

General Information Regarding Short Term Missions

If you believe God is leading you to participate in a short term mission, following are some **first steps** for you to take:

- Ask your friends and family to pray with and for you. Ask them to help you seek God in discerning where and when he wants you to go and ask them to consider participating with you by financially contributing to the mission. Ask them to pray that your motives are pure and that you will stay focused on God. Educate them about the variety of ways to send or support you (see other side). Begin a Bible or book study on missions (e.g., ‘Missions, God’s Heart for the World’ by Paul Borthwick).
- **GET YOUR PASSPORT** (if applicable)- You must have an “official” birth certificate in order to apply for a passport. Go to www.vitalcheck.com, then click your state of birth and go from there to get your birth certificate. You may need to expedite it. Visit www.travel.state.gov/passport or www.uncw.edu/ba/onecard/passports.htm (or call downtown Wilmington Post office- 910-350-2622 or the Passport Acceptance Agency at UNCW-910-962-2008) for all information regarding applying for a passport. Current cost is \$100 for 6-8 weeks processing; if you need to expedite your passport add \$60 per passport.
- Your health and well-being are your responsibility. Review health and safety risks and precautions (food, water, insects, etc.), immunization requirements and recommendations, prophylactic and preventative medications, and overall safety precautions for the areas you’re interested in at wwwn.cdc.gov/travel. Seek advice from your physician or a travel clinic. Immunizations and medications can be costly. Some should be obtained well in advance of your trip; it is wise to start this process early. Travel Clinics: Wilmington Health Associates-341-3426, New Hanover County Health Department- 798-6500, New Hanover Medical Group Dr. Noah Pierson-791-2626.
- You are responsible for fulfilling the financial commitment of your trip expenses within the specified timeframes. We encourage you to invite friends and family to participate with you in the mission by helping to support you financially – we will provide you with support letter instructions and donor cards. We feel that you also should contribute to (or invest in) the mission. If you think you may need to work overtime, do some babysitting or other odd jobs, you should begin early. Do not wait until the last minute to prepare for the financial responsibilities of the mission.
- Consider which geographical area(s) or people(s) for which/whom God has given you a natural passion. Research the area you’re interested in – the land, people, history, culture, politics, etc. to learn as much as you can. Attempt to learn the local language or dialect a means of showing your desire to connect with the people.

Planning for a short term mission begins well in advance so that the necessary preparation can be completed and sufficient support can be raised. Look for details on upcoming missions and in the PC3 weekly news e-mail or on the PC3 website. Applications and non-refundable deposits (up to \$700.00 depending on trip cost) can be due months prior to the mission. We will require that you submit a copy of a valid passport (or proof you have applied for a passport) with your application.

Lengths of short term missions vary depending on the focus of the mission and the distances that must be traveled. Costs of missions vary depending on airfare, ground transportation, food and lodging costs, and supplies to be used during the mission. Refer to the table below for approximate trip lengths and costs.

AREA	Approximate LENGTH	Approximate COST
Biloxi	1 week	\$200
Arizona	1 week	\$1100
Central America	7-10 days	\$1600
Europe	7-10 days	\$2200
Kenya, Ethiopia, Guinea	10-14 days	\$2600
Congo, India, Sudan	10-14 days	\$3000