

# GUIDELINES FOR WORK TEAM MEMBERS



## Exciting opportunities to be involved in **SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN SERVICE** WORK TEAMS to Asia-Pacific Mission Fields

- **Thank you** for your interest in the possibility of being a member of one of our **WORK TEAMS**. This brochure is designed to give you general information to assist you to carefully and prayerfully decide whether God would have you serve Him with one of our Teams, and to make you aware of your responsibilities as a member of a Christian group. Our Teams are opportunities to go and use your skills and abilities in practical ways on a **MISSION FIELD** for approximately three weeks.
- Our Teams assist with practical projects in **Asia-Pacific fields** connected with the world-wide **Advent Christian Churches**.
- Membership of a Team not only brings the opportunity to **"get your hands dirty" for the Lord**, but also to enjoy Christian fellowship with other members of the Team, and with Christians in the country you serve in.
- You are considering going abroad, to a Mission field - perhaps for the first time, and you are no doubt wondering what to expect: Relax, take a few minutes to read the information set out in this document. Should you decide to be a member of a Team, your experience will be a special one - for you, for the Missionaries you visit, and for the Nationals you meet.

### **Our WORK TEAM trips are planned in detail...**

...or at least in as much detail as is possible. Perhaps the most important things you should pack are flexibility and your sense of humour! The countries we visit are very different from your home country. An unexpected invitation may be extended to visit a national pastor's or member's home, to tour a local place of interest, or to give a greeting, through an interpreter, in a local worship service. The Lord often uses the unexpected to increase our blessings.

### **It is not "unspiritual" to sightsee on a Work Team trip...**

...and your trip will include some sightseeing. You will always be accompanied by someone who "knows the ropes" and can speak the language. Ask questions, allow your guides to describe their country with pride... but be willing to see the country from the perspective of the nationals or the resident Missionaries. Be ready to travel by bus, train, ox cart, horseback or on foot!

### **Your personal health and hygiene is very important**

What you eat and drink is very important to your health. Different cultures have different food types, water standards etc that may pose a health risk. **We recruit a Team Cook(s)** to manage our diet while on the field and ensure (as best we can) we remain healthy. **You will have a basic 'Western' diet**, but also be able to sample local foods. You will also be able to check with the resident missionaries about what local food can be safely eaten, and what can be safely drunk - always take their advice!

**Accommodation will be on-site** or as close to the project as possible, or if necessary in a local hotel or commercial accommodation. **Prepare to 'rough it'** to some degree though - this is all part of the experience.

## **Be Thoughtful**

- **Local customs vary**, so be sensitive, and pause, think, and if necessary, check, if you are in any doubt about what you propose to do or say! For example, in some countries nationals would be offended if you automatically paid the price they asked, but in others they would be offended if you bargained. **Check with the Missionaries** before you make any purchases. Don't feel guilty about buying gifts etc, but remember that the nationals will be watching you to see if your purchases are in keeping with Christ's commands to demonstrate good stewardship.
- **Missionaries enjoy having those from home visit.** You will be the bringers of many good things to them - fresh news, fun, companionship, letters & gifts from home, conversation in English. Be thoughtful and sympathetic to the Missionaries at all times. In particular **remember that they live ALL THE TIME in the conditions you will experience.**

**Our Teams go out under the auspices of ACMissionNZ (Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Inc), although we work closely with missionaries on the field and other associated regional Missions. If Team members have any comments or complaints concerning the Work Team, its work or its organisation, these are to be communicated ONLY to ACMissionNZ. In making application for membership of a Team, you agree to accept this requirement.**

**We take all care possible for team members under our care, but you must take responsibility for your own actions, attitudes and conduct at all times.**

## **Ambassadors for the Lord**

- Although Team members are not Missionaries in the usual sense of the word - some Governments will not allow Missionaries into their countries, and some national Christians may expect more of trained Missionaries than some Team members can perform - all Team members need to have attitudes and behaviour similar to that expected from career missionaries.
- **Team members are certainly "Ambassadors for the Lord" - everything they say or do should be honouring to the Lord.**
- All Team members are expected to conform to proper rules of Christian conduct at home, in transit and on the Mission field, in respect to dress, conduct, habits, speech and forms of recreation. You will be advised on appropriate dress codes for the country you will be visiting.
- In particular, no tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs are permitted while in transit to or from the field or while on the field.
- **Team members are expected to act as part of a team for the whole time the Team is away, and should give full co-operation to the appointed leaders of the Team at all times.**
- Although Teams travel to assist the national church with practical projects, **it should be remembered that members' first responsibility is that of witnessing in life and word, the Gospel of Christ, with a view of winning people to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.**

## **Prayer is the Key**

- One of the key factors for the success of a Team, both at an individual level and as a Team, is **prayer support**. Prayer is necessary before, during and after the Team's time away, and individual members are encouraged to arrange prayer supporters for themselves and for the Team as a whole.

## **Financial Matters**

- **Team members are expected to raise their own finance** to cover air fares, travel insurance, accommodation and all on-the-ground expenses. (You can consult your own travel agent for an estimate of travel costs)
- **ACMissionNZ is not in a position to sponsor individuals on it's work teams.**
- As information becomes available to us we will draft a budget and convey the on-the-ground expenses to you. (As a rough guide: for 3 weeks in an Asia Pacific country the 'Team Fund' amount required will be in the vicinity of NZ\$600-700/US\$450-550)
- Your 'Team Fund' contribution will be payable no later than the day of arrival at the project and must be paid in local currency or US dollars.
- **The purpose of our travel is to completely sponsor the chosen project** (usually a building project) by covering the costs associated and by doing the work or construction itself.
- **Team members are expected to raise funds and canvas for donations towards the sponsorship project** in the months leading up to the project. This should be carried out from within your local church, family and circle of contacts. Publicity and resource will be made available for this purpose.
- Project donations will be forwarded to ACMissionNZ or via other recognised and related agencies during the lead-up to the project.

## **Paperwork IS Necessary**

- We require Team members to complete an **WORK TEAM APPLICATION** and a **PERSONAL TESTIMONY**.
- The details requested on these forms is very important, and necessary if our Trust Board is to fully meet its responsibilities to the members of the Team, and to those on the field that the Team will be visiting.
- **Please be assured that the details you give will remain confidential to the members of the Board and to the leadership of the Team you apply to be part of.** All the questions asked are asked for a specific purpose, and depending on your answers, you may be contacted on some matters for further details or with helpful suggestions. The details given by all Team members will enable us to ensure that you are fully briefed at the first Team meeting.

**For further details please don't hesitate to contact me:**

Garry Schäche

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**ACMissionNZ**

[www.acmissionz.org.nz](http://www.acmissionz.org.nz)

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### **Donations/Financial:**

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