



**GLOBAL MISSIONS PROJECT**

About GMP Music Leaders Individual Musicians About Our Projects Global Communities Give to GMP Q&A's

**GOING TO CHANGE LIVES...**

**WELCOME** **WHY USE GMP** **WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING** **FUNDING MY WAY**

# PREPARATION GUIDE FOR MISSION PARTICIPANTS



**GLOBAL MISSIONS PROJECT**

About GMP Music Leaders Individual Musicians About Our Projects Global Communities Give to GMP Q&A's

**...CHANGING LIVES BY GOING**

**WELCOME** **WHY USE GMP** **WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING** **FUNDING MY WAY**

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# GMP Preparation Guide for Mission Participants

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## WELCOME!

Thank you for partnering with us on a Music Mission Project. We are passionate about our calling and look forward to serving you.

Mission Projects are not a vacation, but are designed to use your gifts, time, and energy to minister to the people of different cultures and sometimes in difficult circumstances.

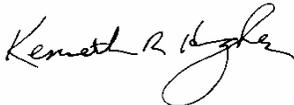
Do not worry about every element of the trip. The Lord has control of every situation and is taking care of every facet. The GMP Ministry Director has planned the trip in detail, and a GMP Travel Leader will be present to deal with any deviations to the itinerary after consulting with the Ministry Leader and the Mission Partner.

Remember that God's plan for your Project may not always be in exact accord with your plans and expectations. If during your project the Lord arranges events differently than previously planned relax and trust him. Be flexible. Expect Him to send only what is best for you and this Project. In fact, God may change a place, a time, or even your ministry focus in order for you to witness more effectively.

You will never be the same again. You will be changed by what you experience. You will see the world as it is – the needs, the heartache, and the pain – and as it can be through the hope and love of Jesus Christ.

Other members of your organization will never be the same again either. Their eyes will be opened to the world around them through your Mission Project. They will have ownership in your experience because they invested so much of themselves in supporting you. Your excitement will become their excitement! Your love of missions will become their love of missions.

Blessings!



Kenn Hughes  
Ministry Director

## VISION

**GLOBAL MISSIONS PROJECT** is an interdenominational mission's organization committed to leading Christian musicians globally towards evangelizing the lost, encouraging believers and ministering to people through music.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

- To further ministry strategies of the field missionary, pastors and Christian workers through the mobilization of music volunteers
- To coordinate and manage the overall Project including vision, objectives, travel logistics and ground support
- To act as a liaison between field missionaries, Christian music leaders, individual Christian musicians and the ensembles they represent
- To promote and develop global strategies in furthering the Great Commission through the use of music

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## SECTION 1: GROUP & PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

### Directions for Online Registration

The GMP Ministry Director will coordinate the registration process with the Ministry Leader. Once a group or individual agrees to fulfill a specific Mission Project, each participant will then be responsible for visiting the GMP website to register.

#### Step 1

To begin, open an Internet Explorer browser window, and go to:  
<http://www.globalmissionsproject.com>

#### Step 2

Once on the GMP home page, click on the #2 button that reads "Register for a Project." Scroll to your Project and click "Register."

#### Step 3

Complete the personal information page provided.

#### *Helpful Hints:*

- \*Please follow the formatting suggestions
- \*At the bottom of the registration page, please use the dropdown menu and choose your specific Project
- \*The terms and conditions will have to be agreed to in order to continue

When complete, click the "Register" button. You will receive a screen message to confirm your registration and a subsequent email will be delivered to your email address.

The leadership team will receive email notification regarding your registration.

If you should have any difficulty with this process on the website, please contact your Project Manager by e-mail at [info@globalmissionsproject.com](mailto:info@globalmissionsproject.com) or call (770) 401-0782.



## SECTION 2: FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Each participant will be responsible for their Project expenses through personal payments or contributions by others and the details are outlined in the Participant Application Agreement (PAA). What is covered in your Project cost will be listed in the "What's Included" section. Churches or organizations may use fundraisers to help subsidize each participant's expenses and those donations as well as payments by participants and financial gifts by others can be made on the GMP website. All contributions to GMP are tax-deductible. Donation letters are available upon request.

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*(Financial Considerations continued)*

Do not overlook the extra expenses that are not included in the Project cost. Some of the following items may not be included: some meals, passport fees and passport photos, visa fees (if applicable), tips, food en route, luggage and excess baggage fees, optional sightseeing and souvenirs. Additional information will be provided by your Group Leader and the GMP Ministry Director as the Project develops.

Information and a "Support Discovery" document are available to help you raise support for your Project. This document goes into great detail on all aspects of support including spiritual applications. The information and document can be found by visiting the GMP Home Page and clicking "Funding My Way."

### SECTION 3: BEFORE YOU GO

It is impossible to anticipate all circumstances and situations but this information will help you prepare for your Mission Project. **A Typical Day** is a day where things change and we all need to stay flexible. **Semper Gumby** is our motto! Always flexible! As best you can, pray for patience and perseverance to serve everyone in Christ-like fashion.



You must have a valid passport to travel outside the United States. If you do not have a passport you need to apply for one as soon as possible. If your passport expires within 6 months of your scheduled return you will need to renew your passport immediately. Allow at least 2 months for processing your passport application. **You will not be permitted to travel internationally without a passport.**

#### Items you will need to obtain a U.S. Passport

This information can be found on the State Department website: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

1. Download an Application (DS-11) [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)
2. Present Proof of U.S. Citizenship – you need **one** of the following:
  - A clean undamaged previous U.S. passport
  - Certified Birth Certificate
  - Naturalization Certificate
  - Certificate of Citizenship
3. Present Proof of Identity – you will need **one** of the following (Minor's that do not have any of the following documents will need a guardian to be present with their documentation):
  - A clean undamaged previous U.S. passport
  - Naturalization Certificate
  - Current valid Driver's License, Government ID, Military ID

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(Passport continued)

4. Provide 2 Passport Photos (CVS, Walgreen's and Eckerd's make these) **Note:** You will need 2 additional Passport Photos if your destination requires a Visa
  - New 2x2 inch identical color photos
  - Full face view
  - Must have white background
5. Passport Fees
  - Check for the most recent fees at: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/fees/fees\\_837.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/fees/fees_837.html)
6. Provide Social Security Number (required by IRS)

Make 5 copies of your Passport

- Send one copy to GMP to keep on file
- Place one copy in your carry-on, one in your checked luggage, one on yourself but separate from your original Passport and leave one with a relative



Frequently a country will require a Visa for you to enter their country. The application instructions can be found on the GMP website by clicking "Downloads" on the Home Page and then choosing the appropriate country. Each participant is responsible for all costs associated with visa applications.



### Travel Money

A recommended amount for personal travel money is \$25 - \$30 per day. This will cover 2 meals per day, miscellaneous expenses and small souvenirs.

### Credit & Debit Cards

Please notify your card companies of the country you will be visiting and the dates you will be there. Use a credit card for purchases when possible so that you have a good record of your receipts. Every penny you spend on project expenses is tax deductible like other charitable giving. Depending on the ATM and your location, you should not only have your Debit Card PIN memorized but your Credit Card PIN as well.

### Cash

Use an ATM card to get cash. You get the best exchange rate using an ATM card as opposed to exchanging cash at a bank or hotel. Our missionary host can direct you to an ATM. Check the airport for one as well. You can use your ATM card to get native currency from the country you are in without having to go through the exchange process. If you are shopping in an open air market of any kind, you

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*(Money & Currency Exchange continued)*

may need cash. Be sure and ask where the best place is to exchange American dollars in the event that is needed and you will need identification to do that. **Always** ask for a currency exchange receipt. You may be asked for it when you change your money back into dollars. **DO NOT** exchange money on the street with anyone.

### Traveler's Checks

These are becoming much more difficult to use and exchange in many countries so we strongly recommend **NOT** using these.

### GMP Financial Gift Policy

Small gifts for our hosts are in good taste. GMP will guide you on modest gifts to be given to them as well as nationals who have been enlisted to support our Project. These gifts will be listed before you depart so that you can pack them into your luggage. **Money should not be given to nationals, translators, or others** without the expressed consent of our hosts, Ministry Leader or GMP Ministry Director.

### Just Say No

Do not promise anything that you do not intend to complete.

- Americans want to be polite and will say things like "I will pray about it," or "Let me think about it," or "We might be able to do something about that." To a national who has pressing needs and who sees you as being rich, perceive these statements as a promise.
- It is better to say "no," and possibly be able to do something later rather than to mislead with ambiguous responses.
- Local hosts have been accused in public by those who were sure the volunteer left something for them.

### Best Course of Action

Your best course of action is to be firm with your "no." However, if you still feel led by the Lord to respond to a need, discuss the matter with your Group Leader, host and GMP Trip Leader. They will provide guidance in the matter.



### MEDICAL INFORMATION

U.S. Medical Insurance is not always provided outside the United States; therefore, GMP has provided within your Project cost a travel/medical insurance policy with American International Group (AIG), also known as Adams and Associates. Details of the coverage are outlined in the "What's Included" portion of the Participant Application Agreement. The specific overseas coverage, including provisions for medical evacuation, begins on the departure date of the GMP Mission Project and ends on the GMP Project return date. Deviations are NOT covered. This policy is NOT travel cancellation insurance.

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*(Medical Information continued)*

## Medical Facilities

There are adequate medical facilities in most places that GMP travels; however, the medical care can sometimes be limited and basic medical supplies are sometimes scarce in certain locations. Participants with special health care problems (diabetes, heart conditions, respiratory problems, allergies, etc.) should be aware that emergency care may not always be available in every country.

## Medical Claims

If you have an emergency while you are on a Mission Project there are specific instructions attached to your trip insurance card which you and your team will need to follow. Your GMP representative will also have a medical claims form that you will need to complete and send in to the insurance company. GMP enrolls each participant with this insurance; however, GMP does not act as a liaison between the insurance company and the participant. The filing of the claim and any debt incurred that the insurance company does not cover is the sole responsibility of the participant.

## Required Immunizations

Should a particular immunization be required to visit a specific country, GMP will notify you about this requirement with ample time to receive the immunization. All of your current travel immunizations should be recorded in the International Certificate of Vaccination issued by the World Health Organization. This certificate can be found at your local Health Department which is document PHS-731. Your doctor or health-care provider will determine what you will need, depending on factors such as your health and immunization history, areas of the country you will be visiting, and planned activities.

Many websites have recommendations for vaccinations. For the most up-to-date information please check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/>. For further information, participants may contact the International Travelers Hotline at 888-232-3228.

## Emergency & Beneficiary Contact Information

When you register you will be asked to provide contact information for emergency situations and a beneficiary. They should have some knowledge of your medical condition.



## TRAVEL HINTS

### Airport Information

- Before you leave for the airport, check with the airline regarding flight status
- Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours before departure for international flights and 1 ½ hours before domestic flights

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*(Travel Hints continued)*

- If the airline delays your travel, they will usually take care of all stopover expenses including accommodations, meals, and telephone calls to advise others of your change in arrival.
- If you miss your plane, the airlines will place you on standby for the next available flight. If it is the airlines fault, you may have to insist that they provide accommodations, meals, and transportation and general expenses.
- In the event of a delay the Group Leader and or GMP Representative will notify the Mission Partner of the delay.
- Never leave your luggage unattended. Use the buddy system and take turns watching each others baggage.
- International restrooms are often marked "W.C." for "Water Closet," or simply "Toilet." Look carefully at the door before entering. In some countries there is not a separate room for men and women.

### Packed Luggage

- You may want to pack some snacks in your checked luggage and carry-on. Airport food is expensive and depending on your travel times some stores may be closed. Remember, some snacks melt!
- It is a good idea to include a general Packing List (don't list the value of items) for each piece of luggage. Keep this on you when traveling in case your luggage is lost or stolen. On the Packing List write your name, address, address of your destination, and country contact telephone numbers.

### Packing Hints

Most participants over-pack. As a general rule of thumb "less is more." Pack your essentials then add "comfort" items as room allows. When you are finished packing, take your luggage for a walk around the block and you might realize that there might be some things that you could do without!

### Carry-On Luggage

- Pack enough clothing for one day
- Prescription medications (enough for 1 ½ times your planned need)
- Passport / Visa
- Electronic Travel Packet (provided by GMP 2 weeks before your Project)
- Water bottle and snacks

### Checked Luggage

- Walking shoes
- Casual/dress shoes
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, contacts, etc.)
- Breath mints, snacks
- Small first aid items
- Medications for colds, allergies, diarrhea, upset stomach, headaches, etc.

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## Optional Items

- Travel pack of handy wipes
- Mosquito repellent
- Woolite or laundry soap
- Facial tissues
- Sun screen
- Travel Bible and devotional book
- Plastic grocery bags for dirty clothes, etc.
- Poncho or umbrella
- Batteries / chargers
- Prescription for glasses in case they are broken
- Electrical converters and/or adapters
- Don't pack large or expensive jewelry

## Language Tips

- Memorize basic phrases that will help you the most
- Listen . . . a lot! Listening and observing will help you avoid a cultural faux pas and teach you body language
- Show your willingness to learn and show appreciation for their language

## General Phrases to Learn

English	Country Language	Phonetic Pronunciation
Hello		
Goodbye		
Good morning		
Good evening		
Good night		
Please		
Yes		
No		
Thank you		
You are welcome		
I am sorry / forgive me		
Excuse me		
How are you?		
How much does it cost?		
Where is the toilet?		
I do not understand		
My name is . . .		
What is your name?		
Nice to meet you!		

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## SECTION 4: IN TRANSIT

### ARRIVAL INFORMATION

When you arrive at the airport you will go through the following areas before you reach your Mission Partner.

#### Passport Control

Before you get to the baggage claim area you will pass through passport control. Often the lines are long and it may take a while. Be patient. Follow the signs and directions. The officials speak some English and will ask for your passport and usually a landing card that is provided by the airlines while in flight. Be polite and answer all of their questions. Do not try and have a conversation with the passport control personnel. The reason you are in the country is that of a tourist, (pleasure).

#### Baggage Claim

This is where teamwork is important. **Before you leave the baggage area**, account for everyone's luggage. If luggage is missing go to the lost luggage office in the baggage claim area and report it immediately. You will need your baggage claim ticket, which is usually stapled inside your boarding pass sleeve. You will also need to provide an address and phone number of where you will be staying. Typically luggage arrives within 24 hours.

Some locals may try and help you with your luggage. They will be persistent but just tell them "no." Help others by watching their bags at all times.

#### Customs

It is usually best if the team can proceed through customs as a group.

- You have nothing to declare unless you are carrying more than \$10,000 in cash
- Not all bags are checked. If a customs officer asks about the contents of your bag, just say that it is all personal effects for your trip.

#### After Customs

You will be met by your Mission Partner and/or GMP Representative. If not, be patient and stay with your group. Remember to watch the luggage! There will be many people and much chaos at the airport so always watch bags, purses and valuables.



### LUGGAGE

Not all airlines are the same! GMP will provide information about the specific restrictions for luggage size and weight.

- If you are changing airlines overseas you should check the requirements for both carriers. Some overseas carriers have a stricter luggage policy than US airlines.

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*(Luggage continued)*

- Luggage allowances are different for domestic and international flights. Your GMP Project Manager will help you with this information through Email Updates.
- Some sound and musical equipment may be either over-weight, over-size, or both. **An additional charge will be placed on these items by the airlines. You or your group needs to be prepared to pay these overage fees in order to get your required equipment to your destination.** In most cases, GMP will try and find equipment at your location that can be either borrowed or rented, but this is not always possible.
- You may carry one (1) musical instrument in addition to 1 carry-on and 1 personal item through the screening checkpoint. This is a TSA Screening Policy. **Airlines may or may not allow the additional carry-on item on their aircraft.** Personal items include: purses, briefcases, laptops and small backpacks. In addition to one carry-on and one personal item, passengers may bring onboard a coat, umbrella, book or newspaper, or small bag of food. It is vital that you make sure your carry-on will fit in either the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you in order to avoid your bag being checked. On crowded flights, you may be asked to relinquish some or all of your carry-on.

### Packing and Carrying Your Instrument

1. Remove all extraneous items from the case. All tools and other items should be checked or carried separately to simplify the screening process. What are completely familiar items to you -cleaning fluids and tools, valve oil, end pins, reed knives, mutes, tuners, metronomes -may seem mysterious to screening personnel.
2. In the event TSA considers an item suspect and takes possession of it, there are potentially two options available if you cannot surrender the item. Some airlines will provide passengers with a box or envelope, obtained at the airline's ticket counter, in which the item can be shipped back home. Also, in some airports private companies have set up self-service kiosks. Envelopes are provided, in which the refused items are placed, along with money to cover the shipping costs. Because both of these services are not mandated by any federal agency, it is not possible to know in how many airports these options exist. However, know there may be alternative to having an item confiscated.
3. Limit the number of carry-on items. In addition to your instrument, carry only one small item.
4. Arrive early. You may hear that check-in and screening takes only minutes -**THIS MAY NOT BE TRUE FOR MUSICIANS.** Arriving early will allow for the time you may need to work with security and flight crews to make sure your instrument gets safely on board. Bear in mind that problems may take some time to correct. Therefore, it is imperative that you arrive AT THE GATE at least one hour before boarding time.

### Dealing Calmly with Last-Minute Problems

It is crucial that as a traveling musician you recognize several important facts.

1. The most important responsibility of airport and transportation officials is security.
2. The most important responsibility of gate attendants and flight attendants is safety.
3. The most important responsibility of the captain is safety AND security.

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*(Dealing Calmly continued)*

Your instrument represents an unusual item that could very well be unexpected. Gate and flight crews that have a very short period of time to seat passengers in an aircraft try their best to deal with the unexpected concisely and quickly. You (and your instrument) are only one of many passengers that will likely have special needs. Therefore, don't take it personally when a gate agent or flight crewmember seems indifferent to your concerns. Their time is limited. However, you have the backing of the airline to travel with your instrument onboard if the airline permits it. Therefore, it is recommended that you remain calm and polite. In many cases, the problem may be resolved.

### **Consider This**

1. If stopped by a flight attendant, calmly and quickly explain the precautions you have taken to prepare your instrument to safely travel in-cabin.
2. Be accommodating by suggesting placing the instrument in the rear of the aircraft, or securing the instrument with cords or ties (bring your own).
3. If necessary, immediately ask to deplane so that you can resolve this matter with airline supervisors. Remember that you have fifteen minutes at most to resolve this issue before the plane backs away from the gate.
4. DO NOT block the way of boarding passengers.

Finally, prepare yourself for the possibility that you may not be able to travel with your instrument in-cabin, even if you have followed all possible procedures. Pack your instrument well enough to withstand transportation in the cargo hold and ask the flight attendant to gate-check it so that it is hand-delivered to the cargo hold.

### **Excess Baggage**

Any baggage that exceeds the airline allowance will be considered excess and will be assessed a charge based on the destination. There is a maximum weight allowed per passenger. They will not allow your bags to exceed a certain weight.

### **Payment for Excess Baggage**

You must pay for the charges on excess baggage at the point of origin. Allow extra time to do this. Personal checks are usually not accepted. You will need sufficient funds in cash or credit card. Typically, the charges range from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per item depending on the destination and the carrier.

### **Mark Your Bags**

Be sure that each piece of luggage including your instrument and carry-on has a GMP luggage tag. This will help your team to recognize the groups luggage and get it to it's rightful owner in case it is misplaced.

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## SECTION 5: WHILE YOU ARE THERE

### Church & Community

Your mission experience will be a life-long blessing. Your role is to serve alongside our Mission Partners and nationals to effectively support the overall picture of reaching a community for Christ. Your Project is part of a strategy that has been prayerfully developed by our Mission Partners and GMP.

Don't be critical of the culture or how things are done. This is your opportunity to learn about them and their life. Your purpose is to share the good news and display the presence of Christ in your life.

### Witnessing

Everyone has a personal testimony but may have difficulty in expressing what God has accomplished in their life. A simple format of MY LIFE before I met Christ, HOW I met Christ, and MY LIFE SINCE I met Christ usually works very well. It needs to be simple, personal and clear. Avoid stories of drugs and alcohol abuse. Focus on the recognition of the need to establish a personal relationship with Jesus, and the price He paid to make it possible. In cross-cultural evangelism, also be very aware of the needs of the Mission staff, and seek their advice for the best way to present a personal testimony in that particular culture.

Be sincere when you are witnessing. Express what Jesus has done in your life and what He means to you. Follow as the Holy Spirit leads. When speaking of spiritual things, nationals may not understand American humor enough for you to blend it into your testimony so it should be avoided.

Make sure you know what you can and cannot say in your specific country.

### My Testimony

- Introduce yourself
- Your life before becoming a Christian
- How I became a Christian
- What it means to be a Christian – impact on my life
- How others can have a similar experience – plan of salvation
- Give the opportunity for others to make a decision for Christ

### Clothing

- Nationals will appreciate you respecting their customs and your ministry will be more effective if you dress respectfully and modestly.
- Conservative dress is always a good idea and our Mission Partner will give guidelines

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## Church Etiquette

- Follow the lead of the nationals on seating
- Unless you are preaching do not stand behind the pulpit. Stand in front or to the side of it.
- When speaking (preaching or giving your testimony) do not put your hands in your pocket, chew gum, or cross your arms. Relax and share from your heart.
- Treat your Bible with respect. Do not slam it down, put it on the ground or handle it in a way that could be perceived as disrespectful.

## Do's & Don'ts

- Pray as you walk through the streets and cities. Pray for the courage to follow God's leading and opportunities to share the gospel.
- Use any opportunity available to pray for the country and the people. Be aware of prayer needs all around you as God calls you to "pray on-site with insight."
- Do not walk the streets talking loudly, laughing out-loud, etc., but have a ready smile and greeting for everyone you meet.
- Do not demean ethnic or cultural differences, or the food and facilities. Remember to be humble, kind and sensitive.

## Gifts

- Please consult your Ministry Leader or GMP Representative for gift suggestions and distribution. Gifts that are appreciated and remembered are Christian CD's, items that best represent your home town, sweat shirt, peanut butter, candy, popcorn, etc.
- Please remember that you should not give any gifts or cash to anyone unless you have received approval from the Mission Partner and GMP Representative.



## CULTURAL INFORMATION

### Common Courtesies

It is important to show common courtesy to both the nationals and fellow team members.

- Be on time for meals, devotionals and departures
- Attend all meetings
- No matter who you are, what you've done, or how many Mission Projects you have completed, be graciously submissive to your Leadership Team
- **Do not complain**
- Respect the needs of others for privacy, silence and sleep
- Do not criticize the food or customs
- Avoid comments like "We don't do it that way in the US"
- Use common sense in male-female relationships. Avoid any conduct that may be offensive. Open displays of affection (even if married) can sometimes be offensive in other cultures.

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## Restaurants

- When visiting local restaurants, meeting places or homes, a strict no-smoking, no-drinking policy is to be observed
- Please be on your best behavior and do not be loud or obnoxious
- Be polite; remove your hat or cap while indoors
- Tipping guidelines will be sent to you via email

## Culture Shock

Culture refers to the total way of life for a particular group of people — their ideas, customs, traditions, language, belief system, social structure and norms. You'll find some differences where you'll be serving. Don't let those differences negatively impact the effectiveness of your Mission Project.

- Stay spiritually sharp. An awareness of the reality of God's presence helps us to cope.
- Keep your sense of humor.
- Look for the logical reason things are done the way they are. Relax your grip on your own culture. Realize others have adapted and you can too.
- Focus on relationships with people from your host country. Consciously seek to build a warm relationship with someone.
- Do not lose faith in yourself and your mission.

## Photos

Bring photos of your family on your Project. Plan ahead and take special pictures for sharing with others. Place them in a small presentation book that can be easily handled.

- Do not bring photos that show your expensive home or new vehicle in the background
- Do not bring photos that display how well you live

## Opposite Gender

Everyone on a Mission Project should refrain from being alone in a room with members of the opposite sex. This is even more important when that person is a national. Please be aware that one-on-one time with nationals (outside the group activity setting) is strongly discouraged. Many cultures are quite unlike ours and what seems to be a harmless or innocent act of friendship can be interpreted differently.

## Important Reminders

- Always be kind and never critical
- Words of welcome and greeting are very important
- When in church, share greetings from your church in the U.S to their church. Share something about yourself, your family, and your relationship with Christ.

## Translators & Interpreters

Be careful not to use slang. Although translators and interpreters will usually speak very good English, they do not always understand certain terms or phrases we use in the US.

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*(Translators & Interpreters continued)*

- Rehearse your Scripture, testimony or song with your interpreter beforehand
- Be brief and to the point
- Speak clearly in short phrases
- Acronyms, alliterations, jokes and poetry usually do not translate well
- Don't refer to things familiar in only our culture
- Focus on what you will say next instead of listening to the translator
- Face the people rather than the translator when speaking
- Do not talk about your translator because it will be difficult to talk about themselves

You and your translator will form a wonderful relationship. Be careful as you speak to control your emotions and be considerate of their emotions.

## SECTION 6: SAFETY & SECURITY

Most countries are no more dangerous than the U.S. You are far less likely to experience physical harm overseas than you are at home. Theft is what you need to guard against.

### Wallet, Purse, Personal Electronics

- Keep your valuables in front of you
- DO NOT carry your wallet in your hip or back pocket
- Shorten your purse strap so that it is closer under your arm
- Move your backpack in front of you when possible
- Make sure you know where your passport, wallet and boarding pass is at all times
- Please use caution with electronics including locations like churches
- Do not place items in the chair or seat next to you or hang bags on the back of a chair or lay them on a table. Instead, keep them in your lap or at your feet placing one foot through the strap

### Photos & Videos

- Do not take photographs of anyone in a police or military uniform. It also a good idea to ask permission before taking someone's photograph
- Do not photograph buildings with uniformed guards including the American Embassy or Ambassador's home

### Money Safety

- Keep your exchange receipt because you may be asked for it later
- Put your money away immediately and don't keep it all in one place
- Have on hand only what you need for the day
- Never stop to talk to anyone asking about exchanging money or making "change"  
Never pick up money off the ground that is not yours. "Finders Keepers" is a scam and you may find yourself in jail.

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*(Money Safety continued)*

- Never show your money to anyone claiming to be a policeman. Keep your ID separate from your money.

### Public Transportation Safety

- Stay alert and attentive when sudden crowding and pushing occurs
- Avoid drawing attention to you or your group
- Keep your hands on your documents and wallet at all times
- Stay with your group

### Dogs and other Wildlife

- Stay away from dogs and wildlife but you do not need to fear them
- Do not feed animals
- Do not pet animals or call them to you

### Group & Individual Safety

#### Do's

1. Always go out with a friend
2. Keep your doors locked
3. Keep car/taxi windows closed
4. Put identification tags on all your bags
5. Carry a card the taxi driver can read to get you back to the place you're staying

#### Don'ts

1. Don't exchange money on the street
2. Don't wear flashy jewelry even if it's costume
3. Don't put all your money in one place
4. Don't go out alone
5. Don't flash wads of money
6. Don't carry a lot of cash
7. Don't carry a purse
8. Don't promise anything, not even to write a letter to someone, if you cannot follow through with your promise
9. Don't carry your wallet in your rear pocket

### Stay Healthy

You will be shaking a lot of hands and touching a lot of things so it is helpful to wash your hands often and carry anti-bacterial gels or "wipes" with you. Keeping your hands away from your mouth and face will also help keep you healthy.

Be sure to drink a lot of water before and during your Project. The more water you drink the better you will feel. Most jet-lag is caused by dehydration. Avoid caffeine before and during the Project.

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## Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Mission Partner or Host \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

GMP Travel Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

GMP Project Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Drinks & Snacks

Bring snacks for the week to keep you going, especially for busy travel and ministry days. Bottled water will be available. Do not drink any water unless you know it is purified. Always take some water with you and stay hydrated. Remember to use bottled water to brush your teeth. Because tea and coffee uses boiled water it is usually safe to drink and soft drinks are typically fine as well. It is safe to eat cooked food but do not eat fresh vegetables or fruits unless you peel it yourself. Avoid lettuce and mayonnaise.

## SECTION 7: SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

Spiritual preparation is imperative. You may have heard from others who have gone on Mission Projects, but nothing completely prepares you for the intensity of what you will experience. You may be shocked by the physical and spiritual needs you will encounter. You may feel shocked by the different foods, smells, customs, and languages. You may have to deal with limited bathroom facilities, little privacy, insects, crowded vehicles, poor roads, and undesirable accommodations. If you have not spent adequate time with God before you go, you may be overwhelmed when you get there. Depend on God. Do not trust in your own abilities.

You cannot wait until the last minute to prepare spiritually. If you are not a spiritually sensitive and mature person in the U.S., you will not automatically become one when you cross the border into another country. Spiritual preparation takes time. Oswald Chambers wrote in *My Utmost for His Highest*: "If you have not been worshiping as occasion serves, when you get into [mission] work you will not only be useless yourself, but a tremendous hindrance to those who are associated with you."

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*(Spiritual Preparation continued)*

### **Follow these tips for spiritual preparation**

- Maintain a growing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Practice the spiritual discipline of Bible study, prayer, and church attendance
- Pray about every aspect of your Mission Project
- Enlist prayer partners
- Ask God to make you sensitive to spiritual needs around you and to make you bold in your witness
- Keep a journal of your thought and experiences to map your spiritual journey

### **Quiet time with God**

It is important that team members have a daily quiet time with God, reading scripture, daily devotionals, and praying.

### **Evangelism Training**

"Share Jesus without Fear," "The Four Spiritual Laws," "The Roman Road," and a personal testimony have been used effectively in various countries. Each team member should know an evangelism approach and have an opportunity to practice the method before leaving on the Project. Be sensitive to any instruction given by host missionaries, as they are most familiar with effective evangelism techniques.

### **Personal Testimony**

The word "testimony" is used here because it is a word that includes the possibility of sharing a long process in your Christian walk. However, please consider referring to your profession of faith as "My salvation experience." As you write and later share your testimony, you may want to answer the following questions: What was your life like before following Christ? How did you realize you were lost? How did you become a Christian? What does being a Christian mean to you in day-to-day life? One full team meeting should focus on preparing and sharing testimonies. Each team member should write his or her testimony and be prepared to share it verbally during a subsequent team meeting. All team members should complete this process.

*Use the following guide to develop your testimony:*

Introduce yourself

Your life before becoming a Christian

How I became a Christian

What it means to be a Christian – impact on my life

How others can have a similar experience – plan of salvation

Give the opportunity for others to make a decision for Christ

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## 30 – Day Spiritual Preparation

Spiritual Renewal for Service	Psalm 51	16	Removing the Stones	John 11:39-40
Taking Time to Pray	Mark 1:35-45	17	The True Measure of Greatness	Matthew 20:20-28
The Word and the Way	Psalm 119:2, 19, 105, 165	18	Differences between Good Missionaries	Acts 15:36-41
The Power to Serve	Acts 1:1-12	19	When You Cannot Finish the Task	Luke 10:25-35
Christian Depression	1Kings 19:1-18	20	Acting Like What You Are	Matthew 21:18-19 Galatians 5: 22-23
Her I Am, Let Me Go!	Isaiah 6:1-12	21	Overcoming Prejudices	Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-20; 4:1-3
Fit to Serve	Ephesians 5:1-17	22	Serve With Gladness	Psalm 100
Availability Plus Christ	John 6:1-14	23	Serve With Gratitude	Psalm 103
Commissioned to Serve	Matthew 28:19-20	24	Serve with Compassion	Jonah 4
Empowered to Serve	Matthew 28:16-18	25	Serve With Urgency	John 9:1-7
The Unlikely Witness	John 4:1-42	26	Serve With Inner Strength	John 15:1-16
The Expected Result	John 4:1-42	27	Serve With Love	John 21:15-23
Making the Ordinary Extraordinary	Acts 4:1-19	28	Serve With a Team Spirit	Romans 12
Revive Us Again	Psalm 85	29	Serve for Common Purposes	1Corinthians 1:23-31; 2:1
Overcoming Difficulties	Numbers 13:25-33	30	Proclaiming Liberty to the Poor	Isaiah 61:1-6

## SECTION 8: ORGANIZE SUPPORT FOR YOUR MISSION PROJECT

### Prayer will determine the success of your trip

If a music group is going to be prepared and honor the Father with their effort, they must seek Him in prayer. Please enlist prayer partners to pray for God to show you His will, and as a result, the team will be better prepared spiritually and physically to do His will.

### Prayer Support

Prayer partners could include coworkers, friends, classmates, neighbors, Sunday School class members, members of the congregation, and family. Be creative when enlisting prayer partners. Create prayer cards, bookmarks, prayer calendars, etc.

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### Prayer

As the group begins rehearsal preparation, make prayer a focus of your meetings. Pray for God's leading during rehearsal, in decisions, for understanding of the mission, and for willing and submissive hearts. Offer the opportunity for prayer partners to meet together in small groups and pray for the participants.

### Financial Support

How will you cover the expense of your project? Following are some ideas for you to consider in making your financial needs known. Also, please be sure and visit "Funding My Way" on the GMP website where you can download a 12-page Support Discovery document listing additional ideas and suggestions on how to fund your Mission Project.

- Church Newsletter
- Letters to Family and Friends
- Personal phone calls
- Speak to church/community groups about the project
- Personal contact with businesses which may have special interest in your project
- Church prayer meetings/business meetings

There are also ways that you can be involved in raising financial support for yourself and/or your project music team. Here are a few suggestions:

- Yard sales
- Rent yourself out for yard work, house work and errands
- Take orders for any homemade items you can sell
- Speak to Sunday School classes and mission groups in your church
- Challenge the children and youth of your church to contribute supplies for your project and speak to them about the country where you will be ministering
- Ask businesses to donate supplies

### Before You Go

Enlist prayer support from mission's organizations in your church. Team members may wish to speak to Sunday School departments and other organizations within the church to encourage them to provide prayer support. The Group Leader may ask the Pastor to conduct a special commissioning service for the music team. Brainstorm about other possibilities to involve your church and community to create awareness of your mission project.

### General Support

Here are some ways that your church, family and friends can support you as you go on this mission project:

1. Provide for some of your personal expenses
2. Provide supplies for your project
3. Hold a "commissioning service" to bless and encourage you before the Project begins
4. Write notes of encouragement which you will open each day while you are gone

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*(General Support continued)*

5. Go with you to the airport to see you off
6. Give you a small package filled with items of encouragement – bookmarks, tapes, poems, notes, special Scriptures, etc.
7. Welcome you home when you arrive at the airport
8. Giving you an opportunity to share your experience

### **Personal Journal**

Beginning with the first meetings and rehearsals, participants are encouraged to keep a journal of their walk with God as they prepare, go, and return from the Mission Project. List prayer requests, concerns, and answered prayer. Write down significant scriptures. The group is encouraged to write about events as well as what God is teaching them (including their response). Answer the question, "What does He want me to do next?" God will use your journal to reveal something of Him and something about yourself. The entire team is encouraged to record these moments of inspiration while they are fresh on their hearts.

### **Returning Home**

The Group Leader can plan a special service to share testimonies about what God has done through the Project. Participants should seek opportunities to bear witness of the Project and what the Lord has done in their life. The group may want to make a large bulletin board displaying photos of the trip for their church members to see. This could be a means to create interest for future mission projects and to invite the church to a special service where a report of the Project would occur.

### **Conclusion**

We hope that you find the information contained in this guide both informative and helpful. Our sincere desire is to prepare you for a successful and meaningful Mission Project. On behalf of the staff at Global Missions Project, we pray that you will return from your Project with a renewed sense of spiritual vision and energy. May God bless you as you continue to prepare for this great adventure!

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## SECTION 9: RELEASE OF MY RIGHTS

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to **lay his head.**" Matthew 8:20

The greatest example of someone willing to give up their rights for Kingdom service is Jesus. Philippians 2:5-7 speaks of Jesus' example this way: "You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form . . .

We live in a culture that is consumed by demanding individual rights. Any service for the King demands a releasing of those rights for the sake of the gospel. The apostle Paul was beaten, imprisoned and eventually martyred for his faith. In fact, history tells us that 11 of the 12 apostles were martyred for their faith, and only John, who was banished to the Isle of Patmos, died a natural death.

Here is a list of rights that you may consider being prepared to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. Pray over them and commit the releasing of these rights into God's hands for the duration of your Mission Project.

### I GIVE UP MY RIGHT TO: I ENTRUST TO GOD:

A comfortable bed	My strength and endurance
Three nice meals a day	My health and strength
Familiar food	My food preferences
Dressing fashionably	My security in Him
Seeing results	His purposes and fruit in His timing
Control of my schedule	His leadership in this Project
Control of others	His work in the lives of others
Pleasant circumstances	Being where He needs me to be
Making decisions	His sovereignty
Being successful	Being used in His way
Being understood	My reputation
Being heard	My need for recognition
Being right	My need to be a team player

I Give God permission to do anything He wishes to do with me, in me or through me that that would glorify Him.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_