



GLOBAL GOOD

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

GLOBAL TEAM PARTICIPANT GUIDE

This book belongs to

My trip location

My trip date

KEY DATES

Trip Meeting 1 (approx. 90 days from departure)_____

Trip Meeting 2 (approx. 60 days from departure)_____

Trip Meeting 3 (approx. 30 days from departure)_____

Trip Meeting 4 (approx. 15 days from departure) _____

Post Trip Debrief (approx. 60 days after return)_____

FUNDRAISING DEADLINES

35% (approx. 70 days from departure)_____

75% (approx. 35 days from departure)_____

100% (approx. 15 days from departure)_____



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Cross Point Global Good Team	5
Vision	6
All About Your Trip	
• Trip process explained	14
• Policies and guidelines	16
• Pre-Trip Logistics	17
• In-Country Logistics	19
Fundraising	24
Team Meetings	
• Meeting 1	31
• Meeting 2	33
• Meeting 3	35
• Meeting 4	40
On The Trip	
• Devotionals	44
• Debrief	45
• Keeping a journal	46
• Final In-country debrief	54
Post-Trip	
• Coming home	57
• Re-Entry	59
• Final team debrief	63
• What's Next?	64
Thank You	66
Trip Resources	
• Sharing the Gospel Worksheet	68
• Sharing Your Testimony Worksheet	70
• Suggested reading	72
• How to pray	73
• Team Covenant	75
• Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk	76

LETTER FROM CROSS POINT GLOBAL GOOD TEAM

Thank you for going on a Global Good trip with Cross Point. This is more than an overseas trip. You are part of something big: helping to fulfill a promise given to Jesus and, by extension, given to Cross Point. We are boldly asking God to give us the promise He made to Jesus in Psalm 2:8: “Ask of me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance”. You are part of the answer to that prayer.

A lifelong commitment to mission often begins with a short-term trip. You’re going to learn first-hand what that life change looks like. This trip will be the vehicle that the Holy Spirit uses to give you a vision of the gospel you’ve never imagined, as you see what God is doing in the most unreached parts of the world. God is going to overwhelm your heart with compassion. He’s going to open your eyes to spiritual gifts you didn’t even know you had.

Not only will you experience life change, you will help create and facilitate life change in the communities that we serve. Our partner organizations are in need of capable and willing teams to come alongside them in the work that they are doing. Your presence – however brief, however imperfect – multiplies their efforts so that they can be refreshed to press on in their calling. Each team we send is vital to the mission of God.

Remember, as you go, you are following the God who came to us as a servant. You are going to pick up a towel and “wash feet,” as Jesus did for his disciples — as he did for you and for me.

Thank you for taking this courageous step to follow God as he takes the gospel to the ends of the earth. We’re praying for you, that God would work in you and through you. And we’re excited for you, because you won’t come back the same.

Cross Point Global Good Team





VISION

*"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the
glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*

Habakkuk 2:14

We recognize, as Christians living in the developed western world, that we have a worldview that impacts our view of God, ourselves, other people, and the rest of creation. Every culture's worldview impacts their view of the Gospel. These worldviews, in many different ways, are broken. There is tremendous value in getting outside of our daily routines and culture to serve internationally. The people who serve internationally will have their worldview expanded, as well as the people we are going to serve.

Through Global Good at Cross Point, we aim to create lasting life change and lead people to encounter Jesus in a new way by serving our international community.

Lasting life change is not a one-way street. Just as we aim to show the love of Christ and serve in a meaningful way, we realize that we will walk away changed as well. Life change may manifest itself in humanitarian results such as increased food security or access to clean water, or as more abstract results, such as a sense of purpose in their community or a dignified view of self. On the American side, a trip participant may walk away with a renewed sense of vocational purpose and a heart for the nations.

Jesus is always at the center of the ministry we participate in. We don't want to simply provide humanitarian aid, but to help introduce Christ in a culturally relevant way through our actions. This is done through the local church, as the local church is God's plan A for working in the world.

In serving our international community, we want to help our partner organizations go further faster and empower local and indigenous leaders to lead their community in a better way.

WHO WE SERVE

We partner long term with Christian organizations that are doing holistic community initiated development through the local church in the majority world. This development work combines evangelism and church empowerment with the meeting of temporary humanitarian needs. We go deep into communities through these vetted partnerships.

Development can be defined simply as leading people to into relational reconciliation with God, themselves, others, and creation around them. A good development strategy will be community initiated and people will participate in improving their lives beyond what they've seen before. We make every effort to avoid any paternalism or 'what we say goes' attitude when interacting with the community partners. Building and empowering leaders to lead in their own community will create long lasting development.

We believe there are no quick-fix solutions to meeting the needs of these individuals and communities. However, as we partner with organizations that focus on building long-term relationships with the local community, we can be intentional about lasting change both physically and spiritually.

The current Cross Point partners and the countries we serve in are

1. 410 Bridge - Guatemala, Kenya, Haiti
2. GO Ministries - Dominican Republic
3. Operation Mobilization - Greece, Egypt
4. SEED - India
5. World Relief - Cambodia

CHARACTERISTICS OF CROSS POINT GLOBAL PARTNERS

Each global partner is unique in its mission and vision, and the expression of their mission and vision is contextualized appropriately in each of the countries and communities they work it.

1. Leadership

- The leadership and execution of mission and vision is

clear at all levels

- Projects and programs are primarily initiated and executed by indigenous leaders with the support from stateside.
- The stateside leaders avoid paternalism in their interactions with indigenous leaders

2. Focus

- The organization is focused on holistic community initiated development through the local church in the majority world
- The organization applies proven strategies to development work and is intentional about helping without hurting.
- The gospel of Christ is at the center of everything they are a part of
- People are put above projects or programs.

3. Ministry opportunities

- Meaningful short-term mission opportunities are helpful
- to accomplishing the mission and vision of the organization
- Ministry activities are community initiated and community participation is mandatory. We do with, not for.

HOW WE SERVE

1. Mobilization of short term teams

- Short term teams are sent regularly to help advance the mission and vision of our partners
- Short term teams take a posture of learning and observing
- Short term teams only go when and where they are invited and only do what they are asked to do
- Short term teams are a small piece of a big puzzle- a short manifestation of a long term relationships

2. Monthly financial contributions

- Cross Point gives a portion of it's budget towards Global Good partners each year
- These contributions are reevaluated at the end of each year during the budgeting process
- Contributions are given directly to the organizations who utilize the funds for program development and ministry activities in the communities. We don't participate in any individual giving while on the ground.

3. Individual project fundraisers and disaster relief

- Occasionally, a need will arise outside of the norm. Initiatives like year-end giving campaigns or other fundraisers have potential to contain Global component, so unforeseen needs or large capital campaigns can be funded through these initiatives.
- Disaster relief fundraising efforts will be put into action as needed.

Why Global Good, why not Global Missions?

We've realized that the term 'missions' carries baggage not only for the people serving on international trips, but the communities we partner with. Using the word 'mission' can give the idea that the people in these developing nations are a problem to be fixed or are a project. We believe every person is made in the image of God and has gifts and talents they can use to make their community a better place and to participate in their own development. Community development is not something we do to a community, but something we do with a community.

Indigenous leadership through the local church is a key feature of our global partners, so everything we do is done in order to empower and equip these organizations to help them go further faster.

What constitutes a successful trip?

A successful trip will advance the mission of our global partners as well as provide valuable discipleship training and community building for the team members.

We take a posture of learning and relationship building on each trip- we know we won't be able to fix every issue in a community on a short-term trip. What's going to change generations is empowering leaders on the ground to use their gifts and talents to serve their own communities. The itinerary of each trip is built with this in mind, so instead of manual labor projects that are often associated with missions, our itineraries are far more about experiencing the culture and the people of a community. We put people before projects.

Every trip activity will have a focus in one or more of the following three areas

1. Engaging the lost
2. Empowering the poor
3. Equipping the church

Partner Trip Goals

We want to serve our partners in meaningful ways.

1. Provide encouragement and prayer support to those on the front lines of ministry- The people that we partner with are serving in ministry, often for little or no pay, day in and day out. We want to encourage them that they are not alone, that God recognizes their efforts, and that they are making a true difference. We also want to pray for them and their families and the ministry work they are doing.

2. Make the local church the hero in the community- The local church is God's 'plan A' for working in the world, so all ministry activities are designed to empower and equip the local church as a resource in the community. We allow the local pastors to lead the ministries and continually work to point community members back to the local congregation.

3. Support their efforts in whichever way we can to make God known among the nations- Trips are not designed by us, but by the community. The community leaders choose and lead trip activities, and we follow their lead. The people that live in the community day in and day out know the true needs and how an American team can help. The ultimate goal is to make God known among the nations, and all trip activities are done to advance that mission.

Trip Member Trip Goals

An international trip, while monumental, is not a one-time experience. The poor will always be with us, and there is always more to do at home and abroad. We have three goals for trip members as they go on a trip.

1. Learn to walk with Jesus daily- A Global trip is an intensely spiritual experience, something that may be new for many people. The goal is to translate the reliance on Christ that they witness and experience back home into a daily communion and fellowship with Christ in their daily lives.

2. Learn to live in community and serve each other- A Global team will spend more time in ministry activities on a one week trip than a community group will spend together in an entire year. In our individualistic culture, truly living in community is rare. The team member learns on a trip how to set their teammates up to be more successful than themselves and to lay down their life to serve others.

3. Learn to serve the nations- Team members will catch the vision for what God wants to do in the nations and what He wants their role in that to be. That may be a call to long-term global missions, to serve in a ministry leadership capacity, or serve in missions back home.

If we are successful in these three goals, we will have created more dedicated and committed disciples of Jesus who are ready to serve their community at home with an expanded worldview.



ALL ABOUT YOUR TRIP

Your one-stop shop for travel tips, logistics, packing and everything you need to know before you leave!

TRIP PROCESS EXPLAINED

PRAY: The most important aspect of trip preparation is prayer. Pray and ask God if He is sending you to go and take part in the Great Commission. (Hint: If you are reading this, chances are you have already heard His whisper in your heart and are not here by accident.) The next step is to pray about where God might have you go. Is your heart burdened by a specific demographic, people group, country or region?

APPLY & PAY DEPOSIT: Once you find the perfect trip for you, fill out the application and submit the \$100 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot. Your application will be reviewed and the Global Good team will notify you when you are accepted on the trip. Our acceptance rate is nearly 100% - we're just screening for a few things to make sure you are a good fit for the particular trip you're applying for!

APPLY FOR OR RENEW YOUR PASSPORT: After acceptance, this is a good time to renew or apply for a passport if you don't have one. All instructions can be found at travel.state.gov/passports. Note that it usually takes 4-6 weeks for a passport to arrive, so make sure you give yourself enough time! If you do have a passport, please check the expiration date to make sure it will be valid for at least six months after your return date. If your passport is scheduled to expire within six months following your return date, you will need to renew it prior to the trip.

RAISE SUPPORT: Begin raising support! You will be equipped with some ideas on how to raise the funds. Don't let this part scare you. One of Satan's most powerful tools in deterring people from participating in their part of the Great Commission can sound something like this, "The trip is how much? I can't afford that. So now I have to ask other people for money? There is no way I am going to beg other people for money because _____." We are here to walk alongside with you the entire process and make raising support a fun and non-stressful experience.

MEET: Your team leader will schedule four team meetings with you. It is mandatory to make it to at least three of these, as this is the time where you can ask any questions you have, get to know the team and surround your trip in prayer. This really is the most important part of the pre-trip experience. These meetings usually take place on Sunday afternoons.

GO: The wait is over! Pack your bags, meet at the airport at the assigned time, and get ready for what God is going to do.

LOVE: You are the hands and feet of Jesus. You get to do what Jesus did in the most real and raw way. Pray for the sick and widowed, empower leaders to impact their local communities and spread the Gospel of Jesus. There is no limit to what the Holy Spirit can do in and through you!

RETURN HOME, SHARE, AND GO AGAIN: After the trip, your leader will set up full debrief meeting to talk about next steps and how to stay continually involved! If you feel so called, go back to step one and start the process over again!

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

PAYMENT DEADLINES

The deposit of \$100 is due upon your acceptance onto a trip, and is non-refundable and non-transferable. This helps keep the cost low for everyone, as well as solidify commitments to the team.

To help spread out the cost of a trip, we break up the payments into three smaller benchmarks that will be assigned to you.

We understand that everyone's situation is different, so if something happens on your end, we ask that you make us aware of that so we can adjust your deadlines.

If you haven't reached your payment benchmark, nor been in contact with Global staff about an extension, you will be dropped from the trip, and your payments forfeited.

All payments are considered charitable donations and are therefore tax deductible.

WHAT IF I HAVE TO DROP FROM A TRIP?

We understand that life happens, and you may have to drop from a trip. Because Cross Point a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations towards your trip are nonrefundable. However, the remaining funds, less the required deposit or any other expenses paid on your behalf, can be used for another trip within a year of the cancellation.

We book airline tickets when we believe we get the best deal. Typically, this is 10-12 weeks before departure. If flights are already booked and you cancel your trip, we will receive an airline credit in your name that can be used up to a year after the original booking date. You will be responsible for any change fees associated (usually incurred when we rebook your ticket). If you drop from a trip after this point AND do not wish to transfer funds (including the airline credit) to another trip, you will be responsible for the entire cost of the airline ticket.

SUBMITTING PAYMENT

The easiest way to submit payment is through your Focus Missions page. Simply use your personal trip URL and pay with a

credit card.

Alternatively, you can pay with cash or check. Turn in cash in an envelope clearly marked with your name and the trip you are going on. Checks should be made out to Cross Point Church with your name and the trip on the memo line.

PRE-TRIP LOGISTICS

FOCUS MISSIONS

When you are accepted onto a trip, you will receive an invite to Focus Missions.

This is the platform we use to keep track of details as well as fundraise. You can track your funds, see all the things you need to do, sign waivers, etc on there. It will also remind you of all the meetings we have coming up early next year. This is also where you will submit your information such as emergency contact, medical restrictions, and other information we'll pass along to our partner organization. You can sign waivers digitally and upload your passport here as well.

In your profile, you'll see a "personal trip URL." That's your fundraising page where people can donate directly. You can edit the text on that public page by editing 'my trip story.'

Every trip participant is required to undergo a background

IMMUNIZATIONS

Cross Point does not advise on immunizations. You are responsible for checking the recommended vaccinations for the country you are traveling to, and getting immunizations accordingly. Check out [cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) for up to date information.

PASSPORTS

For first time applicants or renewals, all instructions can be found at travel.state.gov/passports. Note that it usually takes 4-6 weeks for a passport to arrive, so make sure you give yourself enough time! If you do have a passport, please check the expiration date to make sure it will be valid for at least six months after your return date. If your passport is scheduled to expire within six

months following your return date, you will need to renew it prior to the trip. Please do this as soon as possible upon acceptance to your trip!

On the trip, keep your passport safe. We recommend bringing two photocopies of your passport, to be kept separate from the original, in case your original is lost or stolen. If you lose your passport on the trip, tell your team leader immediately as you will need to go to the embassy to get a new one.

ENTRY & EXIT REQUIREMENTS

For each country you visit, you will have to fill out a customs declaration and immigration form. Sometimes they are the same form. You will be given the address to put on your form. Please mark that you are traveling for the purpose of tourism. Some countries require a visa or fee to enter the country. These fees are built into the trip cost.

Haiti: \$10 tourist fee. This must be a crisp, unmarked ten-dollar bill. You will turn this payment into a desk when you get off the plane, and they will give you a receipt or document that confirms payment. Keep the receipt throughout the trip, as you may be asked for it when you leave the country.

Kenya, India, Egypt, Cambodia: e-Visa required. You will complete the application at your final team meeting. When it is issued (usually 1-3 days after completion of the application), print the visa and bring it with you. You will need to show this visa at the Nashville airport and other checkpoints before you are allowed to get on the plane. When you arrive in the country, you will present your visa and passport to an immigration officer. NOTE: the visa process can change at any time. Please consult your leader for the most up to date information.

To exit each country, you will need a copy of your travel itinerary. Please keep this at all times.

AIR TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

The team leader will assign you an airport call time that will allow for plenty of time to check bags and go through security. You are responsible for your own transportation to the airport, so make

arrangements now to arrive to the airport on time.

Airline regulations for checked bags change frequently. On the longer haul trips (over the Atlantic), you can expect to be allowed a free checked bag. On the shorter flights (Caribbean or Central America), consult your team leader or airline websites for baggage allowance. Baggage fees are not included in your trip cost, so plan accordingly.

Flights and airport wait times can be long, up to 30 hours total in some cases.

When you arrive to your country, you will be greeted at the airport by an in country leader. Transportation is provided for the time you are there. Travel time in country can be long and difficult. Bring proper medication if you tend to have motion sickness.

IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

This may very well be the most important section of this guide. Individual giving is strictly prohibited. Cross Point is committed to meeting the needs of the communities we work in without creating dependency or a sense of entitlement. You will see things that break your heart. No matter the pull, or even if they ask, do not give directly to members of the community. Giving a gift, however small, has an enormously negative impact on future teams, the relationships we have and community development. If you feel compelled, talk to your team leader, and they will help walk you through the confusing feelings you may be feeling.

SAFETY & SECURITY

We, along with our partner organizations, take every step to make sure you are safe during your trip. If there are dangerous or unsecure conditions, we will take steps to change the daily activities and itinerary to make sure you are safe.

Follow safety guidelines set by the partner organization. Never venture away from the group on your own, be aware of your

surroundings and make sure your valuable belongings are secure.

LODGING & MEALS

Lodging varies based on country. We want you to be comfortable and we often get feedback that accommodations are nicer than expected. When a hotel or guesthouse is close to American standards of comfort, we will be better rested and prepared for the work we are doing during the day.

Our partner organizations work diligently to ensure that all food is prepared in a safe manner. You will be given more detailed information on what to expect for food in your particular country.

If you are in a developing country, please do not drink water from any other source other than water bottles provided or drinks that have been boiled, such as coffee or tea that are generally safe to drink. Make sure to stay hydrated!

You may be asked to pack snacks for lunches while in the community. Bring items that won't spoil, like Gatorade packets, protein bars, peanut butter crackers, trail mix, etc.

PACKING

Baggage Restrictions

Check with your airline for baggage restrictions for carry-on and checked baggage. Be sure to follow these guidelines in order to avoid charges.

Checked Bag

Each participant should limit his or her luggage to one checked bag. You may be asked to pack trip supplies with you, so leave room if you can.

Carry-On Bag

For most airlines, each participant is allowed a roll aboard carry-on and small personal item (usually a backpack or a purse).

Pack your travel documents (passport, itinerary) in a safe but easily accessible place within your bag.

Check with TSA for restrictions on liquids and other items.

Pack a change of clothing that is community appropriate in your carry-on in case your luggage is lost or delayed.

Attire

You will want to dress modestly and culturally appropriate. These guidelines will be provided by your team leader and tailored to the country you are traveling to.

Adapters

You may need an adapter to charge your devices. These will be provided by your team leader.

PACKING CHECKLIST

DOCUMENTS

- o Passport
- o Travel Book
- o Airline Itineraries
- o Photocopies of passport
- o Visa

ATTIRE (MEN)

- o Business Casual shirts (t-shirts and polos are acceptable)
- o Pants (casual and nicer slacks)

ATTIRE (WOMEN)

- o Modest blouses, shirts, tops (no tank tops or spaghetti straps)
- o Long dresses or skirts (below the knee)
- o Long pants (below the knee)
- o Leggings (for under skirts)

ATTIRE (ALL)

- o Close-toed shoes
- o Jeans
- o Shorts (below the knee)
- o Underwear
- o Socks
- o Flip flops (for evening and showers)
- o Light sweater or jacket
- o Sleepwear
- o Hat
- o Sunglasses
- o Rain boots

TOILETRIES

- o Toothbrush
- o Toothpaste
- o Deodorant
- o Soap or body wash
- o Shampoo/conditioner
- o Loofa or wash rag
- o Sunscreen

- o Feminine products
- o Razor
- o Toilet paper and baby wipes (for use in community)
- o Hand sanitizer
- o Chapstick

MEDICATIONS

- o Any prescriptions you need
- o Pain reliever
- o Stomach pain reliever
- o Sleep aid
- o Motion sickness reliever
- o Cold/Allergy
- o Bug spray

PACK IN YOUR CARRY ON

- o Bible
- o Entertainment for flights (books, laptops, tablets)
- o Valuables and money
- o Travel pillow
- o Community appropriate change of clothes
- o Personal care items



FUNDRAISING

One of the first steps of your mission effort is trusting God to provide the funds.

Raising support is an act of faith that God will get you where He wants you to go. It can be a time-consuming process, so get started as soon as you can. Don't procrastinate! There are several ways to raise support.

SUPPORT LETTERS

Why? We advise you to send out support letters, regardless of how much you can pay with your own funds. Remember, the goal is to raise supporters, not just financial support. You are looking for a team of people to invest in what God is doing in your life, not just asking people for money. You need to be completely covered in prayer as you go on your trip and the support-raising process is ideal for that. Also, your letter itself can act as a challenge to other Christians to be involved around the world.

How many? For most trips, we recommend that you send personalized support letters to at least 30 people.

Who? Ask the Lord's help in coming up with your support list. Don't be shy! Send letters to friends, family, extended family, coworkers, non-believers and anyone who might want to know what you are up to and might be able to help. Your letter may be an opening for you to share the gospel with non-believers. You will be amazed how God will raise funds for you as you let him direct you.

How? As soon as your application is approved and you've paid your deposit, write your letters and put them in the mail. You should write the letter yourself and have someone check it for spelling and grammar. Avoid a standard "form" letter if possible. The body of the letter can be the same for all recipients, but personalize at least the name at the top and, if possible, an opening remark or closing comment for each letter you send. Limit your entire letter to no more than two pages. You will find two sample support letters attached to help you. Be sure to customize these to accurately reflect the details of your trip. Use a type font that is easy to read (12 or 14 point), and be sure to cover the following:

- Your call and motivation to go
- When and where you are going

What you will be doing and to whom you will be ministering

What you want from those who get your letter:

- Prayer: Give specific ways to pray for you and those you are going to serve.

- Financial help: Mention your financial deadlines.

Details regarding financial gifts:

- The amount needed
- How to give online or by check
- Tax-deductible nature of contributions
- Thank them for praying and supporting you.

Phone calls. About ten days after your letters are mailed, make follow-up phone calls to most of the people to whom you sent letters. This will give you a chance to tell them a bit more about your trip and ensure they do not forget about your letter. If you aren't making phone calls, you aren't raising support!

Other fundraising suggestions below are other ways to raise funds for a trip. Due to the number of people involved in Global Good, Cross Point Church is unable to host or advertise for fundraisers on campus or through Cross Point's website.

Set up a fundraising page to share on social media: YouCaring is a great site to use that will not take a percentage of your donations (sites like GoFundMe will take up to 10%). You will need to collect these funds and turn them in to Cross Point.

Odd jobs: Mow lawns, baby-sit or find other creative ways to earn additional money.

Personal sacrifice: Cut off the cable, bring your lunch to work, drink water instead of soft drinks. Put any money saved toward the trip.

Yard sale: Host a team-wide yard sale. Ask friends and family to donate items for the sale, and split the money between each participating team member.

Make something: Use special talents or skills to make items for sale. Find a creative place to sell the items. Many people have used Fund The Nations to make t-shirts in the past with great success.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT RAISING SUPPORT

1. MYTH: Friends don't ask friends for money. I'll lose friends.

TRUTH: The Body of Christ supports one another, and most friends will be happy to know about your trip and contribute what they can!

2. MYTH: You shouldn't ask people to give. Just ask them to pray.

TRUTH: You should definitely ask people to pray, but you should also ask them to give as they are able to the mission of God through your trip.

3. MYTH: If you have the money, you should just pay for your own trip.

TRUTH: Of course you should put some "skin in the game" yourself. However, not raising any of the support is robbing others of the opportunity to invest in what God is doing in you and around the world!

4. MYTH: You should only ask people that you think have disposable income and can afford it.

TRUTH: It isn't about the amount someone is able to give, but rather about the fact that they do give and join the mission of God in that way. You'll be surprised how God uses your request for support to shape others and call them deeper into His global mission.

5. MYTH: You can't ask people for money that you asked last year.

TRUTH: Remember you aren't raising support; you are raising supporters. Therefore, when done the right way, you are building a team around you to pray for you, guide you, encourage you and indeed support you as you follow the Lord's call on your life. Therefore, as you build your support team, it is completely fine to ask people for support as you have the opportunity to take part in different opportunities.

SUPPORT LETTER TEMPLATE

Hey **Individual's Name**–

Intro

I'm sending you this letter (old school!) to share with you how excited I am about an opportunity I have coming up. I have been given the opportunity to go on a mission trip to **Country Name** this summer, and I would love for you to partner with me!

Trip description

I will be traveling with **Organization Name to City Name, Country Name**, from **This Date-This Date**.

What you will be doing

[Sample description] While we are there we will be working alongside the local community to complete a water project. We will be installing water pipes to provide clean drinking water to a local schoolhouse. This will be an incredible step forward for the school! After this project is completed, students will no longer have to leave school in the middle of the day to fetch water.

How they can help

Here's the honest truth: I cannot travel to **Country Name** without the financial and prayer support of a community. It would be unrealistic to attempt to fund this trip on my own, and it would be arrogant not to ask for prayer, since I will be serving in a way that I've never had to before. That's why I'm inviting you to partner with me.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH ME

Financial support

If you feel led to give financially, you can do so online or by mail. My goal is to raise **\$0,000** by **This Date**.

Online

(YOUR FUNDRAISING LINK)

Mail checks to

1234 My Street Address,
Awesome City, GA 30004

Prayer support

If you feel led to support through prayer, I would love for you to pray for these three areas during our trip:

- That our team would stay healthy and safe
- That our efforts would have a lasting impact in the community
- That God would use this trip to do immeasurably more than we could ask or predict for this community and His Kingdom.

What their support will do

Together, we can both be a small part of what God is doing to uplift the community in **City Name, Country name**, especially in the lives of the students at the schoolhouse [**Sample description**].

Outro

Please let me know if you have any questions about the trip or how you can partner with me. Thanks for reading!

Your friend,

My Name

My Phone Number

My Email Address



TEAM MEETINGS

Team Meetings are essential to getting to know your team, understanding the vision of the trip, and becoming prepared for what you are going to experience on the trip. These meetings are mandatory. The following pages will guide you through what to expect during these meetings.

DOCUMENTS & IMMUNIZATIONS

- It is never too early to begin the inevitable paperwork that precedes any organized journey overseas. In fact, we recommend that you start soon to complete the items and procedures we request from you to ensure a smooth trip.
- Release forms
- Passport
 - All travel outside the U.S. requires a valid passport. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one as soon as possible, as the process can take several weeks. You can apply for a passport at most post offices or online at travel.state.gov/passport.
 - If you do have a passport, please check the expiration date to make sure it will be valid for at least six months after your return date. If your passport is scheduled to expire within six months following your return date, you will need to renew it prior to the trip.
 - In addition, make sure your passport is in good condition and has empty pages for passport stamps (two empty pages are needed for trips requiring visas).
 - We also recommend that you carry two photocopies of your passport with you on the trip.
- Immunizations
 - Helpful general immunization information is available on the website for the Centers for Disease Control, cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx.
 - You can also contact Passport Health at passporthealthusa.com, or call (888)-499- PASS to schedule immunizations or locate a local agency that administers them. We recommend that you carry any available inoculation records with you during your trip.

HOW TO RAISE SUPPORT (SEE “FUNDRAISING SECTION” AND “HOW TO RAISE SUPPORT” HANDOUT)

PRAYER

Spend time in prayer together for one another and for the trip. Pray that God would make a great name for Himself through the obedience of the team as they join His mission. What prayer requests does the team have?

TEAM MEETING 2

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Begin learning about the country you are traveling to
- Continue raising funds
- Prepare any questions you have
- Review any upcoming deadline

SHARING A MEAL

As a team, you will share many meals together: breakfast, lunch and dinner for the entirety of your trip. Take this time over lunch to get to know your teammates a little more. Community is vital to being a united front on the trip, and we want you to enjoy each other, as well! It's not all business.

Here are some fun conversation starters:

- What would be your perfect weekend?
- What is something that is popular now that annoys you?
- If you had a 30-second Super Bowl ad, what would you use it for?
- What's the last thing you read/watched/listened to that was so good you had to tell somebody about?
- What were you really into when you were a kid?
- What was your biggest childhood fear?
- What are you currently worried about?
- What's your guilty pleasure?
- What horror story do you have from a job you've had?
- What story can you not get through without laughing?

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next team meeting will involve learning about the community and culture where your team will be going.

Below is a list of questions about culture.

CULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT: QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY & COUNTRY

- How many years has your country been a country? How many people live in the city where you are going?
- What are the main religions of the people in your country?

- What percentage of people adhere to these religions?
- What are the main languages in the country where you are going? How do you say “hello” in the main language of your country?
 - What are the top five professions of the people in your country?
 - What type of racism, if any, is present in your country?
 - What are the top five recreational activities of people in your country?
 - What type of government runs your country?
 - What are the top five historical events that have shaped the landscape of your country?
 - What is education like in your country?
 - How do men and women interact with one another in your country?
 - What is appropriate dress in your community?
 - What types of actions are extremely offensive and should be avoided by visitors to your community?

TEAM MEETING 3

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Make sure you have a passport and appropriate immunizations. If you do have a passport, check the expiration date to be sure it will remain valid for at least six months after your return date. Check to be sure your passport has at least two empty pages and that it is in good condition.
- Check with your healthcare provider regarding recommended immunizations for the region to which you're traveling.
- Obtain a copy of your inoculation record.
- Research the latest baggage and packing regulations on airline websites and tsa.gov.
- Research your country and city using the questions provided in Meeting 1.
- Develop your support raising plan and put it into action.
- Develop a prayer team.
- Read relevant passages for this meeting.

VISION

As you seek to not only serve our on-field partners but also their cities, this strategic ministry falls into three main categories: engaging the lost, empowering the poor and equipping the church. Any strategic short-term team will encompass at least one, if not all three, aspects.

1. Engage the Lost

- Engaging the lost centers on sharing the gospel of Christ through various means.
- A relevant presentation of the gospel adapted to the context to which the team is going.
- Sharing your testimony (see appendix).

2. Empower the Poor

- Empowering the poor centers on helping those who are impoverished. This ministry is done through humanitarian means but should always be done alongside the local church or as a platform for the gospel.

3. Equip the Church

- Equipping the church supports the local body of believers as they reach out to their communities and to the ends

of the earth. The goal is to equip leaders for ministry in their context.

- The local church is God's primary vehicle for the gospel. Therefore, Cross Point places importance on short-term teams to serve through and alongside the local church and on-field partners to minister to the needs of the poor.

TEAM MEMBER DEVOTIONAL

THE CULTURE

“Different is not bad. It is just different.”

Cultures vary from country to country and people to people. This does not mean that the variance is for the worst. All cultures stem from the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) and have been affected by sin. Cultures should not be ranked by which is better than the other. It should be the desire of the short-term team to learn about a culture for the sake of communicating the gospel to the people who live in that particular culture.

CULTURE SHOCK

The team should prepare to encounter culture shock. Culture shock is due to sizeable changes in one's surroundings (culture, environment, time) that affect behavior in a noticeable way. The common symptom is disorientation. It is important to prepare for the likelihood that this could occur by taking steps to prevent it. The more one learns about a culture and prepares oneself, the less shock one may experience.

- What is culture shock?
 - Webster's Dictionary: a sense of confusion and uncertainty sometimes with feelings of anxiety that may affect people exposed to an alien culture or environment without adequate preparation
 - Google: the feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture, way of life or set of attitudes
- Symptoms : Disorientation, Fear, Weariness, Desire to stay back
- 10 keys to overcoming culture shock

1. Prayer
 2. Daily time in the Word of God
 3. Be an open learner
 4. Be patient and gracious
 5. Develop positive and realistic expectations beforehand
 6. Smile and laugh a lot!
 7. Talk with your team leader and on-field hosts
 8. Be curious and ask good questions about the local culture
 9. Expect and believe the best about others. Respect, love and empathy can go a long way.
 10. Debrief. Processing is the key! Journal and talk with your team and leaders
- As believers, we are not exempt from culture shock, but we do have a strength to draw upon: The Holy Spirit. As you feel anxious or frustrated, stop and ask God to help you be Jesus to these people by filling you with love, joy, patience, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

THE COUNTRY

Religion: Studying a country's religion(s) provides insight into that country's worldview and culture. Religion is also a common area of tension from within and with neighboring countries. It is important to understand as much as possible the religion(s) commonly practiced by the target people group.

Politics: In the world today, the political environment in any particular country can change in a matter of days. It is very useful to have a grasp of the current government and the political situation surrounding it.

History: It is also important to have a good understanding of significant events in a country's history. These events shape cultures, and a good understanding of such events may allow you to cross cultural boundaries more easily.

Economic Development: This factor can differ from one area of a country to another, but a general understanding on how advanced a society is economically can be beneficial when planning ministry activities.

Education: Understanding the education system can help explain cultural differences you may see (such as teenagers in the work force) and help identify areas of need where your team can be involved.

People groups: The concept of people groups is one that needs to be solidified throughout the training. It is valuable to know with whom you will be working. Cultures, primary religions and ministry focus can differ greatly from one people group to another. Therefore, the more information collected about the group(s) the team will be working with, the better the team can prepare.

Recreation: Understanding how people have fun can help us identify how to relate more quickly and easily to people who may seem wholly unfamiliar. You may find you have more in common than you think!

Security: The Bible teaches us to lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel, but it also teaches us to be “wise as serpents.” Security related to specific aspects or to all aspects of a trip depends on context ranging from cultural norms, religious customs and tolerances, and/or dangers that arise from crime. Security risks will not always affect the team as much as they may affect the field partners and/or the nationals. Country,

people groups, cities and even neighborhoods can differ greatly in terms of safety, and all concerns should be discussed with the field partners and Cross Point leaders prior to the trip. Safety precautions should also be wisely talked about with the team. A good rule of thumb is the team always stays together (or in groups).

Cultural norms: The team should know how to conduct themselves, monitor their words/conversations and even watch their attire. The answers to “What is acceptable?” and “What is not acceptable?” must be learned prior to departure. This could prove to be an issue of team safety depending on the context of the trip. When evaluating cultural sensitivities, both the country and the specific people group(s) should be taken into consideration.

Prayer requests

TEAM MEETING 4

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Look over “What and How to Pack” in the Logistics section.
- Write out your expectations and desires for this trip.
- Make sure all paperwork is complete (passport, immunizations, etc.).
- Print itinerary, and put it in the folder for it in “Logistics” under “Travel Information.”

LOGISTICS

Packing list must-haves

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Complete visa (if necessary)

Itinerary overview

On Trip Survival Guide

1. Be focused on God’s glory among the nations. One of the simplest things you can do to prepare for a trip overseas is to think deeply about God’s greatness and his amazing mercy in the gospel. God deserves to be praised among the nations, and he will in fact be praised and delighted in (see John 10:16; Rev 5:9). There is nothing like a big a view of God’s glorious global plan to put our individual concerns and contributions in an appropriately smaller perspective.

2. Be Humble. We have been redeemed by the One who “humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). It would be a tragedy of immense proportion, then, if we should approach our work

for him with even a hint of arrogance. Instead we should be humble. We should defer to the partner organization staff to one another in love. We should be slow to speak and quick to listen. We should not think too highly of ourselves but be quick to serve. We should approach the trip not thinking we have all the answers, but willing to learn.

3. Be prepared to spend yourself and be spent. Work overseas, with jet lag, and in a strange environment is tiring. Expect to spend yourself to encourage and help our partner communities. And expect to feel like you have been spent. Of course, this may not always be fun, but when you feel tired, think of why you are tired. It's the tiredness of extravagantly devoting ourselves to the kingdom of our Lord. Let even your weariness remind you of the worth of the gospel.

4. Be flexible. Global trips will almost certainly not turn out like you plan. Your itinerary may go out the window on day one. Prepare now to be okay with that. One of the best ways to not be a burden to the partner organization is to be flexible when plans change. Take on the ministry of "whatever" and be content with any change of plans. The goal is not to execute a task, but to encourage men and women who have given their lives for the sake of the gospel and to see God's kingdom advanced.

5. Be a learner. Part of humility is realizing that you don't have all the answers. Honor those that live in the culture by being ready to ask questions and learn. Ask about the culture, about their politics, about their religious upbringings, and about their languages. Remember, we have an American-centric worldview, so there is much to be learned from other cultures and worldviews.

6. Be encouraging. Remember, one of our goals is to provide encouragement and prayer support for those on the front lines of ministry. Even if we are completely disoriented while traveling, we can be sure that God is good, and it's a helpful reminder to those that are in the work day in and day out. Be a blessing, and be encouraging.

7. Be extravagant in service. We are told to partner with those who have gone out for sake of Christ's name by supporting them in a manner worthy of God. Be ready to care for the workers extravagantly, even beyond what seems reasonable. They are laying their lives down for the gospel, so you can lay your life down for them. This will show that we not

only love them as individuals, but that we supremely value the work that they are doing.

8. Be low maintenance. It can be hard to avoid falling into “I’m a tourist—serve me” mode on trips like this. It’s totally reasonable to want to enjoy your time so long as it doesn’t create an added burden to those we are going to serve. Be ready to forgo things you might enjoy in order to serve those you’ve come to bless. The trip is not ultimately about you, but about fulfilling God’s purposes.

9. Be patient. By our patience, we show evidence of gospel-saturated humility. When we must ask for something to be done or fixed or explained by mission workers, be patient about their responses. Travel in many countries can be frustrating and inefficient. Many cultures will move at a different pace from our own. And requests that we think are simple can actually take a lot of work on someone else’s part. Again, this is one great way we can serve one another and our workers—by being patient and trusting in God, even when things don’t move at the pace we prefer.

10. Be focused on God’s glory among the nations. Of course, all these particulars are just a few applications of the one, central truth with which we began. God is glorious and worthy to be praised. His promise of forgiveness, redemption, and fellowship is worth more than anything else we can have or imagine. The point is not to learn these few simple rules. The point is to look deeply at the gospel and then find ways to apply implications of the gospel to our experience overseas. Saturate yourself with thoughts of the grace given in the gospel, and let that overflow into your words and deeds. If you do that, I’m pretty sure you will be a Christ-glorifying blessing on your trip and in every other aspect of your life.

PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for your trip, your team and the people you are going to serve

Possible passages:

Ephesians 1:17-23

Colossians 1:9-12

Psalms 2:8

Psalms 67

Ezekiel 36:24-29

Acts 19:18-19

Matthew 28:18-20

Psalms 27



ON THE TRIP

Your bags are packed and you're ready to go! You meet the team at the airport and get on the plane. What's next?

DEVOTIONALS

Every morning, your team will engage in a devotional to center your minds and spirits for the day ahead. As the leader, you will be provided with a devotional book from our trip partner. Encourage your team to take a day each and prepare a devotional.

Ideas:

- Work through the daily devotions in your travel book or from another daily devotional
- Share scripture
- Share what the Lord is teaching you in your time with Him
- Encourage feedback and discussion from your team

Use the space below to make notes for your devotional.

DEBRIEF

Each night you will debrief the day. For many people, this is the most impactful part of the trip. It's a chance to bond as a group and to work through your experiences together. Here are the four questions you will talk through each night. As the team leader, you are responsible for facilitating this conversation. Take the time, and be intentional.

- Briefly recap your day: how did you spend your time and with whom did you interact?
- What was the highlight of your day?
- What was the hardest part of your day?
- Where did you see God in another person on the team?

Use the space below for notes.

5. What did you smell?

6. If you had to describe your day in one word, what would it be?

7. What are your thoughts and what are you anxious, excited or nervous about as you begin this adventure?

DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What did you see that was new today?

What did you do today?

What did you learn?
About the culture?

In their language?

About Jesus?

About yourself?

How did you learn to serve today?

How did you serve your team? How did you serve the partner organization?

FINAL IN-COUNTRY DEBRIEF

On your last night, you will have a final extended debrief. Use the following prompts to guide your conversation.

How have you learned to be with Jesus?

How have you learned to serve one another?

How have you learned to serve the nations?

How has your view of God and the world changed because of this trip?

What do you believe is keeping this community from flourishing?

What steps would you take long-term to bridge this barrier?

Who do you know from home that should get involved in ministry here?

How are you burdened to pray specifically for the partner organization and their ministry?

Who is a national you met while here that you'll continue to pray for once you are back home?

What was the funniest moment of your trip?

What is a moment you never want to forget?

Overall, what is the biggest thing you are taking home with you?
How will this trip change your life at home?



POST TRIP

You're home. You've come back changed. Don't let this be a one-time mountaintop experience. Let's work together to identify next steps.

COMING HOME

As you are on your way home, or shortly upon arriving home, take some time to look back over your journaling and in-country debrief. We hope and pray God has used you and taught you a lot. Below we have provided some questions to help you bring home what you have seen and learned during your trip. These questions have been designed to help you share clearly what God did on your trip and what he is doing in you. God wants to leverage what he has done in you and through you during this trip to impact those closest to you at work, at home and in your small group.

What was the strategy of the partner organization?

How did you help advance this strategy?

What moments do you never want to forget? What moments broke your heart? What moments made you smile?

In what ways are you different today than when you began this journey?

What is one story or interaction that shows: a) what you learned, b) what you did, and c) how people can pray and join in the work?

What was the funniest moment or story?

What might be the “next step” for you?

RE-ENTRY

A. Re-entry stress definition:

- Re-entry stress is like culture stress (also called culture shock) in many ways, only in reverse. While culture stress is associated with a sense of disorientation brought on by a new and unfamiliar environment, re-entry stress is precipitated by returning to a setting you presume to be familiar, but which in reality is no longer the same.
- It is the unexpected and often subtle nature of such change that can cause stress for you as you return from cross-cultural service. What was once familiar and comfortable no longer appears the same. Something definitely has changed – sometimes it is the environment but often times it is you.
- Suddenly you find yourself out of phase with your own culture. Your reaction may come in the form of bewilderment, dismay, disillusionment and perhaps even irritation or anger. Somehow, “things are just not the way they used to be...”, “nobody seems to care...”, “nobody really understands...”.
- There are several contributing factors to re-entry stress. One is that you are being caught by surprise; you do not anticipate change and consequently are unprepared to cope. Another factor is value conflict. Your values, once taken for granted and even highly cherished, now seem of lesser significance or of little importance at all. Your way of thinking, your manner and your responses to many situations have been changing. Often these changes are not apparent until you are back in your home culture.

B. Common symptoms and effects of re-entry stress:

- Disorientation: feeling out of place, not fitting in
- Feelings of loneliness, isolation or being lost in the crowd
- Restlessness: a desire to “get away” from those who don’t seem to understand or care
- Feeling that nobody understands your experience or that nobody cares
- Feeling tired & listless
- Critical attitude toward home country: its waste,

- extravagance, wrong way of doing things, etc.
- Loss of identity: just “another cog in a big wheel”
- Inability to communicate new ideas & concepts freely
- Feeling of superiority: standing aloof from others because of your overseas experience
- Feeling dissatisfaction
- Defensiveness in responses
- Retreat, withdrawal & lack of concern
- Unnatural & uncomfortable responses to “ordinary” situations
- Confusion over conflicting attitudes and responses
- Rejection of overseas experiences or a desire to forget and not talk about them

COMMON RE-ENTRY STRESS COPING MECHANISMS

1. ISOLATE & be alienated

A person who responds this way to re-entry stress. . .

- Pulls away from being in a stressful situation by being alone or with like-minded people
- Continues to identify with the home culture for the most part, but has strong negative reactions to it
- May express a strong judgmental attitude towards the values and lifestyle of the home culture
- May feel deep guilt over home culture’s materialism and affluence
- May tend to day dream a lot about the short-term experience, holding on to memories
- Unaware of other alternatives to impact the home culture
- NEEDS: someone who has been through re-entry stress to help in understanding the transition process and exploring options

2. IMITATE & be re-socialized

A person who responds this way to re-entry stress. . .

- “Goes native” in USA culture by reverting immediately back to conventional norms
- Resumes life as if nothing happened
- Unable to translate the impact of short-term experience to the rest of life
-

- May have a very high need for acceptance by the home culture
- May be afraid of the repercussions of being different or standing on one's convictions
- NEEDS: to be with compassionate mission-minded people who can assist in sorting out the short-term experience

3. INTEGRATE & be proactive

A person who responds this way to re-entry stress. . .

- Accepts the reality of transitions between two cultures
- Relates back with the home culture in a way that does not compromise or negate new values or lessons learned from short-term experience
- Recognizes that changes have occurred through the short-term experience
- Continues to learn lifestyle incorporating the old and new
- NEEDS: seeks support from like-minded people

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH RE-ENTRY STRESS

Prepare for re-entry stress before you leave home by expecting it! You will never be completely at home again after your time of service because part of your heart will remain with the people you serve. This is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place.

- Expect it and realize that it is normal! Give yourself time to work through it. Be patient with yourself and others as you go through this process.
- Keep your sense of humor and remember to laugh!
- Remind yourself to be THANKFUL for the opportunity God gave you and the things you experienced and learned.
- Realize the difference between readjusting totally to “the way things were” and incorporating new values based on all that you experienced.
- Develop community with people who have been overseas with whom you can discuss (and if they are Christians, pray for) the transition you are experiencing and the needs of the world. Encourage each other in thinking globally!
- Seek out friendships with people from the region where you served (international students, refugees, businessmen, etc.) Make the nations part of your life at home!
- Be prepared for the people who ask “How was your trip?” but really don't want to hear more than a superficial

“It was great!” response. Recognize that not everyone will be interested in all the details that you think they should care about. Pray through ways that you can share who God is and His heart for the nations even in your short answers. And seek out the people who want to listen to more details too!

- Take initiative to figure out how to serve your local church and community. Analyze their ministries, your gifts and then seek out opportunities (or help create opportunities) that integrate what you have learned overseas with the priorities of your church.
- Recognize that your friends and family may be under a great deal of stress themselves. Be prepared to counsel, comfort, pray for and bless them as much as to receive their counsel and care.
- Remember that God is calling you to Himself here, just as He did there. Seek Him and make the most of every opportunity you are given here, just as you sought to do there.

FINAL TEAM DEBRIEF

It's been a few weeks, and hopefully, you've re-integrated successfully back into real life. But it's important to remember, what you experienced overseas is real life for those that you went to serve. During your final team debrief, you will take some time to remember, reflect and record what God did during your trip.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Don't let this trip be a one-time experience. You've experienced something incredible:

1. Learn

There's a world of knowledge out there about global missions, working with the poor and the specific community you visited. I recommend the following to continue to learn:

- Read a book from the suggested reading list.
- Read Wikipedia articles on the country/city you visited. It's amazing how much more you'll understand about the community when you know the history!
- Find a local news source and stay up to date on the happenings in the community.
- Watch films or documentaries from the country you visited.

2. Share

When you come back from a trip, people inevitably ask a very sloppy (though well-intentioned) question: "How was the trip?" It's so broad and vague that answering it seems overwhelming. Where do you even start? Preferably, find three deep and insightful things to say about the trip. "It was good," isn't good enough. Write your thoughts down within the first week of returning home, and prepare something compelling to tell people about what you saw and experienced. If you have these starter thoughts, every conversation you have will hone those insights until they become pretty profound. Think of stories to tell. There's a reason why Jesus taught mostly through parables! Make sure you share specifically with those who gave financially to your trip!

One little note: don't be angry when people don't get it. Most of us learn experientially, so a lot of people really won't understand until they go see for themselves.

It's also important for you to plug into a Group at Cross Point if you're not already involved. You could even start a Group with people that went on your trip with you!

3. Give

Upon your return back to the US, you'll certainly notice the wealth and extravagance in a new light. No matter the status of your bank account, you're one of the wealthiest people in the world. This is not to shame you or discourage you, but to let you know that you have a great opportunity! We can use our great wealth and influence for good.

We encourage you to give money to the organization you traveled with, above and beyond your normal giving. If you believe in the work they do, I guarantee they need more funds to execute what they're doing! You probably heard a little bit about how to do this while you were on your trip, but if not, search their website, or reach out to us and we can point you in the right direction.

Also, if you are not doing so, start tithing to Cross Point. We support each of our partners on a monthly basis, and can't do that without the generosity of people like you.

4. Serve

You saw a lot of things this week. Take a second and think about the following questions:

- What did I see?
- How did it make me feel?
- What broke my heart?

Andy Stanley had this to say about our passions: "If this issue is breaking your heart and God has called you to be part of the solution, then He will be faithful to equip you, take care of you and help you."

Whatever it is, we encourage you to do something. One easy step is to serve at Cross Point if you aren't already. There are immediate volunteer needs, and we are here to point you towards those. A deeper step would be to identify an organization in your community that helps with the kind of work that broke your heart in the country you visited. This could be spending time with old folks at a nursing home, teaching kids how to read at an after school program or helping a refugee family get assimilated to American life. These opportunities all exist, and passionate people are needed!

THANK YOU FROM CROSS POINT GLOBAL GOOD TEAM

So, you're done. We want you to know that we truly believe you are the best that Cross Point has to offer. I love each community we partner in deeply, and it truly is an honor to share that with you.

We believe God has given the Church as his "Plan A" to reach the nations. Thank you for going to encourage and joining in the efforts of those who are on the front lines of leading organizations and churches around the world. We hope and pray that God has impacted your heart and life as much as he has used you on this journey.

We constantly hear from our partner organizations how incredible our teams are. We truly couldn't do it without the support of people like you. If there is anything we can do to support you in your continual involvement, don't hesitate to let us know.

Keep praying. Pray for the community and for your team members.

Keep giving. Give generously to partner organizations and to Cross Point.

Keep going. Go and continue to make Christ famous among the nations.

Cross Point Global Good Team



TRIP RESOURCES

Here are some things that may help you along your journey!

SHARING THE GOSPEL WORKSHEET

His Story

The gospel is the greatest news we could ever share. This section is designed to help you begin to think through and process how to share the gospel. If it is truly of the utmost importance to us, then we should be ready to share it clearly and concisely!

The 3 Any's: Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime

- Get to the point
 - Identify yourself as a believer
 - What religion do you follow?
- Get them to our broken world
 - Talk about sin
 - “In your religion, how is sin forgiven?”
- Get them to the gospel
 - “I know my sins are forgiven. Can I share with you how I have that assurance?”

His Story: The Gospel

- Creation: In the beginning there was only God. With His voice, He created everything that exists — the earth, the sun, the moon and stars and animals. God also made a very special creation, and that was man and woman. They had a perfect relationship with God.
- Fall: God gave them only one command to follow, which was to not eat of a particular tree, but man and woman disobeyed God. This disobedience is called sin, and because man and woman sinned, their relationship with God was broken.
- The Lamb: God requires a sacrifice for our sins. Because God loves us, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus was called the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
- The Cross: Jesus died on a cross for our sins. He was a spotless sacrifice for us. He lived a perfect life we could not live, died in our place and took the punishment that we deserved for our sins.
- The Resurrection: They buried Jesus in a tomb and put a

stone in front of it, but three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, proving that He is the Son of God. He met with many of His followers and then returned to Heaven. Through His death and Resurrection, we can have forgiveness of sin and a right relationship with God.

- His return: Jesus said that one day He will come again to judge the world. At that time, those who have repented from their sins and believe in Jesus as Lord will spend eternity with God in Heaven. Everyone who rejects this truth will spend eternity separated from God.

Questions

- Have you ever heard this story before?
- What did you like about the story?
- Are you ready to repent of your sins and follow Jesus?
 - “Yes”: Pray with them and begin the discipleship process. This includes getting them a Bible and teaching them stories from the gospels.
 - “No”: Ask, “Would you be interested in hearing more about Jesus?” If “yes,” share stories with them from the Gospels.

If you share the gospel and they are not yet ready to follow Jesus but are interested in knowing more, begin by sharing different stories about Jesus found in the gospels. Here are a few ideas we call stories of hope.

Stories of Hope:

- Woman at the Well: John 4
- Jesus Calms the Storm: Matthew 8:23-27
- The Paralyzed Man: Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26
- The Bleeding Woman: Mark 5:24-34
- Jesus Feeds the 5,000: Matthew 14:13-21 and John 6:1-13
- The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Take the space below and write out the gospel as clearly and concisely as you can.

SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

Sharing a personal testimony may be the most powerful tool available to the willing witness. Stories have a way of breaking down barriers. People usually turn off their critical thinking skills and drop their guards to listen to a story. This is especially true in international contexts as people want to know all about your culture.

Two types of testimonies

1. Salvation: Focus on how you came to trust Christ.
2. Situation (present impact): Focus on how Jesus is impacting your life in relation to typical human needs, problems and issues.

SHAPING YOUR TESTIMONY

1. Write what your life was like before you came to know Christ. Write how you came to know you were lost and how you came to see Jesus as the Forgiver and Leader of your life.
2. Write out one or two of the major positive changes Christ is making in your life.
3. Write in understandable language, removing religious terms that would not be understood.
4. Try to develop your testimony around one major theme with supporting information.
5. The testimony should be able to be shared in about three minutes.
6. Keep your testimony on point and without too many details that distract people from seeing Christ.

Testimony “don’ts”

- Don’t embellish details or worry that your testimony isn’t exciting enough to share.
- Don’t use too many Scriptures (one to three are probably good).
- Don’t feel that you have to share all of your testimony at once.
- Don’t be negative about other religions or on any matter if

possible.

Sharing “do’s”

- Ask people questions about themselves. This will usually lead to the lost person to ask you about yourself.
- Share your testimony from any starting point: front, middle, back, or middle, back, front, and even back, front, middle.
- Focus on how your story connects with the lost person, not just on telling your story.
- Be natural and authentic.
- Practice sharing your testimony with friends and other Christians. Share in the confidence of Christ as you relive your experiences.

MY TESTIMONY

Write out in each section what you will share.

1. Life before Christ

2. Coming to know/trust Christ

3. Life with Christ

SUGGESTED READING

STRATEGY & MISSION:

When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
Walking with the Poor by Bryant Myers
The Poverty of Nations by Barry Asmus & Wayne Grudem
The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman
The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearns
Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just by Tim Keller

THEOLOGY:

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis
The Explicit Gospel by Matt Chandler
The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer
Dogmatics in Outline by Karl Barth

DISCIPLESHIP & PERSONAL GROWTH:

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero
The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Recovering Redemption: A Gospel-Saturated Perspective on How to Change by Matt Chandler
Death by Living: Life Is Meant to Be Spent by N.D. Wilson

SPECIFIC COUNTRIES:

The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster by Jonathan Katz (Haiti)
Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola by Michele Wucker (Understanding the Haitian/DR Conflict)
A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierly (Kolkata, India / the movie *Lion* is based off this book)
The New Odyssey: The Story of Europe's Refugee Crisis by Patrick Kingsley (Greece- understanding the refugee crisis)
Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala By Victoria Sanford (Guatemala)
One Day I Will Write About This Place: A Memoir by Binavanga Wainaina (Kenyan Memoir)

HOW TO PRAY

The important thing to remember when praying for someone is that the effectiveness of your prayer doesn't depend on you, how you pray or what you say. Our prayers are effective because of the power of Jesus. So be bold! Pray faith-filled prayers. Don't be afraid to ask God to do what only He can do!

Before you pray, try to get as much information about the situation as you can. Ask for the names of the person requesting the prayer and the name of the person they want you to pray for. Then pray for both the prayer request and the prayer "requester."

Your prayer doesn't have to be long. Just a sentence or two is fine. End your prayer by praying for the individual - that his or her faith would increase, that he or she would trust in Jesus to work in her life and this situation, that she would experience Jesus' power and presence in her life.

You might begin your prayer by stating one of the attributes of God that applies. For example:

- God, You are a healer so we ask you to heal...
- God, You are love and you love us more than we can ever imagine
- God, You are all-powerful
- God, You are faithful
- God, You are good and You have good plans for us
- God, You are near to the brokenhearted
- God, You are just and you hate injustice
- God, You are wise
- God, You know everything about this situation and You are big enough to intervene and work a miracle if you choose

Use scripture to pray. As you read the Bible, pay attention to how Jesus prayed and how Paul prayed for people. Here are some scriptures to memorize and pray:

- "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." (Philippians 1:6)
- "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

- “And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)
- “Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)
- “Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)
- “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.” (Ephesians 1:19)
- “I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called.” (Ephesians 1:18)
- “I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and strength.” (Ephesians 1:17)
- “If you need wisdom, ask our generous God and he will give it to you.” (James 1:5)
- “When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow.” (James 1:2)
- “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)
- “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.” (John 14:1)
- “My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2)

Many of the prayer requests are for healing and/or for family. Here are some examples of how to pray for each of these situations: Praying for healing...Jesus, you are a healer. Would you please heal (name)? Whether you choose to perform a miracle and just heal them, or whether you choose work through the doctors and medicine to heal them, you are the one who heals. So would you please do that?

TEAM COVENANT

As a volunteer under Cross Point Church, I agree to pay all costs related to my trip including the total trip cost and any other expenses not covered in the trip cost. Cross Point Church reserves the right to change trip costs for any reason at any time. I understand that if I do not meet my financial contribution to my team in totality before the trip departure date, I forfeit my right to participate on the trip. I affirm that Cross Point Church has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds, and reserves the right to redirect funds designated for my ministry in the event that my ministry is over-funded to assist other team members or the trip in general. I understand, and will explain to potential donors at the point of solicitation of funds, that while donations are tax deductible, they are considered a charitable donation and are not refundable nor will any surplus be returned to the donor or me.

I will be responsive to the counsel and suggestions of the Global Good Team Leaders and partner organization leaders and abide by the standards of conduct and ethics of the above-named field and the policies of Cross Point Church. I will abstain from any form of conduct unbecoming to a Christian example. I also agree to take any and all medications prescribed to me for this trip per my doctor or prescribing agency. I will not hold Cross Point Church and any of their departments, segments, officers, agents and employees responsible for any accident, injury, or illness resulting from my visit to the field nor for the loss of or damage to personal property while on this assignment, and will indemnify and hold harmless Cross Point Church from and against any and all liability occasioned by my service.

In addition, I agree to comply with any specific regulations and rules of conduct pertaining to the field where I will be serving. I realize that these guidelines have been created for my safety and in accordance with the policies of Cross Point Church and the field partner in question. I understand that any violation of this agreement may result in the termination of my service and that I will be personally responsible for any expenses related to my return to my home and related financial commitments.

I understand that the required deposit is non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Name _____

Date _____



RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I, _____, desire to participate in the Global Mission Trip (the TRIP) to _____ hosted by Cross Point Community Church (the CHURCH), taking place _____. I understand that the CHURCH will not allow me to participate in the TRIP unless I enter into this Agreement. Therefore, in exchange for permission to participate, I make the following representations and agreements, which I understand the CHURCH is relying on:

- I am of sound mind, in good health, and no physical or mental conditions will hinder me participating in the TRIP.
- I am eighteen (18) years of age or older. If participant is under the age of 18, then parental consent is required.
- I understand that any representations made regarding the TRIP, via any medium, such as written or television, are merely speculative in nature. Due to the fluid and potentially volatile nature of the atmosphere in AREA WHERE TRIP WILL BE TAKEN, any speculations by any agent of the CHURCH about the safety of a trip to this area are not substantive, nor are they to be relied on by any party, as circumstances are subject to change at any time.
- I understand that the terms of this Agreement are contractual and legally binding on me.
- I understand that this Agreement is binding not only on me, but also on my respective representative heirs, estates, beneficiaries, successors, and assigns.

I understand that travel, foreign travel, and staying in a foreign country involve risks and can be dangerous. By my participation in the TRIP, I voluntarily expose myself to these risks and dangers, where expected or unexpected. I am aware of these risks and dangers and am aware that I may obtain appropriate insurance coverage at my own expense.

On my own behalf and on behalf of anyone who, as a result of my participation in the TRIP, can make a claim on my behalf or because of me, I agree as follows:

I release and discharge the CHURCH from any and all liability and responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury of any kind that I may suffer as a result of or in connection with my participation in this TRIP. This release covers any loss, damage, or injury caused by:

1. Any criminal, illegal or unauthorized acts of third parties, including but not limited to any terrorist act, hijacking or sabotage:
2. Any social or labor unrest;
3. Any political conditions;
4. Any mechanical or constructional difficulties or conditions;
5. Any diseases, local laws or climatic conditions;
6. Any conditions, developments, actions or omissions outside of the control of the CHURCH; and,
7. Any other expected or unexpected conditions, developments, or risks connected with travel, foreign travel, or staying in a foreign country, even if I suffer the loss of money, property, health, or life and irrespective of who is or may be at fault, or whose negligence, including the negligence of the CHURCH, may have caused my loss, injury or death.

I HAVE READ EACH AND EVERY WORD IN THIS AGREEMENT. I FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. I VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT. THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT AND I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING IT.

Date

Participant Signature

Parental Consent Signature (if necessary)

Telephone Number

Street Address

City, State and Zip