

COMMUNITY GLOBAL

Mission Trip Guide

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COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MISSION TRIP VISION

While it is true that amazing things can be done for the people we are partnering with on a mission trip, recognize that our main purpose in taking these trips is relational, spiritual and educational.

- Relational in that our primary focus is to be people, those we are partnering with and those on our team from Community Christian Church.
- Spiritual in that the primary purpose is to help people grow in their faith.
- Educational in that through listening to and learning from our partners, knowledge is gained about ourselves.
- The “work” that is accomplished is only a means to achieve relational, spiritual and educational goals. By limiting giving, eliminating as many technological distractions as possible and focusing on being rather than doing; the people encountered during the trip become the mission.

The goal is for every person who goes on a mission trip with Community Christian Church to come back and help others be “On Mission”. The focus will be on the spiritual growth of the individual and using this experience to help each person discover what their own spiritual gift is so that they can be on mission as God intended.

It is probable that those who participate in a mission trip experience will have an outstanding, life-changing experience. Man will see God in a way that they never have before. This acknowledged, how much the participants enjoy the trip is not the metric used to base success upon. True success is measured as a team returns from a trip and actively participates in doing more to build God’s Kingdom. The results of a trip may not be seen for years after the trip.

One of the major obstacles to achieving these goals is breaking the stereotype of the rich Americans who have come to give “stuff”. Giving should be limited to insure our partners realize that the people and the love that is brought is the gift. Care is shown in listening, sharing activities and support instead of through monetary gifts. Any giving should be done through the Philippine Frontline or Compassion leader and only with their permission. This will help to eliminate a feeling of dependency or inequality with those we are trying to partner with. Inappropriate giving could ruin the effectiveness of the partnership and the quality of relationship we have with our partner. Appropriate giving includes a gift for the church we are visiting, Ziploc bag sized gifts for sponsored children (coordinated by the Community Global team), backpacks from sponsors who are traveling and supplies for our Vacation Bible School (sidewalk chalk - 50, bubbles - 40, jump rope - 10, soccer balls – 2, beads – 1000, necklaces – 250). Any other giving should be done through the Compassion staff.

In conclusion, our goal is to help and not hurt the already present ministry. There will be one visit to a particular location each year. These trips must remain consistent, so every leader should appoint an apprentice leader for the trip with the intention of them leading a future trip. Most importantly, God’s interest must be the guiding force for all that happens. Poverty may seem impossible to beat, but with God, everything is possible.

COMMUNITY MISSION AND VISION

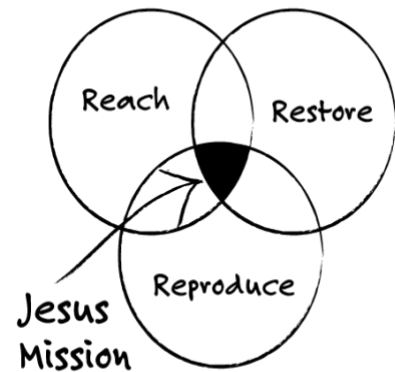
Community is passionate about Helping People Find Their Way Back to God globally and locally. Through international partnerships with Philippine Frontline and Compassion International the lives of people are being changed in the Philippines, Haiti, Nicaragua and America. Everything is measured through the metrics of Reach, Restore and Reproduce. The vision of Community Global is based upon the Restore metric. Alleviate Poverty, One Person at a Time. Poverty comes in many forms, not simply economic, and all people experience some aspect of poverty. Mission trips, as one aspect of the ministry, have the potential to be a catalyst in helping the church to accomplish the Mission and Vision of Community Christian Church both in partner countries and in the lives and communities of each of Community's campuses.

RESTORE MINISTRY GUIDING VALUES

- **Birthed in and Blanketed in Prayer:** If God is not included in the development and execution of a project or initiative, we do not believe it is set up for success.
- **Partnership:** We never work in isolation.
- **Reciprocity:** We aim not to provide services “to” or “for,” but always “with” the community.
- **Development of Indigenous Leadership:** A primary goal should be to train and develop local youth and adults as workers and leaders.
- **Geographically Focused:** Programs and services are targeted to a focus area/neighborhood.
- **Scalable, Reproducible, and Measurable:** Programs and initiatives should have capacity to grow and be replicated in other communities, and should begin with a definition of success and how it will be measured.

3 R's

- To accomplish the Jesus Mission, three things must happen: REACH people far from God, RESTORE God's dream for the world and REPRODUCE the mission in others.
- **REACH** refers to helping people find their way back to God and is measured by the number of people who make decisions for Christ as the result of the ministry.
- **RESTORE** means helping people and communities to return to their God-intended state. In regards to global ministry, it means alleviating poverty, one person at a time.
- **REPRODUCE** is foundational. Every initiative must have the capability and potential to grow and multiply itself and every leader should be striving to increase impact through the development of future leaders.



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- For you have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress. **Isaiah 25:4**
- Blessed are you who are poor, for yours in the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. **Luke 6:20-21**
- Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. **Luke 12:33**
- Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. **Matthew 5:42**
- And if you give yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness, and your gloom will become like midday. And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. **Isaiah 58:10**
- Now to him who can do more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 3:20**

BEFORE THE TRIP

- **Fifteen months prior to the trip**, contact the Global Partnerships Director with preferred dates for the trip and for three formation meetings prior to the trip and one “On Mission” meeting after the trip.
- **One year prior to the trip**, meet with the Global Partnership Director and prepare web articles, newsletter articles, campus pastor announcements, sample emails and sample tweets.
- **Nine months prior to the trip**, contact partner organization to confirm dates and itinerary.
- **Prior to large group global missions meeting**, prepare for Informational Meeting (dates, cost, shots, itinerary, etc.).
- **Once team is determined**, confirm deposits and complete contact information sheet for each team member.
- **Before your first meeting:**
 - Prepare for each of the four team meetings. Samples are enclosed, but not necessary to be used. The talents of the leaders and the members of the team will determine how the goal for each meeting is accomplished. Focus each meeting on using this trip as a catalyst for spiritual development leading to being on mission. Continue to focus on the relational building aspect of the trip.
 - Determine who will be responsible for the awareness that we hope to gain from this trip. This would include the taking of pictures, creating videos, recording stories and providing any means to share your experience with Community Christian Church and people in the United States.
 - Determine if extra supplies or resources will be needed to be a part of each team member’s packing items. Add these to the packing list.
 - Determine a plan for transportation to and from the airport.
- **After the first meeting**, send any budget requests to the Global Partnership Director. These could include transportation to the airport, VBS supplies or a gift for the partner church.
- **Every Step of the Way** keep the Global Partnership Director connected to all team communication.
- **Fundraising:** If anyone would like to raise funds for the trip, we will supply a sample letter to request the support of family and friends. It is not the practice

of Community Christian Church to organize fundraising events for mission trips.

STAYING HEALTHY

One of the major obstacles in reaching the goals for the trip is the health and safety of each of our team members. While some level of sickness is expected when traveling internationally, everything possible should be done to insure that members of the team do not miss parts of the trip due to sickness. To give trips the best chance for success, the following guidelines have been established.

Before the Trip

- Exercise.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Eat healthy.
- Make an appointment with your personal physician or travel health professional before you go.
- Ask your physician for an anti-malarial prescription.
- Get vaccinated.
- Make the team leader aware of any health concerns.
- Read http://www.mdtravelhealth.com/destinations/mamerica_carib/haiti.php

Eating and Drinking During the Trip

- Follow the guidelines of our trip hosts at Philippine Frontline or Compassion International.
- Drink only bottled water and PLENTY OF IT to prevent dehydration.
- Eat healthy food during the trip and enough to provide needed calories.
- Eat only raw fruit and vegetables that have peels.
- Eat the spicy stuff.
- Bring snacks.
- Eat meat only if it looks spiffy instead of iffy.
- Be aware of the fly count around your food.
- Eat familiar food from time to time.
- Some fish may contain biotoxins even when cooked. Never eat barracuda.

During the Trip

- Wash your hands with soap, all the time.
- Try and stay active.
- Protect yourself against the sun.
- Use only bottled water for functions such as showering and brushing your teeth.
- Take vitamins during the trip to replace needed nutrients.
- Limit soda during the day.
- Take a 10 minute break every 90 minutes.
- Bring anti-diarrheal medication or a prescription for Cipro.

- Protect yourself from mosquito bites.
- Take anti-malarials.
- Adjust to time zones as soon as possible.

- Get your required amount of rest.

ON MISSION

Community is passionate about Helping People Find Their Way Back to God and Alleviating Poverty, One Person at a Time. It is essential that every resource provide its maximum impact. This trip should be a great experience for every team member, but for it to be truly successful it must be more than just a third-world vacation. For this trip to be successful, it must be a catalyst to life change upon return. The reason for taking these trips is to develop missionaries. At Community, a missionary does not travel overseas to do ministry. Missionaries work within their local communities to speak and serve those who God has put into their lives. This can translate to involvement in global or local ministries. This trip should inspire team members to either become more involved or enhance their involvement.

During pre-trip meetings, team members are prepared for this focus. During the trip, the trip leaders, in coordination with pastors or other determined leaders, will focus on the leadership ability of team members. On one of the last nights of the trip, the leaders and pastors will meet to discuss each team member and determine some suggested areas of involvement upon return. In addition, a “contact” person will be assigned as the person who will meet one-on-one with the team member after the trip. Upon return, letters should be written to each team member describing the leadership potential that was seen in that person during the trip. A final meeting of the entire team will serve as a reminder of the purpose of becoming on mission. Finally, after meeting with each team member, the On Mission sheet will be completed and returned to the Global Partnerships Director.

The evaluation tool that will be used to determine the trips success is the On Mission sheet exemplified below. Each member of the team is listed with contact information. “Contact” refers to the trip leader or pastor that will have a one-on-on meeting with that person upon return. “Sharing” refers to what that person shared during the last processing session during the trip in regards to what they would like to do to be on mission when they come home. “Mission” is the action plan that is determined during the final meeting with the team member. This describes the ministry that will take place as well as sets the foundation for a plan of future involvement.

Last	First	Address	City	Zip	Email	Phone	Contact	Sharing	Mission

MEETING NUMBER ONE: CONNECT

Objective

To develop the group of people who have decided to take this mission trip from individuals into a team.

Scripture

“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their messages, that they all may be one” (John 17:20).

Possible Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Bio Check: Using either the information from their application or a card that they have completed for the meeting, team members try to guess the team member that matches the description that you read.
- One on Ones: Every person spends from 2-5 minutes with just one other person from the team. One person will only ask questions and the other will only answer and they will then switch.
- Do and Do Not's: After explaining that instrumental to this trip's success is the strength of the team, each person shares the things that really impress them and that really annoy them about other people.
- Partner Review: Provide an overview of the people you will be visiting, their culture and our partnership. Make sure and mention key people and any essential language tips.
- Packet of Information: Cover the basics such as dates, packing list (including number of bags needed for trip materials), travel itinerary, transportation to airport, costs, financial needs, shots, passport and any trip projects that they would need to prepare for. Answer any questions that they may have.
- Discussion: Why did you want to make this trip?
- Discussion: Why do you think God wants you to be on this trip? What spiritual gifts do you bring to the team?
- Discussion: Do you have any expectations for this trip? Is there anything that gives you a feeling of uneasiness regarding this trip?
- Preview Next Meeting: Explain why you spent almost the entire first meeting getting to know each other. It is what our main priority will be on the trip, getting to know the people we are going to visit. In the next meeting, think about what you as an individual and us as a team would like to accomplish through this experience.

- Prayer Partners: Pick teams of two people who will contact each other prior to the next meeting to see what is happening in life and prayer with each other. Mission trip book is handed out.
- Closing Prayer: Invite each person to share a prayer concerning their hopes and dreams for this trip.

MEETING NUMBER TWO: CONNECT

Objective

In this meeting, the team will form a mission statement describing the team's purpose in making this trip.

Scripture

"Where there is no vision people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

Possible Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Information Check: Check the status of shots, passports and packing needs.
- Interview: Each person has one minute in the hot seat, answering as many questions as the team can ask.
- Global Ministry Overview: Review the information at the beginning of this packet with the team, including Guiding Values, 3 R's, Biblical Principles, Mission Trip Vision and Mission. Focus on "Alleviating Poverty, One Person at a Time" as a means to "Helping People Find Their Way Back to God".
- One Purpose: Everybody writes their one purpose for this trip. Each reason is then read to find common ideas or purposes.
- Discussion: At the end of this trip, what outcome would please God?
- Discussion: What is the one thing we want to make sure we get right?
- Writing Partners: Groups of two people create their own mission statements, 8 words or less. All statements are shared and the groups' mission statement is decided upon.
- Situations: Provide situations that may occur on your trip and each person describes what they would do in that situation in light of the teams' mission statement.
- Preview Next Meeting: Determine a church in which the team can be "commissioned" and a final meeting packing plan. Assign all VBS and special duties for these will be the focus of the next meeting. Ask if anybody is willing to pack all of their personal belongings in one carry on so that a suitcase can be used to carry VBS or other trip supplies.
- Closing Prayer: Intentions offered by everyone. Prayer is led by anybody who is willing.

MEETING NUMBER THREE: CELEBRATE

Objective

The purpose of this time together is to help the families and friends of those on the team to share in this experience.

Scripture

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:25).

Possible Meeting Agenda

- The team meets at a designated campus (if possible during a service for commissioning).
- Opening Prayer
- Last Minute Details of the Trip: Airport Travel, Special Needs, Itinerary Changes, Giving Reminders, Relational Focus, Group Mission and Spending Cash.
- VBS Run Through: The leader of VBS details the day and shares plans for preparing all needed resources.
- Other Assignments: Communication, Devotion Speakers, Sharing a Message, Music Responsibilities, Construction Plan, Communication During Trip
- Packing: Pack intended bags with VBS, sponsor Ziploc bags and other needed materials for the trip. Ask people from the team if they would be willing to take all of their personal stuff in one carry on to eliminate the need for paying for extra bags.
- Closing Prayer: Anybody can pray, for anything, for as long as anybody wants to pray.

MEETING NUMBER FOUR: CONTRIBUTE

Objective

In this meeting, each member of the team will be asked to consider how God can use this trip, and their life, to further His mission.

Scripture

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded them” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Possible Meeting Agenda

- Team Potluck held at a designated location in which families are invited.
- Share a meal together and catch up on the trip.
- Share a highlight video.
- Each member of the team shares one highlight of the trip and what the “coming back” experience has been like.
- Team leader describes the On Mission one-on-one process.
- Closing Prayer

DURING THE TRIP

- Safety:** Of primary importance is the safety of our team. Recognize the unfamiliarity of the locations being visited. Taking precautions such as traveling in groups, having somebody from the host team with the team at all times, drinking only bottled water (and a lot of it), taking proper medications, following the direction of the host team, eating only what is recommended by the host and taking any other measures to err on the side of safety is a must.
- Stories:** The stories of those being visited and those who are a part of the team are essential for helping people at Community Christian Church to benefit from this trip. While there, make every attempt to video stories of people whose lives have been bettered through the partnership. Also, video members of the team explaining how this trip has changed their life.
- Processing:** An essential practice is checking in as a group daily. Most often a short amount of time at night works best. This time involves preparation for the day ahead as well as sharing the emotional experiences of the past day. With larger teams, a two-minute reflection of the day can be very effective. While each night should allow for whatever sharing is desired, the last night should focus on what each person would like to do upon return to make a difference for the Kingdom.
- Morning Devotional:** Begin each day with individuals from the team leading a brief devotional fifteen minutes prior to departure. While any theme is acceptable, some possibilities follow with focus verses and challenges for the day.

DAY	THEME	VERSE	CHALLENGE
Monday	Selfless	Phil 2:4	Don't Say "I"
Tuesday	Live in Moment	Ecc 3:1	No "Future" Talk
Wednesday	Simplicity	Matt 19:24	No Electronics
Thursday	Community	Pro 17:17	Make a New Friend
Friday	Adversity	James 1:2-3	No Complaining
Saturday	Reflect	2 Tim 2:7	30 Min. Silent Time
Sunday	Sabbath	Mark 2:27	Do No Work

- Pastors:** Church pastors are usually recognized as people of high esteem in the countries we visit. Encourage any pastors that are members of the team to make every effort to acknowledge any other pastors or church leaders that are met. Pastors should also be ready to share devotions or teach throughout the week.

APPENDIX ONE: FUNDRAISING

Strategy Outline

1. Let your daily prayer times be permeated with the sense that you are primarily looking toward God to provide your finances.
2. Prayerfully consider your purpose for being a member of the mission trip team and ask God why He would like you to take advantage of this opportunity. Determine how God can use this trip to help you build the Kingdom.
3. Make a list of individuals and groups with whom you can share your vision and call.
 - Friends and acquaintances from Church
 - People at work
 - Neighbors
 - Classmates or Alumni
 - Friends or Contacts of your Parents
 - Relatives
 - Small Groups at your Church
 - Parents of your Friends
 - Your Close Friends
4. Prioritize your list into “Top 10”, “Second 10” and so on. Those “Top 10” donors or sponsors will probably provide two-thirds of your financial support.
5. Prayerfully individualize your fund-raising appeals.
 - Ask appropriately
 - Don’t be afraid to ask for large sums of money
 - Decide the best way to contact each person on your list
 - Pray and then contact each person on your “Top 10” list
 - Follow up with them as planned
 - Do the same with your “Second 10” and so on until you reach your goal
6. Upon return from your trip, as a thank you share your experience with each donor or sponsor
 - Letter
 - Phone Call
 - Celebration Meal

APPENDIX ONE: FUNDRAISING

Sample Letter

Dear friends and family,

Can you imagine what living in poverty must be like? There are people everywhere who don't feel loved, who are lacking in hope and worry so much about survival that they never stop to think about their potential. I want to do something about it and am ready to start the process. I have the opportunity to go with Community Christian Church to (location and date) and begin to find ways that God can use me to help.

While we may be able to do something to help people while we are there, what I am really excited about is the opportunity to bring back what I have learned and make a difference not only in my life, but through the lives of others. We will be hosted by (Philippine Frontline or Compassion International), serving with the poor and Helping People Find Their Way Back to God. I know that with the help of (host) my mission team, the people in (partner country) and God, my life will be impacted so that I in turn can impact others.

I hope that you can help me to be on mission in (country). As you can imagine a trip like this requires the financial support of a great number of people. I need to raise (cost) by (date). If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful. If you would like to be a part of this mission through your financial support, send a check to:

Community Christian Church
Attn: Jim Melton
1635 Emerson Lane
Naperville, IL 60540

Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Please make your check payable to "Community Christian Church" and write "(Philippines or Compassion) - my name" on the memo line. All contributions are tax deductible.

While money is important, it comes in a distant second to my need for your prayer support. I would love to know if I could count on you in that area. Please pray daily for those working at (host), for the people of (country) and that God can use this experience to help me to better serve Him.

Thank you for impacting my life,

APPENDIX TWO: FAQ'S

What precautions are taken to make safety our highest priority?

Of primary importance is the safety of our team. Recognize that we are very unfamiliar with many of the places we are visiting. There are a number of precautions that are taken. First, we travel with a guide from our partnering organization and country, following their guidelines in regards to where we go, what we eat and the best places for medical assistance if needed. Second, we dress and act in a way as to promote our role as servant and partner. Third, we follow the US Department of State guidelines in determining whether to cancel a trip. Fourth, we provide information to all team members in regards to medications appropriate for their trip. Fifth, we DO NOT share personal information or money with people from the countries we are visiting. Finally, on all student trips, we have a student to adult ratio of 3:1.

Are there any expected costs outside of the fee I pay for the trip?

Any fees associated with passports or medications are not a part of the trip fee. For passport information, go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html>.

Shots may be cheaper at your country health department. For information on shots required for your destination, go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>.

Souvenirs and food during travel are also not a part of the trip fee. While each traveler can decide upon the amount of money to bring, an acceptable amount of money to take with you is \$100. Finally, some countries charge a minimal fee for entrance into or departure from the country. Cash may be needed for this fee.

Is there fundraising associated with the trip?

Most teams engage in a letter-writing campaign to raise funds for themselves. Community Christian Church will not lead or develop other fundraising activities. If financial problems exist, please contact Jim Melton at (630) 779-3693 or jimmelton@communitychristian.org.

How can we best support those who are a part of a mission team?

For many people, this will be one of the most impactful trips of their lives. It is sometimes difficult to determine how we can partner with those who are on the trip from home. There are a number of steps that can be taken. First, pray. Pray for the team and for those they are going to partner with. Second, support them financially. Third, pack letters or encouraging notes in their luggage. Third, ask questions about the trip. Fourth, follow the mission team's communication while they are there. Finally, find opportunities for those on mission share stories.

Why do we do mission trips?

Our purpose IS NOT to go "help" those we partner with, it is to develop our partnership. Our hope is that both those living in America and those living in other areas of the world would benefit through this relationship. We want everybody to grow closer in their

relationship with God through this trip and be closer to becoming On Mission in their faith life.