



GLOBAL TRIP

HANDBOOK





THE WORLD OF GLOBAL TRIPS

Welcome to the world of global trips at Connection Pointe! We are glad you are considering going to another part of the world to participate in God's Kingdom work. The following pages outline important information for those interested in one of our trips.

To start with, all of our trips are designed to support our global partners. In return, they endear themselves to our church as you bring back news of their work and share how God used you while there. These mutually beneficial partnerships are very relational and intentionally geared to draw people toward Christ – here and abroad.

Some trips are family-friendly (age 10 and up); others are more specific in purpose.

Look at the trips available for your best fit and notice where God is drawing you in. Ask us your questions, to help confirm your trip possibilities. Apply when you are ready.

We are excited to see where God will take you on this faith journey.



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GO AND BE

**“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL ETHNICITIES,”
SAID JESUS IN MATTHEW 28:19**

“Go.” It’s a familiar command to many Christians.

“As you are going,” is the deeper intended meaning.

“As you are going, BE,” is the comprehensive picture here of the Christian journey.

Many people who consider going on a global trip simply want to Go. There are many great reasons to go on a global mission trip. Some people go:

- To strengthen their faith
- To grow closer to God and as a family when the whole family goes
- Because you have been before and you feel led to go again
- Because a valued friend invites you
- Because you attend an informational meeting and something intrigues you
- Because you have a sponsored child that you long to meet

There are so many good reasons to go.

But behind the simple “Go” is each person’s journey of faith; “As you are going.” A global trip is not where the Christian adventure starts. It’s just another step of the ongoing faith adventure that started on day one of following Jesus. And if Jesus is already going, then where might He be leading you? Perhaps a global trip will help with the answer to that question.

But there’s still something bigger going on. BE.

As you are going, BE. This is where Jesus’ words to make disciples come into focus. As you are going, BE a disciple to make other disciples. That’s beyond a default state of being; it’s an intentional journey of following Christ to BE the witness for Christ that will demonstrate Jesus to anyone watching. As you are going, BE and make disciples of all ethnicities. That’s a good way to look at this Great Commission verse. It’s a great perspective to carry on a trip and every day at home.

With this in mind, a global trip becomes a walk of faith in a different culture, led by the Holy Spirit, where your example as a visitor says to your hosts and local inhabitants, “This is what it looks like to be a Christian.” You are being watched, and people will get a picture of Christ by how you act and interact with them and others on your team. Most likely, it won’t be about your words – there is often a language barrier. It is your BE that people will remember. It is your BE that will impact the making of disciples in the community you are visiting.

While you are there, take in all that the local believers are as they BE. You will experience godly men and women on your trip that are a relevant demonstration of God’s Kingdom in their culture.

As you are going, BE, so you can experience and demonstrate God in a fresh way.

Be is the heart of go.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR GOING ON A TRIP?

- Pray. Is God nudging you to do this at this time?
- Reach out to the Global Impact staff or trip leaders with any questions you have concerning a trip.
- Fill out an application online for the trip that interests you at cpccglobal.org.
- You will be contacted by a CP staff member or trip leader once the team is formed.
- 3-4 required team meetings will be held to prepare for the trip. A team debrief will be held 2-3 weeks after the team returns.
- You will be responsible to raise a support team (finances and prayer) for your trip. (We'll help you get started with this!)

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

► Mark 16:15

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST OF MY TRIP?

- All airfare
- Accommodations
- Transportation
- Travel Insurance
- Food
- Sightseeing expenses on some trips

WHAT ISN'T INCLUDED IN THE COST OF MY TRIP?

- Passport and Visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Extra sightseeing beyond what is planned
- Souvenirs

ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

- Payment/contributions are tax-deductible, but they are not refundable.

WHAT MEETINGS WILL I NEED TO ATTEND?

- 3-4 team meetings are required, not only to receive valuable information about the trip, but also to get to know your team members and leaders. Dates for the team meetings will be chosen after the team has been selected.

HOW IS THE TRIP FUNDED?

- You are expected to build a team of financial donors and prayer partners to support you – both critical elements of a successful trip. It builds faith in you that God will provide, and builds relationship with those who partner with you. It is an opportunity for your supporters to hear directly from you about God's Kingdom work in places many of them will never go.
- Don't let your fear of building a support team keep you from applying for a global trip. We will provide support-raising guidelines and materials at trip meetings.

WHEN ARE FUNDS DUE?

- There is a \$100 non-refundable deposit expected at time of application. The deposit goes toward your trip expenses.
- The time between joining a team and the final date to receive funds is several months. This gives ample time to raise the financial support needed. However, if your fundraising efforts are not entirely successful, we ask you to submit the balance of the trip cost 7 days before the trip departs. Your trip must be fully funded.





PREPARING FOR THE TRIP

PASSPORT

A passport is required for all trips outside of the continental U.S. Apply now for your passport. (<http://www.travisa.com> or <http://travel.state.gov/>)

- Send a picture of your passport information page to the Global Impact Coordinator.
- To obtain a passport, you will need a certified birth certificate (not the hospital record), 2 passport photos and a driver's license.
- Cost could be \$100 - \$150.
- Allow 4 – 6 weeks for the process.
- It sometimes takes state agencies several weeks to provide a certified record of your birth if you don't currently have one.
- If you have a passport, check the expiration date. It must be valid for longer than 6 months after your trip date.

**“PUBLISH HIS GLORIOUS DEEDS AMONG THE NATIONS.
TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE AMAZING THINGS HE DOES.”**

- 1 CHRONICLES 16:24



TOURIST VISA

- A visa may be required for the country you are visiting.
- Visas will be discussed at the first team meeting.
- Cost could be \$50 – \$100.
- More information at Travisa.com (<http://www.travisa.com>)

IMMUNIZATIONS

- The Global Impact Ministry supports the immunizations that are recommended by the Center for Disease Control. Consult your physician on what immunizations you have had and what they recommend.
- Vaccinations are NOT included in the cost of the trip.
- We strongly recommend these vaccinations for all trips:
 - Hepatitis A
 - Hepatitis B
 - Measles/Mumps/Rubella (if born after 1956)
 - Travelers Diarrhea RX
- Vision Trust Guatemala requires up-to-date Tetanus.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

- Complete all documents and return to trip leader or the Global Impact Coordinator.
- Make sure your passport is current and valid six months after your return date.
- Schedule an appointment with a local travel clinic or family doctor to discuss immunizations and precautions.
- If you will be taking medication while traveling, make sure you have an adequate supply for the duration of your trip.
- Make two copies of passport (identification page), itinerary, doctor information and vaccinations. Give one to an emergency contact, and carry the other copy with you on the trip.
- Call your credit card company ahead of time, and let them know the dates of your travel and where you are traveling.
- If you want to use your cell phone while traveling, call your provider for data plans and options. (*Cell phone coverage is not guaranteed on any global trip. Plan accordingly.)

PACKING

- For all items, only bring things that can be replaced easily if lost, broken or stolen. It is a good idea to leave all valuables at home.
- Clothing should be versatile and in good condition. Layering is a common packing strategy for international travel. Layering involves having light base layers that can be worn during the day while it is warm and then adding a long sleeve t-shirt or sweater when it gets colder in the evening. A light jacket can be added in wind, rain or colder temperatures.
- Sandals are NOT recommended. It's likely that at some point you will be walking in mud, trash, uneven terrain or worse. Closed-toed shoes with good tread and some protection are a good idea.
- However, at hotels and on your excursion, flip flops are okay. Consider bringing a pair to wear in the shower.
- Your travel host may give further guidance to the team leader on appropriate clothing for your team.

IN ADDITION TO CLOTHING AND BASICS, DON'T FORGET TO PACK NEEDED ITEMS FROM THIS LIST:

- Passport
- Bible, Journal and Pen
- Camera
- Ear Plugs
- Towel and Wash Cloths
- Small Travel Packs of Toilet Paper/ Tissue
- Adapters/Converters
- Chargers for Electronics
- Water Bottle
- Sunglasses and Hat
- Sunscreen
- Travel Wallet
- Hand Sanitizer
- Basic First Aid Supplies
- Insect/Mosquito Repellent
- Ziploc Bags
- Spending Money for Meals in the Airport and Souvenirs
- Personal Hygiene Items



LUGGAGE

- When packing, be sure to know the airlines' luggage restrictions including carry-ons. You can find this information through the airline website.
- Take reliable luggage. International travel is hard on it!
- All liquids for carry-on bags must be in a container no more than 3 ounces in volume. Place these containers in a single, 1-quart sized, clear, zip-top bag. Each passenger is allowed only one bag of liquids. If this rule is not followed, the liquids will be discarded at the security check, and you will be without these items for the entire trip.
- Make sure you pack using a suitcase, backpack or duffel bag that you will be comfortable carrying if you are asked to carry it through an airport or up several flights of stairs.
- Pack necessities and a change of clothes in your carry-on just in case your luggage is delayed or lost.

PERSONAL ORIENTATION TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

As you prepare for your trip, you should consider your spiritual, physical and mental/emotional preparation. Here are some tips:

SPIRITUAL

- Pray
- Listen - to the Holy Spirit, your host, your leader, and your teammates
- Extend grace

PHYSICAL

- Sleep
- Eat well and stay hydrated
- If you have medical or nutritional requirements, make sure your leader is aware of them

MENTAL/EMOTIONAL

- Be flexible
- Focus on people as much as the task
- Be aware of your weaknesses
- Be observant
- Be a learner
- Be gentle
- Say you're sorry
- Believe the best in others and still be discerning
- Give second chances



RESOURCES

- ▶ When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... And Yourself (2009) by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- ▶ Before You Go: A Daily Devotional (2009) by Jack Hempfling
- ▶ Pray for the World from Operation World
- ▶ All In by Mark Batterson





ORIENTATION TOWARD OUR PARTNERS

Relationship building and communication are fundamentals to any partnership. There is no better communication than face-to-face. You play a vital role in establishing and maintaining relationships with our partners in the field. Connection Pointe is privileged to send your team to serve alongside our outstanding partners. As your team leaves, our partners should feel encouraged, served and esteemed.

CULTURE

- Culture is made up of agreements, customs, beliefs and traditions that provide a group of people a common basis that gives meaning and direction to their lives.
- The people involved are often unaware of their cultural norms and values and their degree of commitment to them. Our hosts will orient the team to basic cultural understanding.

**AND HOW WILL ANYONE GO AND TELL THEM
WITHOUT BEING SENT? THAT IS WHY THE SCRIPTURES
SAY, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF MESSENGERS
WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!”**

- ROMANS 10:15

WAYS TO ADAPT TO A DIFFERENT CULTURE

- On your own before the trip
 - Read the history of the country.
 - Get current data on the country and the people.
 - Discover specific dos and don'ts.
 - Learn current issues in national affairs.
 - Be aware of problems visitors might encounter.
 - Identify military, cultural, social and other historical heroes.
 - Prepare yourself for differences (customs, climate, food, electricity, drinking water, etc.)
 - Bring lots of pictures of your family.
 - Study the culture map @ erinmeyer.com/tools.
- During the trip
 - Have a humble attitude of being a learner—and learning from God.
 - Ask general questions first; earn the right to ask personal ones later.
 - Be prepared to make some mistakes.
 - Understand that you will be misunderstood at times.
 - Learn to speak slowly and clearly. Be diplomatic, courteous and respectful at all times.
 - Learn words and basic phrases of the local language.
 - The culture's ways aren't necessarily right or wrong—just different. Be careful not to be negative about the U.S. for the way we do things or the way the country you are visiting does things.
 - When you observe a particular behavior, don't expect it to always be true; remember your observation could be wrong. Check your observation with our partnering hosts to see if you are right.
 - Follow the instructions of your trip leader and host.

LEARNING LANGUAGE

Here are some ideas to help you develop a personal foreign language phrase book with common words and phrases to help you on your trip. Do as a team or alone. Have fun!

- Hello
- Good Morning/ Evening
- How are you?
- This is my first time to... (country name)
- I am just learning to speak your language.
- This is all I can say.
- Thank you
- Goodbye
- Man
- Woman
- Boy
- Girl
- Excuse me.
- Yes
- No
- Stop
- Go
- Give
- Please
- My name is...
- Today
- Tomorrow
- Yesterday
- Where is the bathroom/lavatory?
- I do not understand.
- I am very happy to meet you.
- It's beautiful.
- Please give me...
- No, thank you.
- Praise (glory) to God.
- I don't speak...
- VBS terms (scissors, crayon, paste, etc.)
- Food (milk, bread, cheese, etc.)
- Numbers (1-100)
- Colors



EXPECTATIONS

As a member of this team, I agree to...

- Represent Christ as well as Connection Pointe. I will model Jesus in my behavior and attitude.
- Work at the invitation of my hosts.
- Learn, as well as participate in ministry.
- Respect the host's view of Christianity, recognizing that Christianity has many faces throughout the world and that one of the purposes of the trip is to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
- Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
- Respect my team leader(s) and his or her decisions.
- Refrain from gossip and complaining.
- Attend all team meetings before the trip as well as the follow-up debrief.
- Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest in a national or another team member that you are not related to.
- Refrain from illegal drugs and abstain from consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of tobacco while on the trip.
- Refrain from the teaching or practice of any belief that would not be endorsed by Connection Pointe.
- Abide by the fundraising procedures endorsed by Connection Pointe and personally thank all financial donors who contribute to my trip.
- Remember that I may be sent home if I do not adhere to these expectations, or if my team leader believes it is in my best interest or that of the team.



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