

Short Term Missions Team Agreement

I realize that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our trip together. As a member of this short term missions trip team, I agree to:

1. Remember that I am a guest working at the invitation of a local missionary, pastor, medical clinic, etc. If my hosts are offended by bare arms, shirtless backs, and exposed legs. I'll cover them. If they offer me goat meat stew, I'll try it! I'll remember the missionaries' prayer: "Where you lead me, I will follow; what you feed me, I will swallow!"
2. Remember that we have come to learn, not to teach. I may run across procedures that I feel are inefficient, or attitudes that I find closed-minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." I'll be open to learning about other people's methods and ideas.
3. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
4. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
5. Respect my team leader and his or her decisions.
6. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised at how each person will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.
7. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances are innumerable. Instead of whining and complaining, I'll be creative and supportive.
8. Respect the work that is going on in the country with the particular church, agency, or person that we are working with. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the missionary and local churches are here for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights, and instructions.

9. Attend all team preparation classes and follow-up meetings.
10. Fulfill all logistical requirements. I will comply with all requirements regarding passports, finances, shots, and so on.
11. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics.
12. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my sweetheart or spouse is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. If I am attracted to a teammate, I will not attempt to pursue an exclusive relationship until after we return home.
13. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national. I realize certain activities that seem innocuous in my own culture may seem inappropriate in others.
14. Abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco or the use of illegal drugs while on the trip.

Signed _____

Date _____