

Blessing Hearts MINISTRIES

Blessing Hearts Ministries --- Short Term Mission Trip FAQ's

What is the cost per person per week?

- 👉 \$1000 a person per week, \$100 for every day over 7. This covers all costs except airfare.
- 👉 Payment in full due one month before arrival
- 👉 Plan \$1000 for airfare as well. It varies, but anything raised above what is needed will go to help the mission after we leave. Your trip leader will tell you the full amount needed for airfare and when that is due.

Where do we stay?

- 👉 You'll stay at the mission's rented home with the Dorcé family. Specific arrangements and accommodations will be at the Dorcés' discretion. Limit 15 people.

What should I bring with me?

- 👉 Your leader will give you a list of items we will ask to be donated. For your personal packing items plan on bringing: your Passport, a second form of identification, your insurance card, money for souvenirs and meals in airports, enough clothes for 7 days, sandals, protective/closed-toed shoes, a water bottle, a towel, personal toiletries, pain reliever, Dramamine, antacid, Band-aids, Bible, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat for shade, small package of tissue for bathroom emergencies, hand sanitizer, a small back pack to carry these items, **a flexible attitude**, and lots of love to leave behind.

What not to bring:

- 👉 Fine jewelry, large quantities of money, anything that is very valuable to you, or much that requires electricity. Electricity will be available on a limited basis to charge phones, but it will not be reliable.

What will we be doing?

- 👉 The specifics will be determined by the Dorcés and the current needs of the ministry. The goal of the trip is NOT to change the people you will be working with. If you go with an attitude of letting God speak through you and are flexible in laying down your own agenda, it will be an incredible time. Be open, flexible and ready to learn something new. The biggest result may be a change in you!

What forms are required?

- 👉 A current passport. A temporary visitor's visa can be applied for online. Your leader will give you those instructions as the trip nears. Please provide your trip leader with a copy of your current passport and insurance card prior to leaving the U.S..

What meals are provided?

- 👉 All mid-day meals will be provided, cooked and prepared for us and will be a cultural experience (we will get to try many Haitian/Dominican-typical foods). Our first day in-country we will go to a grocery store and purchase breakfast and dinner foods/snacks that we will prepare ourselves. You may bring snacks, especially if you have specific health concerns.

How do we travel while there?

- ↳ Type of travel will depend upon the nature of the trip and the projects. Travel will most often be by SUV. We will do some walking, so bring comfortable, protective shoes.

What vaccines are required?

- ↳ We do not require any vaccines. Check with your doctor at least 2 months before your trip. You can also check online with the CDC at www.cdc.gov for vaccines recommended for travel to the Caribbean.

Do we need insurance?

- ↳ Each trip participant must have some type of insurance. You may ask your insurance agent: some agencies offer short-term overseas insurance.

What's the emergency contact information while in Haiti?

- ↳ Dee & Wilckly Dorcé Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp

What if we don't agree with a decision that is made or something that is done by the mission directors?

- ↳ This will be discussed in more detail during your preparation meetings, but the best attitude to adopt during your entire experience is one of open-mindedness and flexibility. Due to cultural differences there may be times when you encounter something being done in a way you might not choose to do it. Remember we are there as guests, the mission leaders have been living and serving there for many years, and the purpose of our trip is not to change how the mission is run, or how the culture functions, but to support and encourage those living and serving there already. This does not mean you may not ask questions. But this ought to be done in a manner of wanting to learn, not wanting to enact change.

What about culture shock?

- ↳ Culture shock or stress is defined as 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. Even with all of the meetings we will be having most, if not all of you, will experience some form of culture shock.
- ↳ Once in country, you are going to be overwhelmed with sights and smells with which you are unfamiliar. Some may be unpleasant. You will experience very different types and ways of transportation (most of the driving is very fast and jerky), and a lot of motorcycles/mopeds. You will encounter people who are very materially poor. Many large and fancy buildings and houses will be right next to quite small, poorly built ones, and almost all houses have bars on the windows. The people all speak a different language from you. Nothing will look familiar. Your mind will be trying to make sense of all of these things. You may have feelings of fear, lack of control, sadness, hopelessness, or even anger throughout your trip.
- ↳ If you are feeling this way, talk about it. Discuss what you are seeing. Journal! Remember that while the material needs of the people are great, their greatest need is to know Jesus. You can show Jesus to everyone you meet by your actions, by your love. Don't be afraid to dive into the culture. Try to speak the language. Don't be afraid to be laughed at. Usually on a short term trip, the feelings of culture stress start to lessen after a few days. Spend time in the Word and in talking to God.