

LoveServes International

MISSION TRIP MEETING OUTLINES

TEAM MEETING 1 – MISSION TRIP WHY

Leader guide- How to prepare for the meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get confirmation from each team member to determine who is coming. (Meetings are mandatory)
- Review notes including Learn-Servant-Storyteller, print out enough copies of Learner, Servant, Storyteller for each person.
- Watch VIDEO ONE More than Meets the Eye of Helping without Hurting in Short term missions using the videos in our Trip Leader Toolbox <http://loveserves.org/mission-trip-leader-toolbox/>
- Gather supplies for activity – Pens, Post it notes and strips of yarn cut enough for each person (1 strip of yarn approx. 2 feet long and 6-8 post-its per person) TV for video

Icebreaker question – Quickly go around the circle and ask everyone to answer this question: What was your favorite pet and why?

Prayer in groups – discuss briefly biggest fear/obstacle about this trip (partners or groups of 3-4)

Vision and Mission – Have you ever been a part of something really significant? You know that feeling when you're a part of something genuinely important...there is just nothing like it! God has called us to be part of something really big, but so many are missing it. There are churches all over the world that are on the sidelines and are not involved in the most critical things that God commanded for us to do. Jesus said to go make disciples, He said to love people and meet the needs of the least of these. We at LoveServes want to see healthy churches in every nation equipping God's people to make disciples who make disciples. God has used LoveServes to mentor over 2,314 churches in the Dominican Republic to take ownership of the needs in their communities. We are ecstatic about the transformation that is taking place in this nation. God is reviving His Church! The once ineffective churches have become powerful agents of change in communities all across the island. We have the privilege to share with you that God has used His local church to lead over 95,000 adults to Christ! Now that's being a part of something BIG!

Where do Mission Trips come in? Recognizing that God's Church is global, it is inspiring to experience what God is doing in another part of the world. It is a life-transforming opportunity for mutual growth and encouragement between American and Dominican churches. We both have a lot to gain by what God will do when we work together!

3 "E's" or Key reasons for Short term mission trips:

1. To **Experience** what God is doing in another nation through His Church. It is truly a revival of the Church and it is inspiring for American Believers to see and experience the life change that

is happening in DR. It is also notable for Americans to realize their own poverty when they experience the WEALTH of meaningful relationship. Despite the physical poverty that many Dominicans live in, the Christians have true wealth in community.

2. To **Encourage** the Dominican Church by demonstrating love and support for their faithful work. Even though their resolve is strong, the work of the ministry outside the four walls of the church can be exhausting. We have learned from the Dominican believers that when teams come to partner with them, they feel infused with energy and feel affirmed in the important work God has called them to.
3. We desire for trip attendees to **Embrace** the responsibility to invest the whole of their lives in fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus called us ALL to go make disciples, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to care for orphans and widows and be the heart and hands of Him who set the example for us. We hope that while experiencing serving with love in DR that Christians would return to their own churches and communities and be a catalyst in getting others outside the four walls of the church to love and serve those who are all around them.

Bottom Line: Mission trips can be used by God to change what you care about (from an American mindset that poverty is a problem to be solved, to relationship building which can lead to healing for both groups)

Logistics

- Airfare –
- Ministry – Focus on Relationships not task
 - Construction Project -
 - Children’s Outreach -
 - Women’s ministry (women only) -
 - Sunday night service – testimonies/songs.
 - Possible other evening service –
 - HOME VISITS -
 - Special ministry opportunity based on Dominican Church request.
- Lodging –
- Food – it is important let us know if you have special food allergies
- Packing list – important – please use it.
- Project Materials cost – Talk to your circle of friends. Many people will give something towards project that is a good cause.
- Support letters – we have a sample letter. We’ve learned that IRS will recognize giving towards your trip as a tax-deduction. How about organizing a 5k walk. Other ideas?

Cultural training

- Play VIDEO ONE – More than Meets the Eye
- Learner – Servant – Storyteller (extra hand-out)
- Timeline – Learn to share your story in 2-4 minutes (post it notes, pens and yarn)

- Experiential Learning Cycle

Reflection – what has just been experienced? What did you observe, think, feel?

Insight – what is being learned?

Application – what this could mean for our mission project?

Other announcements

- Fill out Application form online and turn in copy of your passport. Mail in deposit to LoveServes

if you don't have it tonight.

- Balance is due _____ at next team meeting

- **Next meetings:** _____

- Location: _____

LEARNER-SERVANT-STORYTELLER

LEARNER

(1) Learner vs. Teacher

- As we enter another or different culture, we may come across (unintentionally) to the new culture as superior or as a conqueror. Another culture other than your own is neither right nor wrong; it's different. Therefore, it is imperative we come to this different culture as a LEARNER.
- We must be willing to enter a different culture as a LEARNER rather than a TEACHER. The temptation is to think we "know it all," that we have the solutions to their problems. We are tempted to fix them. We are not there to tell people what to do, but to come alongside to partner with them to accomplish their goals.
- Jesus spent thirty years as a learner before entering ministry.
- Like Jesus, we must observe others and learn who they are and what their culture is like in order to establish relationship (good examples are the woman at the well or the woman caught in adultery).

SERVANT

(2) Servant vs. Leader

- Jesus humbled Himself to enter this world in order to build relationship with us. Listen to how this is described in Phil. 2:5-8:
"The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had and took the nature of a servant. He became like man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross."
- We too must be willing to enter this different culture with a servant attitude. One that says, "How can I come alongside you and assist you with your needs and not impose my goals or agenda on you?"
- We, from the U.S., are seen as rich and powerful; therefore, it is imperative we have servant hearts. This attitude will be the gateway to building relationships and opening the door to people's hearts.

STORYTELLER

(3) Be a Storyteller

- When strangers enter a different culture, sometimes it is hard for people to accept preaching that is to correct and inform. To preach, you need to know the context of the culture. When invited to preach in a church service this is acceptable, but in other contexts it is more effective to tell your story.
- Everyone has a story of faith. One is not better than another. It is uniquely yours. Your story is personal, and when you tell it others will want to share theirs.

Practice telling your story of faith to someone this week. Then ask yourself these following questions:

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CYCLE

Section One: Reflection – what has just been experienced

- What did you do in this experience?
- What happened?
- What did you observe?
- What feelings did you have participating in this experience?

Section Two: Insight – what is being learned

- What are the implications of what we have just reflected on?
- What could be learned from this experience?
- Identify some possible learnings.

Section Three: Application – what this could mean to our mission trip

- How might this learning apply to our upcoming mission experience?
- Do people's attitudes affect us? In what ways?
- How does my attitude affect other people?
- What impact can one person have with a group?

BIBLICAL REFLECTION: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

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TEAM MEETING 2 – CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Leader Guide- How to prepare for the meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get confirmation from each team member to determine who is coming. (Meetings are mandatory)
- Watch VIDEO TWO “They are not help helpless- Cautionary Tale Make sure the meeting venue has set up on screen or TV to show the video (including proper connecting wires like HDMI) or you can mirror on your TV Go to Mission Trip Leader Toolbox
- <http://loveserves.org/mission-trip-leader-toolbox/>
- Review notes including The Cultural Entry Model, print out enough copies for each person.
- Review 4 Cultural Game Instructions
- Gather supplies for activity – Pens, Four Culture Instruction page, Diagram of Cultural Entry Model, TV for video

1. **Icebreaker question** – What is a tradition your family has?
2. **Prayer** – get in groups of 3-4 and pray for one another about your greatest hope to learn from this trip.
3. **Logistics**
 - Flights/Carpools/ -- You should purchase your flight asap, prices only continue to rise at this

point. Most of us are flying out of _____ on _____ at _____ and

returning on the _____ flight. Please send your flight itinerary to

Patricia@loveserves.org and copy _____ We can work out

carpool at our next meeting.

- Luggage/packing list -- Remember to check the luggage requirements (40 lbs on most airlines)

You can also bring a Backpack which doesn't cost you anything. Please see the Packing list on

our Mission Packet Click link and go to page 11 <http://loveserves.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/02/Mission-Trip-ManualPC.pdf](http://loveserves.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Mission-Trip-ManualPC.pdf)

- Balance is due _____ at team meeting (\$650 per person)
- **Next meetings** – _____ Host for next meetings?
- **Project funding** - \$ _____ needed. Per person approx. \$ _____
- Daily team devotions – need 7 volunteers

- Construction Leader – _____
- Home visit Leader – _____
- Women’s ministry/craft Leader – _____
- Worship Leader – _____ Other Musicians – _____
- Photographers - _____ Videographers/editor - _____
- Kids program (approx. _____ Kids) – 3 parts (Bible Lesson/songs; Games; Kid Craft – **NO gluing**)
 - o Leader roles: Bible Lessons - _____
 - o Kid Craft _____
 - o Games - _____

4. **Team Exercise - Four Cultures**

Group is divided into 4 different “cultures” and each take on a particular personality. The 4 teams take turns “visiting” and “hosting” other groups. They role play according to their groups “culture”. Then discuss the experience and how it made us feel. The purpose was to simulate what it is like to enter another culture and learn how to process the awkward, confusing, frustrating feelings that sometimes come into play when there is a “culture clash”. We asked each member to answer the following three questions...

Reflection – what has just been experienced?

Insight – what is being learned?

Application – what this could mean to our mission project?

5. **Play VIDEO TWO** “They are not help helpless- Cautionary Tale”
A funny illustration of cultural differences from Helping without hurting.

Ask team if they could identify the main point of the clip.

Main point – We are different and that’s ok, don’t enter a culture with the attitude that we are superior. Remember to ask a lot of questions! Then really listen!

6. **The Cultural Entry Model (Use handout of diagram- Appendix I)**

A. The Facts of Life (The Inevitables)

- In a cross-cultural setting there will inevitably be frustration, confusion, tension and embarrassment.
- These are inescapable experiences of living, working and ministering cross-culturally. They are part of life. It is simply not true that if you are more spiritual, you will escape these emotions. They are inevitable.

B. The Approach you choose - The entry posture you choose can greatly help you in positively coping with cultural differences.

- Normally we enter a new or different culture with **fear, prejudice, or suspicion**. This will happen, and it is important that we are aware of it.
- Our choice, however, is to enter with a positive approach of **openness, acceptance and trust**.

C. Coping Strategies (responses) and Results

No matter how you enter the inevitables of a different culture, your response is not inevitable. It’s crucial to realize that you have a choice. You can choose how you’ll react to cultural differences.

- Because of the differences from your own culture, the temptation is to react to your frustrations, confusion, embarrassment, or tension with **criticism, rationalization, and/or withdrawal**.
Results - When you do this, you face the risk of **alienation and isolation** from the very people you came to get to know and serve (Dominicans) and serve with (team members)
- A better choice is to react to your frustrations, confusion, embarrassment, or tension by **observing and listening** to the new culture, and by inquiring about their differences. For example, when misunderstanding occurs, you need not rationalize your behavior or criticize your host. You can inquire where the breakdown occurred, where your different backgrounds clashed. You can learn to observe with more insight, to listen at a deeper level. This way, you can clarify the issues and apologize for your lack of insight if necessary.
Results - When you do this you greatly enhance the possibility of establishing **connection and understanding**, which leads to relationship

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TEAM MEETING 3 – CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Leader Guide- How to prepare for the meeting:

- Determine host home and who will bring snacks and beverages.
- Make sure you get confirmation from each team member to determine who is coming. (Meetings are mandatory)
- Watch VIDEO THREE “Who are the poor” of Helping without Hurting in Short term missions. <http://loveserves.org/mission-trip-leader-toolbox/> Make sure the meeting venue has set up on screen or TV to show the video (including proper connecting wires like HDMI) or you can mirror to your TV.
- Review notes and print out enough copies for each person.
- Invite a veteran tripper to share their testimony about Cross-cultural communication
- Gather supplies for activity – Missions Journals, T-shirts, Pens, TV for video.

1. Icebreaker Question – Think of a time you had a funny (or serious) miscommunication

2. Prayer in Groups

3. Logistics/ Q & A

- **Flights** – Finalize transportation to airport. Carpool?
- **Arrival in Santo Domingo** – We no longer have to have \$10.00 Cash, that fee is now in the airline ticket.
- **Packing highlights (Please check full packing list on our website)**
 - PASSPORT – If you haven’t yet, please scan and email a copy to Patricia@loveserves.org
 - 2 pairs of work gloves are recommended
 - 2 Towels each and washcloths for shower
 - Twin sheets & pillowcase AND PILLOW for bunk beds (“single” guys and girls will be on bunk beds with only a mattress)
 - Mosquito Net (our DR staff will have nets for rent \$2)
 - Insect repellent with DEET is more effective if you are not allergic.
 - Refillable Water bottle! Insulated are best. Put your name on it.
 - For traveling in airport: All laptops, and cell phones have the battery charged. Reminder about cell charges/international plans.

- Ministry and daily schedule – Put on your Mission H.A.T. (Humble Adaptable Teachable)

Go over “week at a glance”. Discuss special events and day off as well.

- Construction -
- Women’s Ministry/Craft -
- Kids Outreach
 - Bible Lesson –
 - Kid Craft –
 - Games –
- Home Visits -
- Services -
- Team Devotions: Sunday – _____ Mon – _____ Tues – _____
 _____ Wed – _____ Thur – _____ Fri – _____
 _____ Sat – _____

- Mission Journals & T-shirts – you’ll get your Journal and shirt at last meeting _____.
Pack it in your suitcase. Please don’t wear your T-shirt on the plane.

3. Culturally Sensitive Giving

- **Play VIDEO THREE** Who are the Poor? of Helping without Hurting in Short term missions
- **You are surrounded by great need ... what do you do? How do you respond?** Anyone who has been on a short-term mission trip has struggled with these pressing questions. The tension is good. You are out in the field facing awesome need, but you also know this place is different. The rules you have been used to at home may not apply here. The awful truth is that giving some money today to the little child holding out his hand or to the pastor for his special project may do more harm than good. Our giving must be culturally sensitive. We must come to the needs of this culture as a learner asking some critical questions.
 1. **What have I come here to do?** You have come to meet very specific needs that are within your ability to meet. You will build a church, school, home or clinic. You will leave behind a vital structure that will affect the lives of these people for years to come. You will share the love and message of Christ to children and their families and model for them the compassion of a servant of God. Through this you will make an impact ... and YOU will be changed! What you will not do is change the economic situation of the community or alter the reality of poverty for these people. You are helping in a

significant way, but you cannot do it all. The message is ... concentrate on what you CAN do, not what you cannot.

2. **How can it be harmful to give a gift to meet such an obvious need?** It may feel good to give your hat to a child you have come to know or some money to a parent, but that simple act of giving can lead to ill feelings between neighbors, an unnatural sense of dependency, or even a riot as the community comes out to receive their share of the gifts. The next mission group that comes in will face a community that expects to receive gifts, and grave complications can result.

A general rule is to not give gifts of money or things to individuals. Realize the power of your gifts both positively and negatively. Many a pastor has been unnaturally tempted by the availability of money from well-meaning Christian visitors. We must resist our desire to meet an immediate need for one person to the detriment of meeting long-term needs for many.

3. **So ... how should I give?** It is always best to channel your giving of clothes, tools, money, etc. through an organization that knows the country, culture and local leadership. Instead of risking the problems that can come from giving to individuals, focus your giving on a specific project that will have broader effect.

4. **Personal testimony from veteran Mission Tripper**

5. **Relationships through Languages**

Verbal communication

- Your group's effort in language-learning communicates to another culture that you care about them. It is a bridge-builder.
- In learning another language, the key word is 'relax!' The goal here is not to become an expert in the language, but to acquire enough of the language to allow you to build relationships.
- In most cases, you will have a translator with you.

Keep in mind that the ultimate goal is not language learning, but rather getting to know, love, and serve people cross-culturally.”

L L	Hola	Hello
A E	Me llamo...	My name is...
N A T	¿Como se llama usted?	What is your name?
G R E		
U N X	Estoy aprendiendo Español	I am learning Spanish.
A I T	¿Como se llama esto?	What is this called?
G N		
E G	Gracias por su ayuda help.	Thank you for your help.
	Adios. Hasta luego.....	Good-bye. See you later.