

**Touching Lives Ministry
SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP
TEAM COVENANT**

MISSION STATEMENT

Touching Lives, Inc. is devoted to supporting indigenous medical ministries, both domestic and foreign, who are providing healthcare to the world's poor as God leads.

VISION STATEMENT

That Touching Lives will come beside and support those who are providing health care to the poor on a daily basis through Biblical and personal encouragement as well as financial. Through educating and equipping people we provide health care to the world's poor via short term missions and medical camps that God would touch and change the lives of both the provider and the recipient.



In order to have a unified team in the mission field, it is important to agree on a policy of acceptable attitude and behavior prior to going into the mission field. The following Team Covenant is an agreement to God and between each team member, one to another:

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to allow God to work through us as a team to glorify Himself and demonstrate His love to others.

TEAM COMMITMENTS

Spiritual Preparedness

1 Peter 3:15 states *“but in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”* In order to allow God to do His work through us, we need to be spiritually prepared before we leave on the mission trip and while we are in the mission field. This means being “prayed-up” and having daily quiet time which includes the reading of God’s Word and having a time of meditation and reflection.

Role Preparedness

The ultimate purpose of the mission is to glorify God. In that light we must be prepared that while we each have unique gifts to contribute, we must remain flexible and be open to that which the Lord will request of us as we do His will. *“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given.”* **Matthew 25:29.**

As team members, we pledge to carry out our tasks in a responsible and timely manner. We will handle all ministry equipment and assignments as tools and gifts which God has entrusted to us. We agree as a team to be flexible in our attitudes, actions and circumstances as we carry out the passion and calling that we have to the mission as well as the team.

Team Unity

We agree that being united as a team means, as in **Phil 2:1-2**, we must be *"like minded"*. We will accomplish this as outlined in **Phil 2:3-8** *"We will do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than ourselves. We will look not only to our own interests, but also to the interest of others."*

As a team we agree to speak only words to and about each other that will serve to build up and encourage. *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."* **Prov. 25:11**. We will seek to place other team members' needs ahead of our own and will respect each other by submitting to one another. This includes listening to each other's opinions, ideas and needs, and respecting time, property, and sleep.

Accountability and Conflict Resolution **Col 3:17** states *"and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* In all of our actions on this mission trip, we are individually accountable first of all to God. We also agree to be accountable to team leaders and other team members. In light of **Romans 13:1**, *"Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities,"* we will respect our God-given leadership by understanding their responsibility, respecting their decisions, and praying before we approach them with our disagreements.

As a team, we agree that when we have conflicts and differences among ourselves, **we will begin with prayer and time in the Word to examine ourselves** for selfish motives and/or unrealistic expectations of the other person. We will take responsibility to approach or confront the other person if it is appropriate. We will do this in love, for the purpose of restoring unity. (Matthew 18:15) We will forgive one another and pray together. (Colossians 3:13) We will not discuss the matter with other members of the team, causing them to become involved in the conflict. If a conflict cannot be settled between the two parties, we agree to seek counsel from a group leader.

Time/Punctuality

We agree to exhibit respect to team members and others by arriving on time and carrying out tasks on time. If a situation arises which causes us to be late, we agree to inform leaders and/or team members as soon as possible.

MISSION

Culture

As we enter the mission, we will be guests in another culture. We will respect their customs and practices and will strive to learn about their culture and language as much as possible. Our overall goal is to glorify God by coming along side our host leaders and workers to assist them in whatever mission tasks are assigned to us. Any issues or questions related to local customs and practices should be taken directly and discreetly to a team leader. In the Body of Christ relationships are more important than accomplishing tasks.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Illegal Substances, and Inappropriate Conduct

In order to express the best image for God as possible, we will abstain from using, purchasing or drinking alcoholic beverages and tobacco on the mission trip. Obviously, use of any illegal substance or inappropriate conduct or attire is strictly forbidden on the mission field. The mission trip begins when the team assembles for departure (leaves) and ends upon return to the U.S.

EMERGENCY OR CONTINGENCY PLANS

If an emergency or crisis develops, the team will follow these principles:

1. Whatever action is taken, the **TEAM STAYS TOGETHER** unless instructed by a leader to do otherwise. There is no room for individual action. If a team member is away from the group at the time of the event, he or she will immediately return to the group and contact the team leader.
2. After the team leader is contacted, he/she will discuss the situation with our host leader(s) and make further contingency plans. We will always have emergency contacts in the United States and have the United States Embassy at our disposal if needed. Any contacts with home or the embassy will be initiated by the team leader or his/her designee first. Any decisions to leave an area will be determined by the team leader and our host leader(s).
3. In order to eliminate confusion and miscommunication, team members will refrain from calling/texting/e-mailing home during emergency situations until team leaders have given clearance to do this.

TEAM STRUCTURE

Medical Camp Director (on-site at medical camp at all times): responsible for planning and coordinating the daily operations of the camp, regarding non-medical personnel, supporting the TLM Mission. The Medical Camp Director will be the first person to take all problems/questions (medical and non-medical) to during camp hours. As a ministry leader, the Medical Camp director is responsible for managing the team through effective communication, collaboration and prayer.

Medical Team Leader (Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Dentist or other advanced practice clinician): responsible for preparing and coordinating all activities (spiritual, clinical, educational/training) pre-trip and at camp, that supports the TLM Mission. As a ministry leader, the Medical Team Leader is responsible for managing the team through effective communication, collaboration and prayer.

Children's Ministry Leader: responsible for preparing and coordinating all activities (spiritual, educational/training and recreational) pre-trip and at camp, that supports the TLM Mission. As a ministry leader, the Children's Ministry Leader is responsible for managing the team through effective communication, collaboration and prayer.

LIABILITY WAIVER

The safety of each individual on the team is the number one priority for TLM and the mission team leader. In light of this desire for safety, a pre-mission physical examination with appropriate vaccinations and travel insurance are mandatory prior to going on the trip. Your signature below indicates that you release Touching Lives Ministry from legal/financial responsibility for any illness, accident, and loss, damage, or theft of personal property that may occur during the course of the mission.

AGREEMENT TO TEAM COVENANT

I, _____, as a team member of a short term mission trip with Touching Lives Ministry, have read this Team Covenant and promise before God and this team to abide by all of the policies and statements contained therein by the grace of God.

If at any time in my service on this short-term mission, my behavior constitutes a problem, Touching Lives Ministry reserves the right and authority to return me home. Any additional costs incurred as a result of this action will be at my expense.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and date this form and return it in to the Mission Team Leader.