaction – Feeling generally dissatisfied with life or normal activities.

Re-entry Coping Styles:

- **Isolation and Alienation**
 - A person who responds this way generally pulls away from being in stressful situations and likes to be alone or with like-minded people
 - They continue to identify with the home culture, but may show strong negative reactions to it.
 - This person may express a strong judgmental posture towards the values and lifestyle of the home culture.

- May experience deep feelings of guilt over the home culture's materialism and affluence.
 - Unaware of other alternatives to impact the home culture, church, or campus group.
 - NEEDS: This person needs someone who has been through reentry to help them understand the transition process and explore options to get involved at home.
- **Imitations and Socialization**
 - Goes "native" and reverts immediately back to conventional norms.
 - Resumes life as if nothing happened to them at all on the mission trip.
 - Unable to translate the short term experience to their daily life
 - Demonstrates a high need for acceptance in the home culture
 - Afraid of the repercussions of bring different or standing on convictions
 - NEEDS: To be with compassionate, mission minded people who can assist in sorting out the short term experience and apply it to daily life.
- **Integrative and Proactive**
 - Accepts the reality of the two different cultures
 - Relates back with the home culture in a way that is non-compromising.
 - Recognizes that changes have occurred through the mission experience.
 - Continues to learn lifestyle incorporating the old and new.
 - NEEDS: Seeks support from likeminded people

How to Cope with Re-entry Stress:

- Expect reentry stress when coming home. Allocate time and energy to cope with these. Review coping strategies listed below.
- Spend time working to balance readjustment with new values
- Consciously apply your theology of culture to your home culture.
- Develop a group of people who have shared similar experiences as you where you can discuss, grow, and support a mission's focus.
- Cultivate friendships with people from the area you were in
- When you want to talk about your overseas experience more than they want to hear, explain that you need to talk through things and get things off your chest. Most people will listen because they care for you, not the information.
- Keep detailed records that will allow you to better communicate your experience. Every detail you can needs to be written down so you can reflect on them later and communicate them well.
- Find a place to serve in your local church. Review the ministries offered and how you can use your gifts and experiences to serve others and encourage missions.
- Recognize that your supporters may be under a great deal of stress themselves. Be reciprocal and work to help them, care for them, and support them as much as you can.

Unexpected Situation	Reaction	Suggestions for Avoiding
To arrive home feeling drained	Tiredness, lethargy	Try not to overschedule yourself, but give yourself some relaxation/rest time between the trip and normal life
To feel “foreign” upon returning home.	Confusion, disorientation	Make yourself aware of any internal changes you have experienced and be aware of them.
A “let-down” feeling once returning home	Disappointed, unfulfilled	Many people operate on an emotional high during the trip, and they crash when they get home. Be ready for this let down and adjust slowly.
Readjustments that take more than a few days	Discouragement	Readjustment can take quite a bit of time, so don’t try to rush it but let it occur on its own.
To feel “out of touch” with current events.	Embarrassment	Plan ahead to get caught up. Spend time reading or have someone catch you up when you arrive home.
Feeling of personal values changing	Uncertainty, confusion	Work to define the change you are feeling and relate that to your current culture. Reflect on this change.
Desire for others to see/ things differently	Frustration, discouragement	Keep in mind, you were the one who went on the trip and your perspective has changed, not theirs.
Others showing little interest in hearing about your experiences	Discouragement, withdrawal, resentment	Try to understand that others can not relate to your experiences as you wish they would. Some people are uninterested, while some are unable to understand.
People asking many superficial questions	Irritation	Be prepared to face these questions and develop ways to transition from these questions to the questions you want to communicate.
To be appalled at the value of home society	Disappointment, Discouragement	Be prepared for a greater gap between your moral values and the ones held by the culture
People back home seem insensitive or apathetic to the needs of others	Anger, Discouragement	Do not let yourself become self-righteous but try to lovingly inform them about the world’s needs and encourage them to find a way to contribute
To be troubled at the imbalance of Christian workers at home compared to abroad	Impatience, discouragement, disillusionment	Accept this imbalance and instead of reacting emotionally, plan on how you can use your life and experience to challenge others into missions service
People seem to be so ethnocentric	Rejecting, feeling of superiority	Remember that you do not have the right to judge others on the basis of your own experiences.
To be ignored or not treated differently	Disillusionment, hurt feelings	Even though you are special, do not view missions as a way to get the spotlight on you. Realize others are involved as well
To hold a critical attitude toward your own culture or peers	Guilt, Frustration	Keep breathing spiritually, and do not let your critical attitude slip in during readjustment. Do not allow the things that bother you be a tool Satan uses against you.
To feel lonely	Unfulfilled, rejection	If you formed deep relationships, it will hurt dealing with the loss of the friendship. Seek out new relationships at home and do not isolate yourself.

Oswald Chambers Devotional Excerpts

(Note: From *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers)

What is a Missionary? (Oct. 26) The controlling factor is not needs, but obedience.

Jesus said to them again, ' . . . As the Father has sent Me, I also send you' —John 20:21

A missionary is someone sent by Jesus Christ just as He was sent by God. The great controlling factor is not the needs of people, but the command of Jesus. The source of our inspiration in our service for God is behind us, not ahead of us. The tendency today is to put the inspiration out in front— to sweep everything together in front of us and make it conform to our definition of success. But in the New Testament the inspiration is put behind us, and is the Lord Jesus Himself. The goal is to be true to Him— to carry out His plans.

Personal attachment to the Lord Jesus and to His perspective is the one thing that must not be overlooked. In missionary work the great danger is that God's call will be replaced by the needs of the people, to the point that human sympathy for those needs will absolutely overwhelm the meaning of being sent by Jesus. The needs are so enormous, and the conditions so difficult, that every power of the mind falters and fails. We tend to forget that the one great reason underneath all missionary work is not primarily the elevation of the people, their education, nor their needs, but is first and foremost the command of Jesus Christ— "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19).

When looking back on the lives of men and women of God, the tendency is to say, "What wonderfully keen and intelligent wisdom they had, and how perfectly they understood all that God wanted!" But the keen and intelligent mind behind them was the mind of God, not human wisdom at all. We give credit to human wisdom when we should give credit to the divine guidance of God being exhibited through childlike people who were "foolish" enough to trust God's wisdom and His supernatural equipment.

The Method of Missions (Oct. 27) “Go and make disciples” not “Go and save souls”.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . . —Matthew 28:19

Jesus Christ did not say, “Go and save souls” (the salvation of souls is the supernatural work of God), but He said, “Go . . . make disciples of all the nations” Yet you cannot make disciples unless you are a disciple yourself. When the disciples returned from their first mission, they were filled with joy because even the demons were subject to them. But Jesus said, in effect, “Don’t rejoice in successful service— the great secret of joy is that you have the right relationship with Me” (see Luke 10:17-20). The missionary’s great essential is remaining true to the call of God, and realizing that his one and only purpose is to disciple men and women to Jesus. Remember that there is a passion for souls that does not come from God, but from our desire to make converts to our point of view.

The challenge to the missionary does not come from the fact that people are difficult to bring to salvation, that backsliders are difficult to reclaim, or that there is a barrier of callous indifference. No, the challenge comes from the perspective of the missionary’s own personal relationship with Jesus Christ— “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” (Matthew 9:28). Our Lord unwaveringly asks us that question, and it confronts us in every individual situation we encounter. The one great challenge to us is— do I know my risen Lord? Do I know the power of His indwelling Spirit? Am I wise enough in God’s sight, but foolish enough according to the wisdom of the world, to trust in what Jesus Christ has said? Or am I abandoning the great supernatural position of limitless confidence in Christ Jesus, which is really God’s only call for a missionary? If I follow any other method, I depart altogether from the methods prescribed by our Lord— “All authority has been given to Me Go therefore. . .” (Matthew 28:18-19).

Missionary Weapons (2) (Sept 11) What seems random may be divinely engineered. Have your tools ready.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet —John 13:14

Ministering in Everyday Opportunities. Ministering in everyday opportunities that surround us does not mean that we select our own surroundings— it means being God's very special choice to be available for use in any of the seemingly random surroundings which He has engineered for us. The very character we exhibit in our present surroundings is an indication of what we will be like in other surroundings.

The things Jesus did were the most menial of everyday tasks, and this is an indication that it takes all of God's power in me to accomplish even the most common tasks in His way. Can I use a towel as He did? Towels, dishes, sandals, and all the other ordinary things in our lives reveal what we are made of more quickly than anything else. It takes God Almighty Incarnate in us to do the most menial duty as it ought to be done.

Jesus said, "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (13:15). Notice the kind of people that God brings around you, and you will be humiliated once you realize that this is actually His way of revealing to you the kind of person you have been to Him. Now He says we should exhibit to those around us exactly what He has exhibited to us.

Do you find yourself responding by saying, "Oh, I will do all that once I'm out on the mission field"? Talking in this way is like trying to produce the weapons of war while in the trenches of the battlefield—you will be killed while trying to do it.

We have to go the "second mile" with God (see Matthew 5:41). Yet some of us become worn out in the first ten steps. Then we say, "Well, I'll just wait until I get closer to the next big crisis in my life." But if we do not steadily minister in everyday opportunities, we will do nothing when the crisis comes.

The Key to the Missionary's Work (2) (Oct. 15) we must tell Jesus' story, not our story.

He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world —1 John 2:2

The key to the missionary's message is the propitiation of Christ Jesus— His sacrifice for us that completely satisfied the wrath of God. Look at any other aspect of Christ's work, whether it is healing, saving, or sanctifying, and you will see that there is nothing limitless about those. But— "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"— that is limitless (John 1:29). The missionary's message is the limitless importance of Jesus Christ as the propitiation for our sins, and a missionary is someone who is immersed in the truth of that revelation.

The real key to the missionary's message is the "remissionary" aspect of Christ's life, not His kindness, His goodness, or even His revealing of the fatherhood of God to us. ". . . repentance and remission of sins should be preached . . . to all nations . . ." (Luke 24:47). The greatest message of limitless importance is that "He Himself is the propitiation for our sins . . ." The missionary's message is not nationalistic, favoring nations or individuals; it is "for the whole world." When the Holy Spirit comes into me, He does not consider my partialities or preferences; He simply brings me into oneness with the Lord Jesus.

A missionary is someone who is bound by marriage to the stated mission and purpose of his Lord and Master. He is not to proclaim his own point of view, but is only to proclaim "the Lamb of God." It is easier to belong to a faction that simply tells what Jesus Christ has done for me, and easier to become a devotee of divine healing, or of a special type of sanctification, or of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But Paul did not say, "Woe is me if I do not preach what Christ has done for me," but, ". . . woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). And this is the gospel— "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"