



# TEAM MEMBER INFORMATION PACKET

*Praying, Going, Giving, Sending*

# GLOBAL CONNECTION TEAM COVENANT

## OUR MISSION:

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 9:23, "I do all things for the sake of the Gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it."

## OUR TEAM OBJECTIVES:

- **Teamwork.** To be a group of individuals who unite as one, striving to accomplish the same goal: glorifying Christ and increasing His Church.
- **Communication in Conflict.** To resolve all inter-team conflicts according to Biblical principles. This involves prayer as the first step, personal confrontation as the second step, and the counsel of a third party (leader) as the third and final resort.
- **Forgiveness.** To recognize that sin is our common enemy, and to be sensitive to our human failings and forgive each other. We commit ourselves to resolving any bitterness because we realize that bitterness will drag down the whole team.
- **Spiritual Growth.** To have personal worship and fellowship with God, and an openness to learn from God's Spirit in all situations. We agree to have the same attitude of the Apostle Paul in:

**Failure - Philippians 3:12-14**

**Perseverance - I Corinthians 9:24-27**

## OUR TEAM STRUCTURE:

- **Team Meetings.** Our team meetings will be crucial for fulfilling the objectives mentioned above. The team meetings should include devotions, prayer, time for the communication of details and plans, and time for 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 encouraging each other through verbal affirmation, texts, and/or emails, often.
- **Ministry Opportunities.** We will seek to be a witness of the love of Jesus Christ to the people we meet throughout our trip. This shall include testimonies, speaking at churches and Christ-like behavior.
- **Work.** We recognize that, if our objectives are to be completed, we must all commit ourselves to working to the best of our God-given ability every day of the project.
- **Prayer.** We commit ourselves to pray every day for each team member and the project.
- **Leadership.** We recognize the official leader of our team is the Team Leader. In situations of team concern, we commit ourselves at all times to have a submissive attitude toward our leader. We also recognize that this trip is an opportunity for all of us to develop our God-given leadership abilities, and we commit ourselves to pursuing the individual growth opportunities that may arise.

# RELEASE OF RIGHTS

We live in a world that is full of rights. Our culture in particular 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 Global Connection trip. These rights may seem reasonable but could still cause dissension. Take time to search your heart and willingly surrender your rights to the Lord.

## **I GIVE UP MY RIGHT TO:**

- A comfortable bed
- Three meals a day
- Familiar food
- Dressing fashionably
- Seeing results
- Control (of myself and others)
- Make decisions
- Taking offense
- Being successful
- Being understood
- Being right
- Pleasant circumstances
- Control of circumstances

## **I ENTRUST TO GOD:**

- My strength and endurance
- My health
- My likes and dislikes of food
- My security
- His purpose and timing
- My need for His Spirit's control
- His workmanship in others
- His sovereign hand on my life
- My security in His love
- My reputation
- My need for recognition
- My need for His righteousness
- The privilege of suffering for His sake
- My words to unbelievers

# SECURITY GUIDELINES

Security guidelines are very important to follow. In some parts of the world, the opportunity for a continuing witness could be lost if care is not given to security in communications. The key principle is to do nothing that will hinder the spread of the Gospel. You should have a general knowledge of the security issues before you arrive. Your hosts on the field are experts on particular security concerns for their part of the world. Follow their guidelines carefully. Failure to follow the guidelines given to you could put them and/or the nationals in danger, in jail, or even result in a death.

Unless instructed otherwise, the following rules should always be observed:

- Your hosts are in their country on platforms that are unrelated to the label “Missionary.” Please be conscious of this as you communicate with those in the U.S. and nationals in the country you are visiting.
- Many of the worker’s children are not familiar with the label “Missionary.” Please be sensitive to this when discussing “the work” while in their presence.
- Never put persons, location and/or ministry together in print. For example, when mentioning field personnel use only first names. When discussing location, use a more general term rather than a specific country.
- Do not write or say anything negative about the host country, their religion, or their politics.
- Avoid the use of “church-y” terms and phraseology.
- Remember that an email is like a postcard. The country you are visiting can print off a hard copy and read each piece of email that flows through their servers.
- When using social media, please turn location services off, so as not to post your location when communicating back to the U.S.

The following is a chart to use in communications:

DO NOT USE:	PLEASE USE INSTEAD:
Missionary	M, Worker, Field Personnel, International Family (for our TBC families)
Evangelism	EV, Sharing, Main Thing
God	Father, Dad
Jesus	JC, Son
Church	Group, Fellowship, Body
IMB	The Company
Christian	Brother/Sister, Follower, Believer
Bible	The Book, The Word
Ethiopia	The Horn, The Horn of Africa, Northeast Africa
Nepal	The Himalayas, East Asia
Mission Trip	Global Connection Trip, GC Trip

# CULTURAL AWARENESS

## **Eating**

Mealtime is not time for a “thanks-but-no-thanks” response. Acceptance of what is on your plate is extremely important to the acceptance of your host, the country, and the situation in which you find yourself. Often, what is offered constitutes your host country’s proudest culinary achievements, or the best that the host can afford. Some national hosts will forgo eating for the day, just to be able to serve you a meal. To not eat or drink what they serve you can be highly offensive to them.

We often become squeamish not because of what we are eating, but the unfamiliarity with what it is. You might want to cut the item into small pieces. This helps minimize the texture. You can also try swallowing quickly.

## **Conversations**

There are many things that are sensitive to people in another country. Speaking negatively about their religion and their beliefs will immediately become offensive to those people. Remember to show interest in how they think, what they believe in, and who they are as a person.

In some cultures, they will not even listen to what you are saying until you build a relationship with them. Their respect and trust are earned over time, and only then will they take your words as truth. In some of our areas where this is the case, we go to help our International Families with laying the foundation for relationships, or to help further solidify relationships that they are already working on. You will have conversations with the people, but it most likely will not lead to one where you can witness to them. This is a case where our actions may speak louder than our words. If this is your situation, do not be discouraged. You have helped our M’s get closer to being able to have evangelistic conversations with the nationals.

In some cultures, it is extremely inappropriate for women to talk to men (nationals) and for men to talk to women (nationals). Please be very sensitive to this, if it applies to your area.

## **International Misunderstandings**

Remember that only Americans can really understand Americans. Be careful in using slang terms that do not really convey the meaning you are trying to get across.

## **Gestures - A Risky Language**

Hand gestures and body language are risky forms of communications in a foreign country. Expressions on the face and movements of the hands mean something totally different from one culture to the next. It will take practice on your part, but it is best to avoid them completely.

Here are some differences in meaning of the same gesture:

- When you raise your eyebrow in Tonga, you are saying “yes” or “I agree.” In Peru, you have just said “money” or “pay me.”
- The classic American “okay” sign (the thumb and forefinger forming a circle) in Columbia, is placed over the nose to signify that the person in question is homosexual.

The point to be made is that gestures can be a dangerous way to communicate what you want to say.



# CULTURAL AWARENESS

## **Best Behavior**

What we would consider mildly bad manners at home may be seen as cardinal sins to another culture.

Examples of those habits include:

- Gum chewing, especially during conversation
- Talking with hands in pockets
- Legs propped up on furniture
- Backslapping
- Wearing Sunglasses during a conversation

Even things that you might not think about can be seen as extremely rude. Some things that are considered rude to us, are completely acceptable and common in other countries. For example: In some countries it is rude to pick your teeth after eating, but is completely acceptable to pick your nose in public.

Other potentially unacceptable things we may not think about can include:

- Showing the bottom of your feet
- Pointing with your finger

## **Apparel**

What you do or do not wear can be worse than bad taste. Shoes are among the biggest offenders. Shoes may need to be removed when entering a person's home or even some buildings. If you are unsure, ask your host. They will appreciate your attention to their feelings. Each culture has various reasons for why shoes are offensive. Be alert and be sensitive.

Always and forever let your dress be modest, even if you are a little uncomfortable. Tight fitting clothing, or too little clothing speaks loudly to the very people you are trying to win to the Lord. Remember your objectives for the trip. Comfort is not necessarily part of the deal.

## **Gift Giving**

Different gifts mean different things from culture to culture. Try to rely on the information given to you about your specific country. A good rule to go by in any situation is to keep it simple. Also, when giving the gift be sure to say to the host, "This is just a small way of saying thank you for having me/us here in your country/ministry." This simple comment can relieve the pressure of your host to give in return.

Also be aware that in some cultures if you say you like something, they may feel the need to give the item to you.

## **A Lot of Work?**

This seems to be a lot to remember and to learn. However, the benefits of being culturally aware can make the difference in how your ministry is received in that country. It also leaves a lasting impression of our church, Global Connections program, and the M's we went to help.

# RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In signing this form, I \_\_\_\_\_, agree not to hold Tabernacle Baptist Church, its officers, employees or other agents liable for any injury, loss, damage, or accident that I might encounter while on one of their Global Connection trips.

I realize and acknowledge that my participation on a Global Connection trip includes many risks and possible dangers. I am well aware that my travel to such a foreign country exposes me to such risks as accidents, disease, war, political unrest, injury from construction projects and other calamities.

I hereby assume any such risks that might result from my travel, and I unconditionally agree to hold Tabernacle Baptist Church, to its officers, employees or other agents blameless for any liability concerning my personal health and well being, or any liability for my personal property that might be lost, damaged, or stolen while on a Global Connection trip.

I have carefully read the foregoing and I understand that my signature herein holds Tabernacle Baptist Church, its officers, employees or other agents harmless for any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, irregularity, or delay in schedule.

*\*To be signed in the presence of a legalized notary public\**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.  
(participant signature) (date) (month) (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian signature if the participant is under 18 years of age)

## NOTORIZATION:

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(date) (month) (year) (participant or guardian name)

personally appeared before me in Bartow County, (in the state of GA) and in my presence, signed this release.

Name of Notary Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

(notary seal)

# SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

As you pack, keep in mind airline luggage allowances. You will have to pay an extra fee if you have too many pieces of luggage or if your luggage goes over the weight limit. Call your airline for specific allotments. Please be careful to not pack any material that may be sensitive to the work in the area you are going.

## PACKING CHECKLIST:

- Passport
- Visa (if needed)
- Photocopy of passport and visa
- International Certificate of Vaccination (if needed)
- Airline tickets and itinerary
- Bible and personal devotion books
- Copy of emergency contact and health care information
- Cash, ATM Card (MasterCard or Visa) and one major credit card (for emergency purposes)
- Medications: Prescriptions (keep these in your carry-on bag) and over-the-counter medicine (ex: Aspirin, Tylenol, anti-diarrhea medicine, motion sickness medication, etc.)
  - \*Note: All medication must be kept in the original container in which it was dispensed. Customs officials, if they search luggage, may be suspicious of any medication not in its original container.\*
- Sunscreen/Hat/Sunglasses and possibly a Swimsuit
- Hand Sanitizer/Wipes
- Appropriate clothing
- Good walking shoes
- Flip-flops
- Watch (leave expensive jewelry at home, wedding rings are acceptable)
- Feminine products
- Toiletry items
- Headlamp or small flashlight
- Water repellent jacket
- Snacks (granola bars, peanut butter and crackers, etc.)
- Backpack or small carrying bag

## CARRY-ON LUGGAGE:

It is not uncommon for luggage not to arrive with you on long international flights. As a precaution, we recommend that you take the following items in your carry-on luggage:

- Airline tickets
- Cash/Cards
- Passport/visa
- Copy of first page of your passport/copy of page with visa stamp if acquired prior to departure
- International Certificate of Vaccination (Yellow Card)
- Copy of emergency contact and health care information
- Medications
- A change of clothes
- Basic toiletries (all liquids should be in 3oz. bottles or less and should all fit in a quart-size ziplock bag)
- Any item of sentimental or monetary value that you couldn't replace
- A few snacks