



# TRUENORTH

CHURCH

## **Mission Trip Information**

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\*\*If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your team leader or the Outreach Assistant, [outreach@truenorthchurch.com](mailto:outreach@truenorthchurch.com) .

## Trips

Location	Dates	Application Deadline	Team Leader(s)	Focus
Middle East	Feb 29-March 9		Don King	Home Visits/School Interaction
Japan	April 5-14	FULL	Rusty Reid	VBS/ESL/Newspaper Distribution
Guatemala	April 6-13	Jan 4, 2024	Oscar Valdes	El Puente Children's Ministry/ Light Construction
Guatemala	June 22-29	March 21, 2024		Light for the Future VBS/School/Food Distribution
Ecuador	August 5-10	May 2, 2024		Home Visits/School Interaction
Zambia	TBD			TBD

***\*NOTHING from the Jordan trip can say "Jordan," say "Middle East" instead. NOTHING can be posted on any social media other than tourism pictures.***

- **Participant Age Guidelines**

- International trips are not designed for children or students 14 years old and under.
- Prior to completing the application, a meeting with a pastor will be required for the student (under 18) and parent to determine if the trip is a good fit for the student. Paperwork will need to be notarized prior to the trip for students.

- **Passport**

- Your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months after the trip *return date* to travel internationally.
- Make an appointment with the Post Office to complete the passport process including photo. Print and fill out the appropriate application and take all documents with you.
- [Passport](#) information/applications
- Once you receive your passport, please email a clear picture of it to your team leader.

- **Vaccines**

- [CDC](#) for travelers: Select your country to see current recommendations.
- **Guatemala** hosts strongly encourage an up-to-date Tetanus vaccine.
- The Yellow Fever Vaccine (among others) is necessary for Ecuador. It can be difficult and expensive to obtain. Contact [Passport Health](#) Services (888) 499-7277 to arrange your vaccines. It will likely require an appointment out of the area.
- Covid: To enter Guatemala you need to have a covid vaccine or negative test. To return to the USA you will need a negative test.
- The [Columbia County Health Department](#) is the least expensive place to obtain your vaccines whether you live in GA or not. The walk-in clinic is Fridays from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Take your shot records with you. Call (706) 868-3330 for more information.

- You can also obtain your vaccines from your family physician.
- **Mission Trip Application**

Your first step is to fill out the application.

  1. Fill out your mission trip application [here](#). Click "I don't have a Managed Missions login" or "I know my Managed Missions login."
  2. Once the application is submitted you will be approved for the trip or notified that more information is needed.
  3. Once approved:
    - a. You will receive your team member text keyword.
    - b. Log into [Managed Missions](#) to find information regarding the trip, team meeting dates and times, tasks/goals for the trip (and whether or not you've completed them).
- **Trip Cost**
  - Cost covers all transportation, food, lodging, medical insurance, trip supplies, and Visas.
  - Guatemala: \$75 per day plus airfare
  - Japan: \$800 plus airfare
  - Middle East: \$1,440 plus airfare
  - Ecuador: \$1,500 plus airfare
  - Zambia: \$100 per day plus airfare
- **Team Meetings**
  - Please attend as many meetings as possible before and after your trip.
  - At the first meeting, you will complete the Trip Covenant, Mission Trip Release Form, and turn in your \$100 non-refundable deposit.



## Mission Trip Covenant

As a member of this mission team, I commit to actively participate and support the whole team to accomplish the goals of our project. I recognize that by being part of this team I am agreeing to the following:

### 1. Developing my personal relationship with Jesus Christ - I commit to discipline myself and put a priority on growing deeper in my walk with Christ during the entire preparation process and during our project assignment.

This includes:

- a. Having a regular time of Bible study and prayer.
- b. Diligently praying for and encouraging the members of my team and the partnership and praying for opportunities to share my faith.
- c. Developing an attitude of service and flexibility - I commit to serve the team, the team leader, the nationals and the overseas workers on the field. I will bring a spirit of flexibility to the project knowing that plans often change.

Initial here if you agree to follow the above: \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. While I am a part of this team I will:

- a. Make it a priority to attend 100% of the team meetings and be an active participant in all team and project activities.
- b. Follow the rules and standard of behavior set by my team, team leader(s), and host country.
- c. Seek to be sensitive to the culture in my words, actions, and dress.
- d. Refrain from any activity or behavior that might be a stumbling block to my team or any team member, our partnership ministry, or the people I am seeking to influence. I will be especially careful to treat those of the opposite gender as a brother or sister in Christ and refrain from romantic relationships.
- e. Submit to the authority of the team leader(s). I realize I can be sent home by the team leader(s) at my own additional expense if I do not strive to follow this covenant.

Initial here if you agree to follow the above: \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Financially supporting the short-term trip:

- a. To secure a spot on the team, I will give a non-refundable \$100 deposit.
- b. Once airline tickets have been purchased, I commit to paying for 100% of the ticket price, even if I do not go on the trip.
- c. I commit to joining my team in raising prayer and financial supporters for our trip. I will have 100% of my financial support 30 days prior to our departure. If my financial support is not attained 30 days prior to the trip, I will meet with church leadership to determine actions I can take to fulfill my commitment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Leader signed (as witness): \_\_\_\_\_

Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Short Term Mission Trip Release Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in a short-term mission trip to \_\_\_\_\_ with TrueNorth Church. I am fully

aware that this mission trip may expose me to unique hazards such as sickness, disease, dangerous environments, crime, political instability, government opposition, personal injury, death, as well as similar and dissimilar risks. I am voluntarily participating in the mission trip with the knowledge of the risks involved. I release and forever discharge TrueNorth Church, and any other organization involved and each of the respective members, employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any and all claims for any and all injuries, illnesses, losses, or damages I might have on or in any way relating to such mission trips, including without limitation, those relating to me leaving the United States of America and visiting the above stated country (including my stay in, and travel to and from stated country). As consideration for being permitted by TrueNorth Church to participate in the mission trip, as consideration for TrueNorth Church assisting in arranging the mission trip, and for other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby irrevocably and unconditionally release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue or attack the property of TrueNorth Church, or any of their affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, members, directors, officers, employees, and agents (collectively referred to as the "Releasees"), for and from all claims of any nature now or hereafter existing whether known or unknown, including but not limited to all liability, on account of death, injury, or damage resulting from the negligence or other acts, however caused, of the Releasees as a result of my participation in the mission trip. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM GIVING UP MY LEGAL RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF MY REPRESENTATIVES TO RECOVER FOR INJURY, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE. I give TrueNorth Church, and its representatives with me on such mission trip, authority to request and authorize medical and/or hospital treatment for my benefit in the event of an injury or sickness sustained by me while on such missions trip, including but not limited to circumstances arising while traveling to and from above stated country. I agree to pay for all such treatment and to reimburse TrueNorth Church for all costs and expenses incurred by it with respect to such treatment.

I have carefully read this agreement and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract between me on one hand, and TrueNorth Church, and or their affiliates on the other hand. No oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from this agreement have been made to me. I SIGN THIS AGREEMENT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## How To Successfully Build a Support Team for Your Mission Trip

### Five Steps

1. Develop a Biblical Perspective
2. Mindset Shift
3. See the Benefits
4. Build Your Team
5. Follow Up

### Develop a Biblical Perspective

- In the Old Testament, priests, Levites, and prophets lived off tithes and offerings of the people. Numbers 18
- Jesus tells His disciples, ... “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.” Matthew 9:37
- Paul discussed missionaries receiving support.
  - Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Galatians 6: 6

### Mindset Shift

- You are fulfilling the Great Commission. Matthew 28: 16-20
- Change your thinking from "I'm asking for money" to, "I'm telling people about what God is doing while giving others an opportunity to be a part of it.”
- People are giving money to the team for His work, not to you.
- You are a servant of the Most High God!

### See the Benefits

- Educate others about missions.
- Strengthen your faith in God to provide.
- Make new friendships.

### Build a Prayer Support Team

- Develop a list of people who would commit to pray now and during the trip.
- Share your passion and mission with them.
- Communicate specific prayer requests about the trip such as needs and concerns.

### Building a Financial Support Team

- Pray for God's guidance as you make a list of potential financial supporters.
- Write a letter/email to each potential supporter explaining what the team will be doing.
  - Include a Response Card that you've printed front and back and a self-addressed stamped envelope for those who will write a check instead of giving online.

### Writing the Letter

- Personalize you letter
  - Focus on the specifics of the team's trip.
  - Thank donors and tell them they are necessary.

- The Ask
  - Explain the cause.
    - Show there is a need, and the trip is critical in addressing that need.
    - Explain exactly what the team needs.
- The Closing
  - Thank donors in advance for their support.

#### Financial Details

You will receive a specific link and text keyword (text to 803.279.1555) for donors to give to your trip. If you send an email, please include both options for your donors. If you mail a letter let the donor know they may give online or give to text. (You could email or text them the online/text options.)

- **Online Giving:** Provide your specific link.
- **Text to Give:** Provide your specific text keyword.
- **Checks** are written to TrueNorth Church with your text keyword in the memo line.
- **Cash** should be in an envelope with your text keyword and the name of the donor.
- Deliver checks/cash to the TNC Office in person or by mail (Attn: Jennifer Williams).

#### Follow Up

- Follow up if you don't hear from potential supporters.
- Send each person who supports you a thank you note or thank them verbally.

#### After the Trip Suggestions

- Send a photo and thank you note.
- Tell them what their support achieved.

***Any deep sense of God's leading should be accompanied by the confidence that when he guides, He also provides. Raising one's own support is a challenge to faith.***

#### What happens if I raise more money than required?

Due to IRS regulations, all donations belong to the church, not to an individual team member or a team, and are non-refundable. Extra funds that are raised can be re-allocated after the trip has returned. We generally allocate any extra team member funds to supplement other teammates that might be in need. Any extra funds would then be used for other ministry efforts in the area.

#### What happens to the money if I can't go?

If any team member must cancel prior to the date of the trip, he or she will be financially responsible for any amount of funds that have been spent on his or her behalf in the arrangement of the trip. In certain circumstances, those unused funds can be reserved for other future short-term trip opportunities. We assess these situations on a case by case basis.



## Who Do You Know?

You can include anyone on your list who you think may be interested in the team's project. List people you think may support the team in prayer or financially. Both are important and you may be surprised who will give to help the ministry financially. To remind you of people who might be interested in knowing about the ministry, look through your personal phone numbers and social media.

Here's a list to help you think of others to send your letter to:

- Journey Group
- Business acquaintances
- Campus leaders of Christian groups
- Christian business groups
- Christmas card lists
- Church members
- Civic clubs
- Coaches
- Coworkers
- Employers
- Fellow students
- Former or present teachers
- Friends
- Friends of your family
- High school and college friends
- Neighbors (present and former locations)
- Parents' employers
- People you have led to Christ
- Relatives
- Retired friends
- Rotary Club
- Sunday school classes
- Teammates
- Those who have influenced you spiritually
- Wedding lists



## Guatemala Sample Support Letter

Dear ,

I am writing to let you know I am going on a short-term mission trip to Guatemala from \_\_\_\_\_ (*dates*). During the trip I will help provide services to the community by (*make specific to your trip*). Through these activities, my team hopes to build relationships and share the hope we have found through Jesus Christ.

TrueNorth Church is partnering with [El Puente](http://www.aginno.org) ([www.aginno.org](http://www.aginno.org)) while working in Chisec, Guatemala. You can see that the needs of this community are critical, and we can have a huge impact for Christ here (*or something similar to show the importance of you going on this trip.*)

I would like to include you as part of my support team to pray for me and my team, and/or financially support this mission. We need prayer for \_\_\_\_\_. Financially, I need to raise \$1,700 to cover my expenses, including the cost of an airline ticket (approximately \$1,200). I will need all funds by \_\_\_\_\_ (*date*). I hope that you see this as an opportunity to partner with us and serve God. Thank you for your support and I am excited about the possibility of you as my encourager!

To contribute financially, click on the link *insert your specific link* or text *insert text keyword* to 803.279.1555. Checks can be made out to TrueNorth Church with "*your text keyword*" on the memo line. If you write a check, please send the check and Response Card to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. All donations for this ministry are tax deductible and non-refundable.

Thank you for considering being part of my support team. Please let me know if I can answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,

## Ecuador Sample Support Letter

Dear ,

I am writing to let you know I am going on a short-term mission trip to Ecuador from dates, with a team from my church, TrueNorth! I have decided to do this because...

TrueNorth has partnered with a local church and Compassion International to plant a church and start a new Compassion Center for 250 kids.

During the trip, we will partner with Compassion to provide an English Language Camp/Sports Camp. The school provides education to approximately X children from grades K-10. Our hope is that... Why this is important to you.

I am assembling a support team to pray for my family, myself, and my team, and/or give financially toward this mission. I would love for you to join us! YOUR PRAYER NEEDS. Financially, I need to raise \$3000 (\$1500 for my expenses and \$1500 for airfare). I hope that you see this as an opportunity to partner with us and serve God.

To contribute financially, click on the link insert your specific link or text insert text keyword to 803.279.1555. Checks can be made out to TrueNorth Church with "use your text keyword" on the memo line. Please do not write my name on the check. If you write a check, please send the check and Response Card to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. All donations for this ministry are tax deductible and non-refundable.

Thank you for considering being a part of my support team. *(Express your appreciation.)* God bless you!

Your name

## Middle East Sample Support Letter

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to let you know that I am going on a short-term mission trip to the Middle East from \_\_\_\_\_, with The Lodebar Initiative! I have decided to do this because I want to share the gift of Jesus.

In 2012, a civil war broke out in Syria. Many of the families left everything they knew for safety in Jordan and cannot go back. Sadly, the children are unable to obtain any education, the families cannot legally work; they struggle daily with having food and many live in tents or concrete block structures in the desert. They receive little support from the government and refugee relief agencies. This is their everyday life. It's very real and challenging.

The Lodebar Initiative meets both physical and spiritual needs of refugees. Local workers provide a basic education for approximately 100 refugee children, as well as feed them breakfast 5 days a week and provide shoes. This ministry to the children opens doors to their families. Local workers visit the families weekly to build relationships to share Jesus.

Alongside the local workers, we will visit these families, boldly share about Jesus, pray for them, and gift them food parcels that provide basic nutrition for approximately 1 month. We will also host a fun carnival for the kids and 3 days of VBS-style time that shares the character traits of the God of the Bible through stories, crafts, and activities. We may also have the opportunity to host gatherings to study the bible with local and refugee women. This trip is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_. It is also important to me because I get the opportunity to experience and witness Him working.

I am assembling a support team to pray and/or give financially toward this mission. I would love for you to join us! We need prayers for favor with the government and hearts of those we encounter to be open to Jesus. Financially, I need to raise \$1440 for my expenses plus the cost of airfare (approx. \$1,200). I hope that you see this as an opportunity to partner with us and serve our great God.

To contribute financially, checks can be made out to TrueNorth Church with YOUR KEY WORD written on the memo line. Send your cash/check and Response Card to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. All donations for this ministry are tax deductible and non-refundable.

Thank you for considering being a part of my support team. God bless you!

## Zambia Sample Support Letter

Dear ,

I am writing to let you know I am going on a short-term mission trip to Zambia from \_\_\_\_\_ (dates). During the trip I will help provide services to the community by *(make specific to your trip)*. Through these activities, my team hopes to build relationships and share the hope we have found through Jesus Christ.

TrueNorth Church is partnering with [Hands of Hope](#) while working in Lusaka, Zambia. You can see that the needs of this community are critical, and we can have a huge impact for Christ here *(or something similar to show the importance of you going on this trip.)*

I would like to include you as part of my support team to pray for me and my team, and/or financially support this mission. We need prayer for \_\_\_\_\_. Financially, I need to raise \$2,700 to cover my expenses, including the cost of an airline ticket (approximately \$1,800). I will need all funds by \_\_\_\_\_ (date). I hope that you see this as an opportunity to partner with us and serve God. Thank you for your support and I am excited about the possibility of you as my encourager!

To contribute financially, click on the link *insert your specific link* or text *insert text keyword* to 803.279.1555. Checks can be made out to TrueNorth Church with "*your text keyword*" on the memo line. If you write a check, please send the check and Response Card to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. All donations for this ministry are tax deductible and non-refundable.

Thank you for considering being part of my support team. Please let me know if I can answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,

## Japan Sample Support Letter

Dear ,

I am writing to let you know I am going on a short-term mission trip to Japan from \_\_\_\_\_ (dates). During the trip I will help provide services to the community by *(make specific to your trip)*. Through these activities, my team hopes to build relationships and share the hope we have found through Jesus Christ.

TrueNorth Church is partnering with Dustin and Faith Minter and Lito Christ Center while serving in Fukuoka, Japan. The spiritual needs of this community are critical, and we can have a huge impact for Christ here. *(or something similar to show the importance of you going on this trip.)*

I would like to include you as part of my support team to pray for me and my team, and/or financially support this mission. We need prayer for \_\_\_\_\_. Financially, I need to raise \$800 to cover my expenses, plus the cost of an airline ticket (approximately \$1,800). I will need all funds by \_\_\_\_\_ (date). I hope that you see this as an opportunity to partner with us and serve God. Thank you for your support and I am excited about the possibility of you as my encourager!

To contribute financially, click on the link *insert your specific link* or text *insert text keyword* to 803.279.1555. Checks can be made out to TrueNorth Church with "*your text keyword*" on the memo line. If you write a check, please send the check and Response Card to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. All donations for this ministry are tax deductible and non-refundable.

Thank you for considering being part of my support team. Please let me know if I can answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,



Team Member \_\_\_\_\_

Text Keyword \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I want to be a part of your Mission Trip!**

- **Praying**
- **Giving** (See Contribution Guidelines on reverse)

*\*See letter to give online or text to give\**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

If giving by check, please enclose this card and return to the team member or TNC 1297 W. Martintown Rd, North Augusta, SC 29841, Attention: Jennifer.



Team Member \_\_\_\_\_

Text Keyword \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I want to be a part of your Mission Trip!**

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*\*See letter to give online or text to give\**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Team Member \_\_\_\_\_

Text Keyword \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*See letter to give online or text to give\**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

If giving by check, please enclose this card and return to the team member or TNC 1297 W. Martintown Rd, North Augusta, SC 29841, Attention: Jennifer.



#### Contribution Guidelines

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- **If giving by check**, please make checks payable to **TrueNorth Church**. Checks should not be made out to the team member, nor should the team member's full name be written on the memo line. Response cards will be labeled with a team member keyword for identification, record keeping, and tax deduction purposes.
- All money is solely donated to TrueNorth Church, North Augusta, SC, USA and is not refundable or transferable. TrueNorth may use any excess funds to develop new aspects of the current trip, for other mission trips, or for any mission work deemed worthy by TrueNorth Church.

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