

# Policies, Team Covenant & Release of Rights

*Forms Revised January 9, 2019 ~ Please Do Not Use Previous Versions*

*All team members are expected to have read and understood the information and expectations outlined on the team forms. Each form should be reviewed and signed before or during your first team meeting including this cover sheet. Should you have any questions, please contact your Team Leader or Debbie Barton, Missions Coordinator. Thank you.*

***Please print your name here:*** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Policies and Procedures for Short Term Missions**

I have read this form and will abide by the stated policies:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Team Covenant**

I have read this form and will abide by the covenant outlined:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Release of Rights**

I have read this form and will abide by the stated policies:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Policies and Procedures for Short Term Missions

(REVISED 1/9/2018)

## Field Behavior

Volunteers are reminded that they are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. As volunteers, they not only represent Him, but also the United States, Bell Shoals Baptist Church and our host mission agency and/or missionary. This responsibility is a tremendous one; consequently, it is our responsibility to prayerfully select the volunteers that we believe are best suited for the respective mission team and tasks.

Volunteers must submit to the Team Leader's authority at all times and in all situations.

Due to the political instability and anti-American sentiment in various countries around the world, Bell Shoals Baptist Church asks that volunteers refrain from expressing their political opinions while on the field. If at any time while on the field a volunteer's behavior constitutes a problem harmful to the ministry of the host or lack of appropriate submission to the Team Leader, the Team Leader has the authority to direct the volunteer to return home. Any additional cost incurred as a result of this action will be that volunteer's expense.

## Applications

If there are more applicants approved for a mission journey than are needed, we reserve the right to select applicants who have never participated on a mission or at our discretion may be better suited for the respective journey. We will then ask the others to be Prayer Partners or prayerfully consider another mission. It is our desire that many from our church family experience the blessings derived from being on mission with God.

## Finances...

**Note: The following is a summary of the current policies and procedures. Refer to pages 11-17 of the Team Member Manual for the Financial Policies and Procedures in full.**

Applicants are expected to raise 100% of their financial needs; however, we have a limited amount of financial aid available for those who qualify. To be eligible for financial aid, one has to be a member of Bell Shoals Baptist Church (church member, not LIFE Group only) and active in a LIFE Group with attendance averaging 50% or higher for the previous 6 months. Consideration will be given if the applicant is an active Sunday morning volunteer in another ministry area and serves at the time he or she would normally attend a LIFE Group. Documentation of such service is required.

Team members will be required to complete their funding per the published payment schedule.

If an applicant's financial support is channeled through Bell Shoals Baptist Church and he/she raises more than required, or if for any reason he/she cannot participate on the short-term mission, the funds received over and above what is needed for this specific journey will be set aside in a missions project account for a future journey, allocated to helping other team members participate, or credited to the teams general expense fund. It is the volunteer's responsibility to inform donors of their inability to participate in the mission and how their donation will be used. (Refer to the Financial Policies and Procedures section of the Team Member Manual, pages 11-16.)

Volunteers are responsible for any costs associated with changes made in travel arrangements that differ from the team travel as planned and approved by the Missions Department.

While the mission ministry staff along with the Team Leader strives to develop the journey budget as accurately as possible, it should be understood that adjustments to projected costs are often out of our control (airline ticket prices, etc.). If an adjustment is needed due to increased travel costs, etc., team members will be expected to cover the difference.

# Team Covenant

(REVISED 1/9/2018)

We, the members of the Short-Term Missions Team, believe that God has called us to serve together and agree together concerning the following:

## Our Vision

We desire to be a team of people characterized by Christ-like behavior exhibited through unconditional love, unselfish service and unified teamwork. Our ultimate purpose as a team and as individuals is in accordance with I Corinthians 9:12, *"I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings."*

## Our Team Objectives

We believe that we can fulfill this vision through the following commitments to each other:

- **Teamwork:** We commit ourselves to be a group of individuals who unite as one, striving to accomplish the same goal; glorifying Christ and increasing His church.
- **Communication:** We commit ourselves to resolve any inter-team conflicts according to biblical principles. This involves prayer as the first step, personal confrontation as the follow-up step, and the counsel of a third party (namely, a leader) as a third and final resort. In all issues of conflict, we commit ourselves to maintain a humble spirit of confidentiality, while seeking to obey Ephesians 4:29: *"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."*
- **Forgiveness:** We commit ourselves to the recognition of sin as our common enemy so that we each may be sensitive to our human failures and forgive each other. We recognize that forgiveness is manifested through an understanding, forgiving attitude and the continuation of demonstrated love. We commit ourselves to resolving any bitterness because we realize that bitterness will drag the whole team down, in accordance with Hebrews 12:15: *"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."*
- **Spiritual Growth:** We commit ourselves to personal worship and fellowship with God through obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and an openness to learn from God's Spirit in all situations. We agree to have the same attitude of Paul the Apostle with respect to:

**Failure:** (Philippians 3:12-14) *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

**Perseverance:** (I Corinthians 9:24-27) *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

## Team Covenant... Continued

### Our Team Structure

We believe that the following structural elements in our Team Covenant will enable us to carry out our team objectives:

- Team Meetings: Before, during, and after the project, our team meetings will be crucial for fulfilling the commitments mentioned. These team meetings shall include: team devotions, team prayer, time for communication of details and plans, and time for individual relational development.
- Personal Quiet Times: We will attempt to be as faithful as possible in our daily time with God because we believe that growing individually is essential to growing as a team.
- Affirmation: We commit ourselves to encourage one another through verbal affirmation and/or the sending of notes of encouragement to one another as often as possible.
- Ministry Opportunities: We will seek to be a witness of the love of Jesus Christ to the people we meet throughout our journey. This shall include testimonies, speaking at churches, and consistent Christ-like behavior. John 4:35: *"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*
- Work: We recognize that if our objectives are to be completed, we must all commit ourselves to work to the best of our God-given ability every day of the project. I Corinthians 10:31: *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."*
- Prayer: We commit ourselves to daily prayer for each team member and the project.
- Leadership: We recognize the official leader of our team. In situations of team concern, we commit ourselves at all times to be in a submissive attitude to our leader. We also recognize that this mission journey is an opportunity for all of us to develop God-given leadership ability, and we commit ourselves to that end through the pursuing of individual growth opportunities that may arise.

### Evaluation and Accountability

We shall hold each other on the team accountable to this covenant, and we shall measure our success in keeping this covenant by:

- Correcting each other according to Biblical and covenant principles. Colossians 1:28: *"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."*
- Responding without defensiveness when we are corrected, believing that other team members have our best interests and the best interests of the team in mind. Proverbs 27:5-6: *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. The kisses of an enemy may be profuse, but faithful are the wounds of a friend."*
- Meeting as a team within one month after we return home to evaluate our performance and celebrate all that was accomplished in and through God's power and grace.

# Release of Rights

(REVISED 1/9/2018)

**Laying down your rights will be the key to your experience and effectiveness.**

We live in a world that is full of rights. Our particular culture is one where we take pride in our rights. The rights of individuals are constitutional; however, as we see the demanding of individual rights increase, we see more of the moral fiber of our society decrease. Our Lord Jesus Christ laid down His rights to the heavens and all His glory to become a man and to serve, not to be served (Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 10:45).

**Consider laying down your rights on this mission journey.** Not to lay them down for better or worse, but to entrust them to the Lord, or transfer the responsibility of them to a place of safekeeping. These rights may seem reasonable but could still cause dissension on a short-term mission journey. Take time to search your heart and willingly surrender your rights to the Lord.

***“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*** Romans 12:1 (ESV)

## ***I give up my right to...***

*a comfortable bed  
three meals a day  
familiar food  
dressing fashionable  
seeing results  
control of myself  
control of others  
control of circumstances  
pleasant circumstances  
making decisions  
taking up offense  
being successful  
being understood  
being heard  
being right*

## ***I entrust to God...***

*my strength and endurance  
my health and strength  
my likes and dislikes of food  
my security in Him  
His purposes and fruit in His timing  
my need for His Spirit control  
His workmanship in others  
my circumstances to His purposes in  
making me Christ-like  
the privilege of suffering for His sake  
His sovereign hand on my life  
my security in His love  
my reputation  
my need for recognition  
my need for His righteousness*

***I give God permission to do anything He wishes  
to me, with me, in me, or through me, that would glorify Him.***