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*Man can build a house but it take God to build a home!*

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Dear Pastors and Mission Team Leaders:

This manual has been written to help you bring together a short term mission team. The information in this manual has been derived from many resources, missionaries, church leaders and other people who have lead short term mission teams around the world.

Some of the information is designed specifically to help the Team Leader(s) organize and plan a team and a missions trip. Some of the information is designed to be used by all team members.

Please feel free to adapt, edit and use any or all of this manual to help you and your team prepare for your next short term mission trip to the Dominican Republic. We have enclosed a disc of this manual with copies in WordPerfect and Word so that you can edit and use what information that you feel is important for your team.

We are sure that there is still more information to be communicated that will be more specific to your team's needs. For that, we can communicate on a one-on-one basis via email and/phone.

Thank you so much for your interest in putting together a short term mission team and bringing them to serve with us in the mountains of the Dominican Republic. The mission trip will not only be an adventure but is sure to change you all in God's special ways.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with anything at all. One of the keys to a good mission trip and good communication on all levels prior to the actual trip.

Blessings,

Paul & Sharyn Branson  
President and founders of House Upon the Rock Ministry



**MISSION TEAM**

**PREPARATION**

**MANUAL**

Rev 01/18

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### **Suggested Team Preparation Schedule**

			Begin vaccinations as some are a six months series of three shots.
			First Team Meeting (then a team meeting at least monthly until departure)
12 - 8 Months prior	Confirm trip dates with church and missionaries		
	Start announcing and promoting	5 Months prior	First Fund Raiser
	Have application available		Airfare cost due in full Team Meeting
6 Months prior	Applications and deposit due (suggested 10% non refundable)	4 Months prior	Team Project Team Meeting
	Passport Application	Submission Deadline	Next payment due of minimum 40% (leaving balance of 50% due)
		3 Months prior	Second Fund Raiser

Team Meeting

2 Months prior  
missionaries

Team Project  
Team Meeting  
Final 50% of payment due  
Send deposit to host

1 Month prior

Have weekly team meetings if possible

*MISSION TRIP TAKES PLACE*

Within days of returning have a debriefing team meeting

Within two to three weeks of returning - give a church presentation on your trip

## Suggested Mission Trip Application Form For Group Leader(s) to Use

CHURCH AND/OR TEAM NAME

Team Leader, contact information

Name:

Address:

Phone Numbers (home, cell, fax):

Email Address:

Birthdate:

Emergency Contact Information:

Name

Address

team leader and host missionaries should be aware? If so, please explain:

5. Are you taking any prescription medication? If so, please describe and explain why you take it:

6. Do you have any dietary concerns that we should know about? Ie: food allergies, diabetic, etc. If so, please list:

7. Recommended Vaccinations:

Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, Cholera, Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps & Varicella

*If you do not have any of the recommended vaccinations, we highly recommend that you get them. Check with your local Travellers Health Unit or your physician for more information.*

8. Do you have a valid Passport? If so, please attach a photo copy of the front page.

\*\*\* All foreign Mission Trips require a valid passport. They are good for five years and may take several months to obtain. It is recommended that you apply for your passport at least six months in advance of your mission trip. \*\*\*

### Mission Team Trip Guidelines

1. Special skills that you bring to the team (ie: nurse, contractor, welder, pastor, etc.):

2. Do you speak any other languages other than English? If yes, what language(s):

3. Mission team you will be a part of (Country and dates):

4. Do you have any medical conditions that the

1. On mission trips, you are a servant to others.

2. God is ultimate authority.

3. Team members must be flexible at all times.

4. Each team member's input is expected and

valuable. However, the Team leader will

make decisions for the team as a whole.

5. On a mission trip, we will respect the authority of the full time missionaries who we will be serving. We will be in their country for a short time - they live there!
6. Ask questions - there is no dumb questions (especially before the trip begins).
7. There will be group meetings during the mission trip to discuss situation, get feedback and do some bible study that all team members must attend.
8. Please abide by all country dress recommendations and cultural behaviours.
9. Respect each of your fellow team members, their space, their possessions and their opinions.
10. Respect the local people of the country. They are not wrong, their ways are not wrong - they and their culture are just “different” from yours.

Congratulations!

You are stepping forward and beginning your short term missions training. This manual has been designed to equip you for your mission. As you move forward, I encourage you to use this training to make the most of your mission experience. Pray and ask the Lord to use this preparation time and your trip as an opportunity to grow you like never before. Pray that your heart and eyes will be open to those you have the opportunity to serve and minister to as well as the things He desires to do in your and through you in this experience.

It is the first step in confirming your calling. You will gain new perspective and will have the opportunity to test your cross-cultural abilities.

You will develop and strengthen your Christian character, stretching spiritually, culturally and relationally.

*A short team mission trip is much more than a mere adventure, it is part of fulfilling the Great Commission!*

WHY WE GO.....

We are commanded in scriptures to go.

Matthew 20v19-20

We go in order to encourage our partners in the

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## TRIP PREPARATION

### Where God Guides, He Provides

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” -Matthew 20v19-20*

*“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus”. -Philippians 4v19*

### I HAVE NEVER TRAVELLED OVERSEAS

Great! What better way to experience overseas travel than with a missions team?

Every team is lead by a caring leader who will prepare you each step of the way. Your team will meet regularly prior to your trip. You will be told what to pack, what shots you need, how to get a passport and even what to expect cross-culturally. You will grow in your faith as you obediently take this next step.

### I DO NOT HAVE THE TIME.

Most mission trips are 7 - 14 days.

Depending on the length of the trip, when you account for weekends, you usually will not be away from school or work for more than a five to ten days. Check your calendar. Make it work.

### I DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY

Where God guides, He provides.

This is the most common reason people do not get involved in missions, however, if God is calling, He will provide. He has a very large bank account.

As you pray about going, God will lead you in decisions on how to save and earn money, how to ask for support from friends and family. He will also surprise you with financial support from people and places you would never had

imagined!!!

### I AM NOT SURE WHAT I CAN DO OR WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER

What are your gifts? Everyone has gifts! Use them to the Reach the World!

Can you smile, play with children, pray, care about the lost. Your presence and prayers can make a huge difference in corners of the world where there are no witnesses for Christ. Additionally, your pre-trip training will equip you for mission trip activities.

### Suggested Reading:

*“Stepping Out: A Guide to Short Term Missions” YWAM Publications*

*“In the Time of the Butterflies” by Paula Alvarez.*

*DVD: “In the Time of the Butterflies” starring Salma Hyack*



## **BEFORE YOU GO, CONSIDER THE COST**

not already have one.

### **Steps of Preparation**

*Fundraising is an integral part of your short term missions experience. Do not let money keep you from going..... God is waiting for an opportunity to show you how big HE is!*

### **Deposit and Balance**

A 10% deposit is required with the application. In addition, the balance of the trip cost is due before the departure of your trip.

After airline tickets have been purchased, you will be responsible for the ticket fare if you should decide not to go. Your leader will announce in advance when the tickets will be purchased.

### **Immunizations and Vaccinations**

We support immunizations that are recommended by the Traveller's Health Unit or the CDC. Please check with your team leader to determine what is needed for your trip. You will need to consult your physician or local travel clinic. Some shots must be given 4 - 6 weeks prior to your trip. Some shots are a series of three required over six months.

Fees for immunizations and vaccinations are NOT included in the price of the trip. Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccinations are required for ALL trips.

### **Passports and Visas**

Passports are required for all trips outside your country. The charges for a passport are not included in the trip fees. Passports take, on average, three months so apply early if you do

We require a copy of the front page of your passport for the team leader to have in the case of an emergency.

To obtain a passport, you will need two passport photos, proof of citizenship, photo identification, birth certificate. Check your local passport office or your immigration web site for more details and fees.

For the Dominican Republic, a visa is required. It costs \$10 and will be included in either your airfare fees or your team fees. The visa is valid for 60 days.

Dominican Republic also charges a \$20US Exit Fee which every person leaving the country must pay. This will be included in your team fees.

### **Communicating and Fundraising**

Are you concerned that people will not understand why they should support your trip? Here are some reasons why people should give:

- < People give when they feel informed. Think about communicating: why am I going? How will the money be used? How can others be involved? How do I expect to grow spiritually through this trip?
- < People give because they believe their gift will change lives. Help them understand how their gift will benefit God's Kingdom.
- < People give if you make them feel as much a part of the trip as those going. Your supporters are as much a part of the mission team as those who are physically going. Communicate with them before, during and after the trip. They need to know you are depending on their prayers and support.
- < People give when they see that you are completely committed to this and enthusiastic about it! People are excited to see others with a passion and are then

inspired to support them.

- < People give to people that they know. This applies in many cases but is not exclusive.

*Above all else, focus on God, not your own need, claiming the promises of Ephesians 3v20-21*

### Prayer and Support-Raising

You are about to embark on an awesome, faith building journey.....

Prayer is the foundation of your trip. Raise *Prayer Supporters* not financial supporters. Prayer needs to start now! Before you pack your bags and step on a plane, you need prayer coverage. God is willing and able to do far more than we ask or imagine but we must PRAY. Ask everyone that you meet to commit to pray for you starting immediately and never ceasing until after your return. Do not forget to pray yourself!

#### Pray Suggestions:

- < peace that you are following His will
- < growing faith as you rely on Him to provide financial support
- < wisdom for your team leaders
- < unity for the team
- < clear vision of God's plans, not man's plan
- < removal of all distractions
- < opportunity and boldness for you to share your story with those who need Him
- < insight and understanding for the people and culture where you will be serving
- < local missionaries as they prepare to receive your team
- < safe travels from leaving your home to returning to your home and everything in between.
- < God to prepare the hearts of the people that you will encounter

*"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send our the labourers into His harvest field" - Matthew 9v38*

Prayer is essential for you and your mission team. Prayer may not be glamorous but it is essential - it is your foundation. When people say that they will pray for you, do not be disappointed because they did not give a financial gift. You just received a priceless gift..... PRAYER! Be earnestly grateful as no amount of money can buy prayer coverage. Seek out the prayer warriors in your church and ask them to pray for you. The results will also be priceless!

Raising the funds necessary to take a missions trip may seem like an insurmountable hurdle but this critical step will build the foundation for a spiritual, Christ-filled trip. Fundraising has a scriptural basis. The way you view it is crucial in turning fundraising into a partnership.

The level of anxiety associated with money and short term mission trips is high. Worry and anxiety often result when our finances are not entrusted to God. We often think that God will help us when sharing our testimony, with cultural adjustments or with our problems in the field but we do have to do some of the work. To begin - make sure you dedicate a good amount of time to prayer and ask God for help and wisdom as you prepare for your trip.

The overall goal and purpose of fundraising should be to share the vision of what God is doing on the mission field and in your life. A critical, sometime neglected aspect of fundraising is communicating the bigger picture.

You should raise a prayer support team who will pray for you during preparations, training and daily during your trip.

You are raising a ministry team. Your prayer and financial supporters are as much of your mission team as you are. Call them team

members. Treat them as team members because without them, you are not going.

Prepare a list of potential prayer and financial partners to whom you would like to send a support letter. Keep in mind that your prayer partners will be an important part of your team, even if they never support you financially.

Types of communication include:

- < one on one conversations
- < letter writing
- < keeping your ministry team updated.
- < follow up after the trip.

*Suggested Reading:*

*“People Raising” YWAM Publications*

*“Friend Raising” by Betty Barnett YWAM Publications*

Check list before you mail your letters:

*information.*

- copy of your newsletter detailing what you are doing, when, where, how, etc.
- commitment form
- photo
- where to send financial support
- how can they pay ie: cash, cheque, automatic withdrawal, etc.
- your personal contact information
- your needs
- exact dates of when you will be going with deadlines
- your personal story

**Sample Commitment Card**

Name

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Email

Tel #

Cell #

I/We would like to commit to be a part of your ministry team by/with:

- praying for you regularly
- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this card to me, with the enclosed self addressed enveloped by June 1, 2007.

All Cheques can be made payable to *My Church, 12345 Church Lane, Church City, Prov, Postal Code*. Please enclose a note stating that the financial gift is designated to me and my mission trip.

*Put your name, email and phone number at the bottom so that they can contact you for more*

## Sample Support Letter #1

Dear Friends and Family:

I have some exciting news that I would like to share. I have an opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic on *Insert Date* on a short term mission trip with *Insert Church name or group*. Our team will be working with local missionaries, *insert missionary names*. *Insert missionary names* have been serving in the Dominican Republic for over ten years and are affiliated with *insert mission organization*. They operate a medical clinic and construction projects in the village that they work in. Our goal will be to assist in the clinic as needed but to primarily work as part of a construction team made up of missionaries and nationals that will be building housing in this community. We will spend one week building relationships, offering our services and sharing our faith.

In order to make this possible, we need to assemble a strong supporting team. People like you may lift us up in daily prayer and/or give a financial gift towards the expenses as we seek to serve God in this area. The total amount that I need to raise is \$ \_\_\_\_\_. This amount includes travel, expenses, food, lodging and project monies.

I would appreciate your prayerful consideration of giving in prayer and financially to help me meet this need. Enclosed is a commitment card and self addressed envelope. Please complete this and return it to me by *insert date*. Any financial gifts can be sent to *insert address and instructions for donation*.

I know that there are many opportunities each year to support these types of outreaches. If you have already financially contributed or simply are unable to help at this time, please do not feel obligated. However, I would appreciate your

prayers as I prepare for the trip as well as prayers during the trip. If you have questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact to me at *insert phone numbers and email address*.

Thank you so much for considering supporting me as I seek to serve the Lord on this missions trip.

Blessings

*your name*

## Sample Support Letter #2

Dear Friends and Family:

I hope this letter finds you doing well. I have some exciting news that I would like to share with you. For some time now, I have had the desire to go on a short term mission trip and now I have that opportunity. I will be travelling to the Dominican Republic on *Insert Date* on a short term mission trip with *Insert Church name or group*. Our team will be working with local missionaries, *insert missionary names*. *Insert missionary names* have been serving in the Dominican Republic for over ten years and are affiliated with *insert mission organization*. They operate a medical clinic and construction projects in the village that they work in. Our goal will be to assist in the clinic as needed but to primarily work as part of a construction team made up of missionaries and nationals that will be building housing in this community. We will spend one week building relationships, offering our services and sharing our faith.

As I have started to prepare for this missions opportunity, I have been overwhelmed with a sense that something great is going to happen in and through me. This will be my first mission trip experience and I anticipate being stretched, broken and made new daily.

If you would like to share with me in this powerful ministry, here are some important things that you can do:

- < Pray that God would strengthen me spiritually to do the work He has called me to do.
- < Pray that this opportunity to meet the physical needs of those less fortunate in the Dominican Republic will also be a life changing experience spiritually for those I have to opportunity to minister to.
- < Pray that my health would remain strong.

There will be costs associated with this trip. As a team member, I am responsible for raising my portion of the trip costs including airfare, food, lodging, transportation and project money. This cost is approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ I feel confident that God has called me to participate in this mission trip and He will provide the way. I would greatly appreciate your prayerful consideration of giving financially to help me meet this need. Any financial gifts can be sent to *insert address and instructions for donation*. A tax deductible receipt will be issued.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider supporting me prayerfully and/or financially. If you have any questions or would like more information on the trip, please do not hesitate to call me at xxx xxx xxxx or email me at [xxx@xxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxx.xxx). I look forward to sharing this experience with you upon my return.

Blessings

## FOR TEAM LEADERS

### SUGGESTIONS ON PREPARING A TEAM BUDGET

Figuring out a budget for your team can be difficult. You want to make it as affordable as possible to everyone yet there are tangible costs that must be covered. Here is a suggested team budget for your to work from.

#### Example Budget:

Airfare	
Team transport in home country	\$25
Country visa and exit fees	\$30
Mission trip fee	
Project Fee	
Misc team expenses	\$25
TOTAL:	

#### Actual Fees:

##### **Project Fee - Construction Teams Only**

Team of 2 to 8 people	Minimum of \$1300 US per week
Teams of 9 or more people	\$185 US per person per week

This money goes 100% towards the work project(s) that the team will be doing while they are in country. This will cover materials, transportation of materials, hiring of local expert to work alongside the team, etc.

#### **Mission Trip Fee**

Teams of 2 to 8 people	\$70 US per person per night
Teams of 9 - 25 people	\$62 US per person per night
Teams of over 25 people, talk to us directly.	

This money covers:

- < all in country transportation from airport to airport
- < three meals a day
- < drinking water
- < housing
- < misc expenses
- < all your in country necessities
- < does not cover your airfare or personal pocket money

#### **TRIP PREPARATION**

\$180

#### What to Pack

- \$170 passport
- Neck pouches or fanny pack for your passport, money, tickets, etc.
- Bible, journal, pen
- Reading book or some form of self entertainment (puzzle book, mp3, etc)
- Ministry materials
- Spending money
- Towel/wash cloth (quick dry towel is best)
- Twin sheets or sleeping bag (on some trips but not all!)
- Sun screen (min. spf 30)
- hat to protect from the sun
- Lip block
- Mosquito repellent (high deet)
- anti-itch cream or stick
- Handi-wipes, antibacterial gel
- Pepto bismol, immodium, allergy meds, tylenol, dramamine/gravol, cough & cold

- meds
- Any prescription medication you may need (if applicable) Bring enough for the entire trip.
  - Glasses or contact lenses & supplies (if applicable)
  - Mosquito nets (if desired but not necessary)
  - Flashlight with extra batteries (not rechargeable)
  - Laundry soap (small amount or share with a team mate)
  - Duct tape (roll per team not per person )
  - Extra ziploc bags - large and small for personal use only for packing liquid items
  - Toilet paper (one travel roll for your own backpack)
  - Empty water bottle
  - snack food - be sure to pack in ziplocs
  - Travel alarm clock with extra batteries
  - Camera with extra batteries and memory stick
  - Neck pillow or small pillow (if desired)
  - Good walking shoes
  - Sandals that can worn in rivers and/or showers
  - Work shoes that can get concrete, paint, etc on them
  - Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, razor, etc) Minimal Needs
  - Light Rain Jacket or poncho
  - Clothing (see next paragraph)

### Clothing and Jewellery

Do not bring anything, especially jewellery and valuables that you are not willing to loose.

Do not wear a lot of jewellery as it just flashes wealth to the poor.

Bring an inexpensive watch.

Work clothes:

Shirts with sleeves and pants or shorts that are at least knee length.

Work clothes should be clothes that you are willing to get ruined.

Closed toe shoes like runners/sneakers. Not fancy as they may get ruined.

Church clothes:

Women/Girls - dresses or tops with sleeves, skirt. No pants, capris, shorts, tank or halter tops. No flip flops – only dress shoes or dress sandals.

Men/Boys - pants and a nice top. No shorts or tank tops. No flip flops – tennis or dress shoes..

Out and About Clothes:

Dominican Republic dress is more conservative. Use your common sense.

Women/Girls: nothing low cut, shorts should be at least 7" inseam, no mini-skirts, spaghetti straps

Men/Boys: always wear your shirt. No short shorts or tanks in public.

Bathing Suits:

Women/Girls: One piece suits please or tankinis. No bikinis.

Men/Boy: no speedos please

Around the Camp:

You can wear a bit “cooler” clothing around the camp and your room but no where else.

Pajamas that cover - you may have to cross in the hallway with someone of the opposite gender on your way to the bathroom

### **DO NOT Pack or Wear**

< Mini-skirts - all skirts and dresses should be knee length or longer

< Short shorts - longer than 7" inseam

< No scrub clothing at all.



- < Two piece bikinis
- < Speedos
- < Spandex
- < Midriff tops, off the shoulder, spaghetti straps.
- < Clothing with ads of alcohol, tobacco, rude comments, swearing, suggestive pictures, etc.
- < Go through your wallet and/or purse and do not bring anything you do not need ie: extra identification, extra credit cards, keys, etc.
- < Large amounts of money, especially in cash
- < Laptop computers. There is no where to get a connection anyway.
- < Avoid taking wrapped gifts. Take wrapping paper separate and wrap once you get there. Airport security has the right to open all wrapped items.
- < On day of travel, wear comfortable shoes that are easy to remove and comfortable, cool clothes as you will be sitting for long periods of time and it is a long travel day.
- < Bring a light sweater or jacket as you may find some airports or airplanes cool. Airlines now charge for blankets.
- < Avoid wearing anything with metal (ie: suspender buckles, metal hair clips, etc.) when travelling through airports and airport security.

### **TIPS FOR TRAVEL**

- < NO, NADA, ZERO JOKE of any kind about safety or security issues in the airports at any time, any place.
- < Take a money belt or should harness to keep cash, passports and other important items.
- < Always carry prescription medication in their original pharmacy supplied bottles and pack them in your carry on - not your checked luggage.
- < If you carry detergent, buy small packets and keep them in their original containers otherwise customs may open your pack and find a baggie of suspicious white power.
- < Pack all liquids in your checked luggage!!! Put duct tape around the lids AND place in a closed ziploc bag.
- < If you have any small bottle with liquids, less than 3 oz, that you are taking in your carry on: place them in one ziploc bag and have it in your hand to show at security. You are not allowed anything more than a total of 3 oz of liquids or security will make you throw it in the garbage.
- < Pack a small sewing kit with a few safety pins
- < Leave economy sized shampoos at home. Use travel sizes.
- < DO NOT bring knives, fireworks, scissors, toys resembling weapons or liquid corrosives.
- < If you have a pocket knife, screwdrivers, leatherman or other sharp items to bring as working tools - **PACK IT IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE!!!** Never in your carry on.
- < Pack all food items in ziploc bags.

### **Health and Safety**

Be sure that everyone has had their proper immunizations and vaccinations. By using a little common sense and little care, you should have no problems with your health while on a mission trip.

We suggest that you bring a hand gel that is antibacterial and Handi-wipes for use throughout the day as soap and water is not always available.

The most common ailments experienced by visitors are an upset stomach and diarrhea. The major cause of this problem is the non-purified water. Carry bottled water with you and do not eat food from roadside vendors or anywhere that your host missionaries do not approve. Do not eat raw vegetables (including salad) that have not been washed in bleach water. Your leaders and

host missionaries can help in determining clean food. If buying food from a store, only eat peeled fruit (banana) or foods that are bagged, bottled or sealed. Food in recommended restaurants are quite delicious so enjoy.

### **Remember**

- < Report any illness to your team leader immediately!
- < Water should not be used for drinking unless you are certain it is purified and safe. This includes water in hotels and restaurants.
- < Use bottled water for brushing teeth
- < Do not swallow the water when showering
- < Be sure to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Recommended is one gallon a day.
- < Coffee, pop and juice are not water and do not hydrate. Nothing is the same as water!

### **Money**

Money will be exchanged by the group leader, host missionary or yourself at an approved money exchange house or at the airport. We suggest that you bring only enough cash to cover shopping and personal expenses. Remember - your housing, transportation and three meals a day is already covered in your team fees. Travellers Cheques or US dollar cash can be exchanged. All currency for exchange should be in US dollar.

Keep your money with you at all times. A money belt or neck pouch will come in very handy. Your team leader will let you know when and where money will be exchanged.

### **Devotions**

Take advantage of the time before your trip to prepare your heart for the work that God wants to do in your life. You will not be effective in serving others until you completely surrender

your heart to God and are open to what He wants to do through you. Set aside time each day to study God's Word and allow Him to make you the person that He has created you to be.

Finding time for devotions once on the mission trip can be difficult. Find a time in the day's schedule for you and God and keep your daily appointment with God.

### **Journaling**

Keeping a journal is not just something to do for fun; it is a way to process the events of the trip. You may never have kept a journal before or maybe you are an expert. Either way, some find keeping a journal on a mission trip as a way of spiritual growth, way to process the events of each day and keep a memory of the trip.

The great thing about journaling is that you can write whatever you want! There is no right or wrong way to keep a journal. It is a time to reflect on your day and process what has been running through your mind. You can write out what you want God to do in your life, what you have been reading in your bible, questions, struggles, prayers, poems, incidents in your day that sparked a thought..... anything that you want. Sometimes, you may want to write to God; other times you will want to write to yourself. It is your journal and for your eyes only.

Consistency is the key. Record something every day even if you think there is nothing happening. You will see God's hand working as you look back over your entries. You can track specific answers to prayers and remember events that would otherwise have been forgotten.

Give it a try. Find a quiet spot and a daily time. Write. Draw. Dream. You will not be disappointed.

*"Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the*

*Lord your God” -1 Chronicles 22v19*

### **Set Goals**

Do not have rigid expectations but do plan to set general goals. Take a moment to think about your personal goals. Here are some suggested areas to think about:

- < In what areas do you want to grow and be challenged?
- < What do you want to learn about working closely with others in ministry?
- < How can you use and improve your spiritual gifts to help your team?
- < What kind of insights do you hope to come away with spiritually, practically and culturally?

### **Reflection Passages**

Take the time to look these up:

Psalm 67v4

Matthew 25v40

Matthew 6

Matthew 10

Matthew 28v19-20

Acts 4v12

Romans 1v16

Romans 10

Romans 10v15

Galations 5v16-26

Philippians 2

1 Peter 1v16

## TEAM UNITY

*“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 15v5*

### GET TO KNOW YOUR TEAM - ALL OF THEM!

Unity is one of the very most important aspects of a missions team. The enemy loves to create disunity among a group of believers who are following God’s commandment to go out into the nations and spread the gospel. Be aware of a little strife, disagreement, resentment. Deal with them now before they grow and affect the entire team. Keep your guard up and do not let any one or anything come between you, a team member and your common goals of serving God! Having team building projects prior to your trip is a great way to get to know one another better and learn how to work together. Everyone has a different personality and way of doing things. This is not wrong - it is just different.

### **In the essentials we believe in unity..... In all our beliefs we show charity....**

*“There is one body and one spirit.... there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father.” -Ephesians 4v8*

*“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputed matters.... who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his master he stands or falls... so each of us will give an account of himself to God... so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” -Acts 14*

*“If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God and if*

*I have faith that can move mountains but have no love, I amount to nothing at all” -1 Corinthians 13v2*

*“May they be brought to complete unity” -John 17v23*

### Handling Conflict

The guidelines below are intended to serve as a guide to responding to potential or real conflict situations. At any given time, some may be more appropriate than others:

When dealing with conflict, PRAY FIRST. Seek God’s guidance for you and those involved.

- < Realize that conflict is an opportunity for growth
- < Withhold judgement until you have heard the other person’s perspective
- < Keep emotions and hasty conclusions under control
- < Identify the core issue and central problem and let the other stuff go!
- < Determine if the issue is “worth fighting for”; pick your battles wisely.
- < Commit yourself to seeing the problem
  
- < “Different” does not mean wrong. State your commitment to the relationship as a priority
- < Compare the relative value/importance of the

goals you desire and the relative value/importance of the relationship

- < Remember that God's glory and your witness are at stake in how the situation is resolved. It is okay to agree to disagree as long as you leave the situation with a healthy respect for each other and are able to affirm the other person's dignity.

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses’. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church and if he refuses to listen to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector” - Matthew 18:15-17*

## MISSIONS TEAM MEMBER GUIDELINES AND COVENANT

Remember that you are representing Jesus Christ as well as *INSERT CHURCH OR GROUP NAME*. Model Jesus in your behaviour and attitude.

Commit to attend all team meetings before the trip as well as follow up meeting.

Prepare spiritually and physically as needed.

Respect the team leader(s) and his or her decisions. All team members must work under the supervision of the team leaders and missionary hosts. Working as a team is a necessity!

Develop and maintain a servant's attitude towards all nationals and your teammates.

Be flexible with scheduling, changes and role assignments.

Remember that you have come to serve. 'How we do things' may not be universal. Respect the host's view of Christianity, recognizing that Christianity has many faces throughout the world and that one of the purposes of this trip is to experience faith lived out in a new setting.

Refrain from complaining. Travel can present numerous, unexpected and undesired circumstances but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. Instead of complaining, try being creative, supportive and praying.

Be committed to the standards of God's Word. This includes refraining from using profanity, illicit drugs, gambling and the consumption of alcoholic beverages while on this trip. Also, respect dress codes.

Cell phones are not be used on the trip unless it is an emergency. In order to get the most of this experience, it is preferred that you do not bring them at all.

Remember not to be exclusive in relationships. If your boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse or child is on the team, make every effort to interact with all members of the team. If you are attracted to a teammate, do not attempt to pursue a relationship on the trip - save it until after you return home!

The team is to travel together always! There will be no late arrivals or early or late departures unless approved prior to the trip or an extreme emergency.

Remember the missionary's prayer: "Where you lead me, I will follow; what you feed me I will swallow". It is an insult to turn down food you are given - it is always their best although it may be different from what we normally eat. Many people in the Dominican Republic eat one meal a day. Please honour your host.

DO NOT give money or gifts to anyone without first consulting with your group leader and missionary host.

Your team leader should know where you are at all times. NEVER wander off alone - it is too dangerous.

Always BE ON TIME for meals, team times, projects, etc. If there is a problem or you are not feeling well, please let your leader know.

Do not waste water - it is a precious resource. Be considerate and use as little as possible.

Do not waste electricity - it is a precious and expensive resource. Use only when needed, turn lights off, etc.

Remember that you can be sent home at your



## **CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES - Where God guides, He provides**

*“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb”. -Revelations 7v9*

### **Culture Shock**

Whether you are going to a different city or a different continent, you will encounter some form of culture shock when leaving home. Unfortunately, the way things are done in “our world” forms the basis for the way we believe things “should be done” in the rest of the world.

*Nothing is more damaging to ministry than turning people away from the message by offending them or their culture by something we do or say.*

We need to stay open as to how other cultures are different. To be effective in ministry, we should move from judgement-passing to diversity-embracing. Here are some tips on how to make sure you understand the culture and represent God to the people you are going to serve.

- < Make time for a quiet time
- < Be relationship-oriented instead of task-oriented
- < Be flexible!
- < Share God’s love in everything that you do
- < Pray that God will open your eyes to see the people as HE sees them

### **Cultural Values**

Feelings of frustration, irritation, tension, impatience, embarrassment and confusion are inevitable. The most important thing is how you

respond. Think about how Christ wants us to respond when these issues arise.

### ***Culture is neutral when viewed from a Christian view***

- < Always respect others and act as servant
- < Have a willingness to submit and try new things
- < We are guests - do not act like it is your home
- < Ask questions; try to understand their culture and customs
- < Be honest about your feelings and discuss them with your team
- < Remember that God can use our discomfort about cultural differences as a way of stretching us and giving us a larger view of Him and His world.

*“Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations...” - Deuteronomy 4v6*

## **10 Tips for Effective Cross-Cultural Communication** by Neil Payne

Communicating across cultures can be confusing and uncertain- unless you have the right frame of mind and approach. These practical strategies can help you prevent misunderstanding and communicate effectively across cultures.

### **1. Slow Down**

Even when English is the common language in a cross-cultural situation, this does not mean you should speak at normal speed. Slow down, speak clearly and ensure your pronunciation is intelligible. Do not yell louder in English when talking to someone who does not understand English. Yelling does not instantly make them fluent in English.

### **2. Separate Questions**



Try not to ask double questions such as “Do you want to carry on or shall we stop here?” In a cross-cultural situation, only the first or the second question may have been comprehended. Let your listener answer one question at a time.

### **3. Avoid Negative Questions**

Many cross-cultural communication misunderstandings have been caused by the use of negative questions and answers. In English, we answer “yes” if the answer is affirmative and “no” if it is negative. In other cultures a “yes” or “no” may only be indicating whether the questioner is right or wrong. For example: the response to “are you coming?” may be “yes” meaning “yes I am not coming”.

### **4. Take Turns**

Cross-cultural communication is enhanced through taking turns to talk.... making a point and then listening to the response.

### **5. Write it Down**

If you are unsure whether something has been understood, write it down and check. This can be useful when using large figures or travel directions.

### **6. Be Supportive**

Effective cross-cultural communication is in essence about being comfortable. Giving encouragement to those with weak English gives them confidence, support and a trust in you.

### **7. Check Meanings**

When communicating across culture, never assume the other party has understood. Be an active listener. Summarize what has been said in order to verify it. This is a very effective way of ensuring accurate cross-cultural communication has taken place.

### **8. Avoid Slang**

Even the most well educated foreigner will not have a complete knowledge of slang, idioms and

sayings. The danger is that the words will be understood but the meaning missed.

### **9. Watch the human**

In many cultures, business is taken very seriously. Professionalism and protocol are constantly observed. Many cultures will not appreciate the use of humour and jokes in the business context. When using humour, think whether it will be understood in the other culture. For example: British sarcasm usually has a negative effect in some countries abroad.

### **10. Maintain Etiquette**

Many cultures have particular etiquette when communicating. It is always a good idea to undertake some cross-cultural awareness training or at least do some research on the target culture.

Cross-Cultural communication is about dealing with people from other cultures in a way that minimizes misunderstandings and maximizes your potential to create strong cross-cultural relationships. The above tips should be seen as a starting point to greater cross-cultural awareness.

## **SEVEN TRIGGERS OF CULTURAL STRESS**

### **Culture Shock**

the immediate sense of disorientation upon entering a new environment. Temporary and short term.

### **Culture Stress**

The day to day stress that occurs in new or changing situations creating doubt, frustration, short temper, sleeplessness, anxiety.

Think about a time that you have entered a new environment. You moved to a new town, job or school. At first, you were disorientated but you oriented yourself fairly rapidly because the environment was similar to places you had been before. Although you were uncomfortable for a short period of time, you knew how to act, to get things done and to respond to others around you. Your culture shock was over quickly.

During an overseas trip, you experience an initial culture shock that is replaced almost immediately with culture stress. You need to know ways to act, how to get things done and how to respond to others around you. You act, do things and respond to others according to your life experiences and world views. However, you are in a new situation where the ways to act, to do things and to respond to others is different. Cultural stress grows as you encounter situations that are contrary to your expectation of what "ought" to be.

You do not have to go overseas to experience culture stress. In your own familiarly environment, you may not recognize your feelings and behaviour as being culture stress because in that environment you know how to cope.

Seven triggers of culture stress are:

- < Courtesy
- < Charity
- < Comfort
- < Communication
- < Control
- < Cleanliness
- < Conclusion Making

## **SUGGESTED TEAM BIBLE STUDIES PRIOR TO LEAVING ON YOUR TRIP**

- < Prayer and Intercession
- < Spiritual Warfare  
(Suggested reading: "Spiritual Warfare for Every Christian" by Dean Sherman)
- < Unconditional Love of God

## **Cultural Shock Triggers**

*What we may experience...*

### Courtesy

all smiles, bowing, tea drinking; so slow to get to the point...personal questions pointed at me all the time... no lines, pushing to get on buses or grabbing taxis...

### Charity

beggars are everywhere - do I ignore them? How do I help the local believers? They take up so much of my time... how and what do I give?

### Comfort

no air conditioning or ice... beds are ½” foam, no pillows.. water pressure is nil, no hot water, long lines to get anything, no easy way to wash clothes.

### Communication

no one speaks English.. They just smile and laugh at us.. Point at us all the time... can not get your orders correct in the local cafes... can not even get a cup of black coffee.. Phones do not work...

### Control

the meetings do not ever start on time... plans made weeks ago have all changed... what we were told last night we would do today has changed...no one seems to be in charge... It is chaos everywhere

### Cleanliness

can not drink water from the tap... piles of garbage... bugs, flies, everywhere... children with open sores.. Horrid smells....open markets with unrefrigerated food... I will get sick

### Conclusion Making

uh-oh Conclusions we may form:  
crazy people...why do we have to eat at 11:30 at night - it is bad for digestion... what a waste of good daylight hours when everything shuts down from noon to 2:00... children are not allowed to stay for worship... they are sent home to guard the house...how can a child do that?

## **Cultural Shock Responses**

*How we should respond...*

### Courtesy

follow the lead of your host culture... take time necessary to build relationships...be patient and flexible...prepare answers ahead pf time to personal issues.

### Charity

remember that the beggar is loved by God; smile and acknowledge the beggar as a person...explore with your hosts or leader how they respond to needs.

### Comfort

pack comfortable clothing and showers...learn how to take a 30 second showers...observe and imitate your hosts who are comfortable.

### Communication

memorize useful phrases and words...always carry pad and pen...writing it out helps...speak slowly and simply...settle for what you get rather than what you want...use your smile.

### Control

use unplanned free time to get to know people...be flexible...enjoy and maximize unscheduled opportunities...take time to pray and write in your journal...let go and let God.

### Cleanliness

go prepared for having a safe supply of water...concentrate on the beautiful things you see rather than the piles of garbage...remember that the children are victims of poverty...eat only food that is stove hot or peeled with a sterile knife...learn a polite way to refuse food that is not safe.

### Conclusion Making

Avoid drawing conclusions or making judgements without learning about the culture.  
Be flexible and consider different habits and customs.  
When seeking information, use the phrase “tell me about” rather than asking why.

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HISTORY & CULTURE SPECIFICS**

### **The Country**

- < The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern part of the island of Hispaniola, bordering Haiti on the west.
- < Hispaniola is located south of Cuba, east of Jamaica, north of South America (Venezuela).
- < Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the island was the first to be colonized by Europeans.
- < The Dominican Republic is the home of the first city of the Americas, first street, first cathedral, first city called Santiago.
- < There are no poisonous snakes or deadly spiders on the island and very little wildlife of any kind.
- < The only wildlife is wild bores which are only in one specific area of the island. Spanish is the official language.
- < The DR received its Independence on February 27<sup>th</sup> after numerous wars with France and Spain. France won the west side of the island (Haiti) and Spain won the east (Dominican Republic). All the slaves who were brought here or left here during the slave trade era were mostly forced to the west side of the island.

### **Jarabacoa**

- < You will be coming to the area of “Jarabacoa” which is located in the central part of the country up in the mountains.
- < Jarabacoa is on a mountain called “Pico Duarte” which is the tallest mountain the West Indies at 10,000 ft.
- < Jarabacoa is located at about 2000 ft. We enjoy slightly milder temperatures; have three waterfalls and major rivers in our area, lots of greenery, flowers and even pine trees. A lot of the flowers that you may buy at your local florist are grown in this area.
- < The main work for the locals here is agriculture as there is a huge flower company (greenhouses), coffee and sugar. Construction and maid services also offer many a source of work.
- < The typical monthly family income is about \$150-\$200.

### **School**

- < Kids are required to attend school until grade 8 and there is a public school system provided by the government.
- < All students are required to wear uniforms (light blue shirts, khaki pants/skirts, light blue socks and black shoes) as well as provide their own school books, including text books.
- < Due to the costs, many families will have some children who do not attend school because they can afford uniforms and/or books.
- < All that the government provides is a building and some teachers.
- < Schools are not large enough for the population so kids attend school only half days. They will go to school either from 8 am – 12pm or 2 – 6 pm or 6 – 10 pm.

- < There are public high schools but as many village kids can not attend, the high schools are only in the larger towns.
- < Most kids, by age 15 or 16 are “married” and already have at least one child.
- < By age 30 – 35, almost all Dominicans are grandparents.
- < A Dominican grade eight education is equivalent to about a Canadian or American grade three or four education.
- < There are private schools but they cost and most Dominicans can hardly feed their family let alone pay for school.
  
- < The DR is a Third World Country ... expect to be inconvenienced

**Power and Water**

- < The power will go out daily and we never know if it will be five minutes or days.
- < Power source is 110.
- < The water will go out regularly, even in the middle of a shower.
- < The showers will be cold. Sometimes you will get a bonus but expect cold water showers.

**Availability**

- < Something you need will be unavailable - we have shortage all the time.
- < Everything is done differently, many things are not available down here, we do not have superstores or 7-11s.
- < Our main grocery store is more like your 7-11.
- < Quality of everything is poor – whatever does not meet standards back home is shipped and sold in third world countries.

**Schedules**

- < Things won't happen on time. Everything takes longer. A trip into town that you think will take 30 mins will take two hours.
- < We have two time zones here: American time is means that if it is to start at 10, it starts at 10. Dominican time is that if it is to start at 10 then you start to get ready at 10 and it will start at 10:30, 11 or even 11:30. Dominicans take a two hour siesta time and our stores are closed from 12:00 – 2:00pm.
- < You will have to wait
- < You will have to hurry

**Pets, Aromas and Languages**

- < You might see a rat, mouse, or a cockroach, flying cockroach, frog, toad, or some other yucky thing but remember that we do not have any poisonous animals on the island.
- < A gecko will be your roommate (a gecko is a small lizard but we like them as they eat mosquitoes!)
- < The streets will be noisy Everything is noisy!!!! Chickens will crow all hours of the night, people play music all the time and always loud. Not a lot of mufflers (they cost money). Yes – it is a noisy culture
- < Dogs will bark when you want to sleep and chickens like to start crowing at 4 am not 6

- < You won't be understood
- < You won't understand.
- < Dominicans speak Spanish, you speak English and YOU are the one who has the accent not them.
- < The garbage will smell really bad. The flowers will smell really sweet.
- < This is an Island in the Caribbean ... expect to be blessed

### **The People**

- < The people are friendly – this is the Dominican trait. Dominicans are known to be socialable.
- < You take the time to sit, chat, have a coffee.
- < You are never in too big of a hurry to say hi and ask about the family. Never! Everyone understands when are late to the dentist because you had to stop to visit a cousin who have not seen in a week.
- < Dominicans do take the time to “smell the flowers” and they are very giving even though they have nothing to give.

### **Country Blessings**

- < It is green...
- < And colourful
- < It is tropical
- < Flowers will be blooming
- < You will sit under a coconut tree
- < You will eat fresh pineapple and other exotic fruit like papaya, mango, passion fruit – you can even eat a banana right off the tree.
- < There are rivers and waterfalls and we will take you to go play in some of them!
- < The sun will shine and you will quickly learn why we do not have tans – it is too hot to stay in the sun, we all seek the shade of the trees.
- < You will make new friends MANY MANY new friends. It is impossible not the make new friends here unless you never get out of bed.
- < You will make a difference in someone's life!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And they will make a difference in your life!!!
- < It will be an adventure!
- < You are the foreigner!!! We are visitors in their culture.

### **Etiquette**

- < We need to be careful that our dress and conduct corresponds with their culture's ideas of propriety.
- < Gentlemen should make sure that ladies always have an escort in public places.
- < Ladies should always be on the inside (away from the street) when walking.
- < This is a Latino culture where the Latino male pride runs high.
- < Women do not go out at night alone or walk alone.
- < Ladies always go first through the door and men do hold doors open for them.

- < Men will not hesitate to ask if you are married, have kids or are interested in them – this is why a male escort always helps!

### **Wealth**

- < We are wealthy North Americans in an area of poverty.
- < It does not matter what your family income is, if you are worth \$1,000,000,000 or \$10, if you are a businessman, doctor, ditch digger or student, YOU ARE RICH.
- < You were blessed to be born in a country that is so much richer than a third world country.
- < You do have more than they do.
- < If you eat three meals a day and never give it much of a thought as to where your next meal comes from, then you have more than a family in a third world country.

### **Racialism**

- < Racial lines are different here than there. There is no political correct talk.
- < You are white and they are not. The whiter your skin, the better off in life you are. The whiter skin person will get the job over the darker skin person.
- < Skin colour does matter down here.
- < They are not mean about skin colour, name calling or things like that but it is a social status and as foreigners and white, you are at the top of the social status.
- < Even if you are black by skin colour, because you come from the North America, they think of you as the same as the white gringo – rich!

### **Theft**

- < Do not leave your stuff laying around. Dominicans do not have a lot and you have everything.
- < Their idea of your life is what they see off tv and movies. We know that we do not live like Hollywood but they do not know this.
- < They will steal your camera but they are sure that you have ten more at home. This is not a joke or exaggeration. This is how they think.
- < Violent crime is a lot lower here than in Canada and US but theft is a lot higher.
- < Guard your personal possessions. Use your common sense!

### **Expectations**

- < Expect dormitory, room sharing and bathroom sharing style of accommodations.
- < Expect very basic accommodation, basic but good food.
- < Do your very best not to have any expectations at all for anything at all on any level.
  
- < You will gain a new perspective.
- < This will be one of the best educations you will ever get. If you have never experienced another culture, the way that other people around the world live, how they function every day with nothing, how the importance is on people not money and just seeing the world outside of our country, then you must come. It is so educational to see how others live.

- < You will never be the same again.
- < You will never look at the things the same again.

### **Lifestyle and Home**

Dominicans are friendly. The family is a central unit of stability. Usually extended families live together or close by - up to three or four generations. The people are loyal to their families before any other relationship - even business. They often favour friends or family in business decisions, etc. The oldest male in the extended family makes decisions which affect the balance of the family. They go out of their way in regards to hospitality. A variety of cultures reside in the DR influencing the class system. The upper class has European ancestry. The lower class ancestry is from African slaves or Haitians. The middle class has a mixture of these three origins.

### **Etiquette**

When meeting, give a handshake with direct eye contact with a welcoming smile. Keeping eye contact indicates interest in the person. When offered a chair, take a seat. This is equivalent to inviting someone into your home when you open the door rather than standing in the doorway to visit.

Dominicans will share a kiss when they greet each other. Usually not extended to too many foreigners unless the Dominican knows them but this is no guarantee. If a Dominican leans in to greet you, extend your right cheek. The cheeks touch, a kiss sound is made but lips never actually touch skin. This kiss greeting is exchanged girl to girl, girl to guy but never guy to guy!

### **Food**

Some cultural foods are rice, beans, plantains, chicken. Dominicans cook with a lot of oil, salt and sugar. Coffee is a traditional drink. During a meal, the guest is always served first. It is rude to carry your plates to the kitchen. Dominicans will give you all that they have so that you are full and have the children or themselves go without. Be careful about the amount of food that you eat as you have more resources than they do.

### **Religion**

Main religion is Roman Catholic. The statistics are at least 90% Roman Catholic. Roman Catholicism may have the influences of African-rooted traditions or ceremonies. Roman Catholicism has a strong tie to the government and the education system. There is no separation of church and state. Public schools require that the *Holy Bible* be included in the curriculum. Priests are often respected in religious matters but not much else. You are born a Catholic. If you turn from the Catholic church, you usually are persecuted within your own family.



## **ARE YOU READY.....**

### **DOMINICAN CULTURAL AWARENESS TEST**

by Bruce Holder

Directions: In most cases, there is only one culturally correct answer. However, as with most tests, it has its flaws and reflects biases of the author. Please note that:

There were no intentions to be derogatory in any way

The stereotypes presents do not in any way imply that all or most Dominicans are alike.

Please keep this in mind as you take this test. Time limit is 15 minutes.

1. The clerk wrinkles his nose after you attempt a phrase in Spanish. This means:
  - A. He has a nervous condition brought on by unresolved conflict with his mother
  - B. He has a sinus infection
  - C. He has just proposed to you (if you are female)
  - D. He wants you to repeat what you said
  
2. You are driving during the night on the autopista (divided, four lane highway). It appears that a light is coming towards you on the shoulder of the road. This most likely means:
  - A. It is an illusion due to your suffering from culture shock
  - B. It is a roadside hot dog stand on wheels
  - C. The scenario is false because traffic flows in the same direction on a divided highway
  - D. It is a four wheel vehicle coming towards you with only one working headlight
  
3. You are waiting to pay the cashier. You should:
  - A. Stand patiently until she reaches for your money
  - B. Smile and expect that your eye contact will initiate the above (a)
  - C. Shift your feet and say nothing
  - D. Reach over the counter saying "hey you!"
  
4. You are on your first trip out and about in a vehicle. As you hit the straight-a-way, you see a man standing straight and looking at a field. This means:
  - A. He is admiring the view
  - B. He just got off a concho ride (motor bike taxi) and is stretching his legs
  - C. He is thinking about his unresolved conflict with his mother
  - D. He is urinating near a convenient fence
  
5. You wonder if you are close to your destination. When you asked for directions, the Dominican stated it was not far. Which is the most common cultural interpretation?
  - A. It is just around the corner
  - B. At the next corner store, you should again ask for directions
  - C. You are not far. It is probably near the next aqua-blue house
  - D. He was just being nice to you. It is farther than you think. Do you still want to go there?

6. Statue 207-64 A. Section 9. Article 3 states which “true” qualification of a publico (public taxi car) driver?
- A. Able to shift gears with four or more riders in the front seat
  - B. Horn reaction time is less than .25 seconds (horn reaction time is defined as the time it takes to honk the horn after a light has just turned green).
  - C. Able to drive a motorcycle
  - D. Capable of stopping at a moment’s notice - without giving notice.
7. You get 10 marriage proposals on your first day. This means:
- A. The Caribbean sun seems to radiate your beauty more so than the sun back home.
  - B. Dominican men or women obviously have better taste than Canadian/American men or women.
  - C. You are considered a free trip to Canada or the US.
  - D. These marriages would be for business purposes only
8. You know you are most prepared for the common emergency when:
- A. You carry a calculator in order to find the exact dollar price for an item.
  - B. You carry sunglasses for when the sun is too bright
  - C. You carry \$500 RD (pesos) for about two gallons of gas.
  - D. You carry toilet paper with you whenever you leave the camp.
9. Indicate the single most evident reason that you are at a reputable restaurant.
- A. There are five waiters standing around talking with each other but none are serving you
  - B. There are less than 10 wording/grammar errors on the English version of the menu
  - C. You order something on the menu - and they have it!
  - D. There is a toilet seat on the toilet.
10. You know that you have just been given the correct direction to look when the person you are talking with
- A. Points with his/her thumb
  - A. Pursues his/her lips in the direction
  - A. Points with his/her arm extended and finger pointed
  - A. Shakes his/her finger in a downward motion.
12. What do the yellow lines in the middle of the road indicate?
- A. Someone with an aesthetic touch was on the road crew
  - B. Purple paint was no longer available
  - C. An equally divided road, indicated your side of the road and other driver’s side
  - D. Caution - you are on a highway that is not truly divided
12. Nationals who are crowding close to you and practically leaning on you indicates:
- A. You are on an escalator
  - B. You are in a store and they are waiting to serve you
  - C. You are in a line and they are planning on cutting in front of you
  - D. Both a and c

E. Both b and c

13. You are bargaining for the sale of your lifetime item. You are driving for the lowest price. Your merchant holds his hand up and smack his elbow with his other hand. What is the merchant saying?
1. "I salute you. You drive a hard bargain"
  2. "You are so cheap! Give me a reasonable price."
  3. "I need to go to the bathroom"
  4. "Should I call you a taxi or the police?"
1. You are sitting in a car. There is a car on your left, one car and a motorcycle on your right. This means:
- a. You are in a drive-in theatre
  - b. You are at a stop light on a two lane street
  - c. You are at a car dealer and are checking out the latest models
  - d. You are experiencing unresolved conflict with your mother
15. When you get into a taxi and notice the door is held together with a rope, it is because:
1. A rope is safer than a regular door lock
  2. The door fell apart and there was not enough money to fix it
  3. It is a Dominican fad
  4. It is the driver's preference
16. You are out late visiting some Dominican friends. You get up and say you have to leave. They say "don't have, it is still early". Do they really mean:
- A. Your watch has the wrong time
  - B. They go to bed really late
  - C. They do not want you to leave
  - D. They are just being courteous
17. You are a female and you are walking down the street. As you pass a group of men, you hear a "pssss..." sound
1. They are telling each other to be quiet
  2. One of their car tires has a leak
  3. They think you are cute and want you to look at them
  4. They are whistling at a passing dog
18. You are driving down the city street and a police who is standing on the side of the road waves you down. It is because:
1. You were speeding
  2. He wants you to give him money when you shake his hand
  3. He wants to give you money when you shake his hand
  4. Your inspection sticker is out of date
  5. He noticed a crack in your windshield and it is against the law to drive with such a hazard
  6. None of the above

19. You are invited to a Dominican get together and everyone is talking at the same time. They are:
1. Carrying on several conversations
  2. Competing to see who talks the loudest
  3. Being rude to each other
  4. Not understanding each other
20. You go back home. You know when you have truly become accustomed to another habit when:
1. You start translating your hometown newspaper into Spanish
  2. You put your used toilet paper in the garbage can
  3. You find yourself talking more slowly and louder when you do not think that you were understood
  4. You look around for your motorcycle helmet

The answers are:

- |           |               |       |       |
|-----------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 1. D      | 6. C          | 11. D | 16. D |
| 2. B or E | 7. You decide | 12. E | 17. C |
| 3. D      | 8. D          | 13. B | 18. B |
| 4. D      | 9. D          | 14. B | 19. A |
| 5. D      | 10. B         | 15. B | 20. B |

## **RE-ENTRY**

*“So the man went home and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. -Luke 8v39*

Coming home from the mission field opens your eyes to the fact that your life as you knew it is very different from what you have been experiencing while on your trip.

Being aware of the changes can help you get through the re-entry time and adjust back to life in your culture.

### **You will be moving from:**

- < daily focus on the spiritual to daily focussing on the practical matters
- < being daily surrounded with Christian encouragement and fellowship to deriving your fellowship and encouragement solely from church services
- < having a specific, driven goal to perhaps having no goals at all
- < seeing devastating poverty to experiencing seemingly overwhelming wealth and selfishness
- < being someone important and needed in the culture you were serving to not feeling as if you are important at all
- < serving with people who share your world perspective to being with people who may not care much for people outside their own circle

### **Stages of Re-Entry**

#### Stage 1: FUN

This stage is marked by excitement and enthusiasm for being home. You are happy to be sleeping in your own bed, eating with your friends and family that you missed, flushing toilet paper.

#### Stage 2: FLIGHT

This stage is marked by constant daydreaming and desire to be back in the Dominican culture. Your mind wanders back to the things that happened on your trip and you remember how incredible it was to be there.

#### Stage 3: FIGHT

This stage is marked with low points and frustration. If you are in the fight stage, you do not want to be home anymore. You feel like no one understands; you want to try and alienate yourself from your friends and family.

#### Stage 4: FIT

This is the final stage of re-entry. It is marked by a desire to do what you need to do in your family routines balanced with a new world perspective. You have learned to re-adjust to your environment and get back into the way that your life works here at home - but with a better view of how life works outside your home.



## Re-Entry Process

As you return from your trip, you will begin to experience many different feelings. The following suggestions are provided to assist in your re-adjustments.

- < De-Brief during and after the trip Post trip de-briefings are mandatory
- < Identify your areas of growth
- < Build rest into your schedule
- < Be prepared for grief. You will miss the people and experiences. You may tend to be judgmental about your culture and materialism. It is not up to us to determine other people's convictions. Pray and make practical changes in your own lifestyle. Remember as you share with your family and friends that they have had different life experiences while you were away. They may not be as excited as you expect them to be. Be patient as you share with them. Prepare for the innumerable times you will be asked "So, how was your trip" by thinking of specific stories or examples to share. People only want to here the Reader's Digest version.
- < Remember to thank the people who made it possible for you to go on your trip. Send follow-up letters to let them know everything that God did on the trip and how their support made a difference in your life and the lives of those you were able to reach.
- < Be cautious in reporting 'negative' elements of the trip. Review your journal from time to time to continue processing the growth that began on the trip.
- < Be excited that you spent time making a difference in the lives of others. Be confident that you are able to personally deliver God's never-ending hope and love to others.
- < Be confident in Jesus who made it all possible.
- < Give the Lord all the praise. Praise Him for your home and birth place, receive all that He has blessed you with and understand that with the blessing comes HUGE responsibilities to the Kingdom!

Suggested Reading "Re-Entry" by Peter Jordan. YWAM Publications

*"But the plans of the Lord stand firm, forever, the purpose of His heart through all generations" - Psalm 33v11*