

## PLAN – Leading a Mission Trip (During Trip)

As a leader of a missions team, your responsibilities go beyond the pre-trip planning of logistics, but they continue over into the actual trip and some post-trip follow-up. No matter the duration of the trip, the leader, along with the ministry partner, will be the go-to people for guidance and leadership of the team, the ministry work, and ensuring all have a transformational experience. While many of the logistics should have been planned out during the Vision Trip/Site Visit, the team leader is responsible for making sure that everything runs smoothly, while being flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances while in country. Below are some questions and guidelines to consider while planning for the trip, itself.

### The Team:

- How will the team travel while in country?
- Where will the team sleep? Is it a safe location?
- Where will the team eat? Is there clean drinking water?
- Will the team have any co-leaders or student leaders? What will be their responsibilities?

### Daily Needs:

- Be sure to have a finalized, yet flexible, itinerary. Keep copies with the team and with the sending church or organization.
- What ministry supplies will be needed each day?
- What kinds of jobs need to be done everyday vs. once per trip? (I.e. currency exchange, purchasing of supplies and/or food, etc.)
- Will team members be allowed to take pictures throughout the trip or only on the final days? What kind of story will those pictures tell (a story of despair, or a story of hope)?
- Will ministry supplies be left behind for host/ministry partner?
- Who will team members report to in case of emergency?
- Will team members be allowed to use cell phones & Internet, if available?
- What basic phrases does the team need to learn in the native language?
- What is culturally “taboo” that the team needs to be aware of?

### Devotionals & Debriefing:

- Will there be daily devotionals as a team? Who will lead them?
- Will the team have daily debrief sessions? Who will lead them?
- How can the experience be mutually transformational for all who are involved (team members, team leaders, ministry partners, partner-country nationals, etc.)?

### Resources:

- *Stuff You Need to Know About Doing Missions in Your Church Handbook* by David Mays
- *The Open Secret* by Leslie Newbigin
- *When Helping Hurts: Alleviating the Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Ourselves* by Fikkert & Corbett
- *Deep Justice Journeys* by Powell & Griffin
- *Cross-Cultural Partnerships* by Lederleitner

- *Help! We're Going on a Short-Term Trip* (Team Leader's & Team Member's Manual) by CultureLink
- *A Guide to Short-Term Missions* by Greene
- *Equipped for Adventure: A Practical Guide to Short-Term Mission Trips* by Kirby
- *Stop, Check, Go* by Townsend
- *Culture Shock!* Series by Cramer
- *Basic Training for Mission Teams* by Rankin & Tadlock (LifeWay)