



MISSION POSSIBLE

Equipping the Next Generation of Christ Centered Leaders

Team Member Guide

Haiti - Frequently Asked Questions

Will we be able to buy souvenirs?

Yes. Our staff will invite individuals onto the mission center compound to sell souvenirs. These individuals are known by our staff, have quality products, and will use the funds received in an appropriate manner.

Souvenirs can be purchased at the airport if you desire to do so. We suggest that you purchase airport souvenirs at your departure so that you do not have to transport and care for them during your time in-country.

We will also offer an opportunity for you to order coffee or vanilla.

Do not purchase any souvenirs on the street or through the mission center fence.

How should I respond to adults or children begging for money (or anything)?

As you know, nothing should be given directly to any Haitian.

When asked, respond with:

“No. I am not going to give you anything.”

You will probably have to repeat this several times and the beggar will continue to ask. Be firm. Be loving. Show that you care, but do not give anything. You will probably have to end up ignoring the pleas. It will be hard, but state your “no” and hold your ground.

Should I give a tip or gift to those hosting us?

No. We have compensated all Haitians that have provided care and services to the team.

If you were to tip or gift one, the others will assume that they should be tipped or gifted too. Also, to tip or gift one may cause an embarrassing situation for them if others are not receiving.

No tipping or gifting please.

Should I let people help me with my bags at the airport?

We have arranged for baggage help at the airport. Your team leader will know who is authorized to help. Always check with your team leader about baggage handling at the airport.

What kind of vehicles will we be riding in?

Pickup trucks, vans, and maybe even a big, cattle truck. For larger size teams, you will need to ride in the back of the truck or cattle truck. Always ask the team leader if it is

appropriate to ride in the back (gender or safety may impact his answer). The roads are dusty in Haiti so you may wish to bring a handkerchief or mask for the longer, dusty rides.

Can I wear flip-flops, sandals, or open toe shoes?

Please wear closed toe shoes at all times when you are off the mission center compound. This is for your safety and personal hygiene.

Flip-flops or sandals can be worn on the mission center, but bugs can be an issue.

Bring an extra pair of shoes in case you have your primary pair gets wet or muddy.

Who can I share our travel arrangements with?

Limit the number of people that you tell specific travel information. While in Haiti, be vague on the travel schedule. This is for security reasons. We don't want word to get out that the team or sub-team is traveling here or there at a certain time. We want you to be safe and keeping travel schedules quiet is a great help.

Can I be contacted in Haiti if there is an emergency at home?

Yes. Our staff in Haiti is equipped with cell phones and can be reached at any time. It is best to let us know if you may have a situation at home that would call for contact with you while in-country.

If an emergency situation occurs at home, can I get home earlier than expected?

We would do the best we can to help you in your situation. Note that there are limited flights to and from Haiti, and the Mission Center is two hours from the airport.

Will the team travel together to the airport?

These arrangements are made at the team level. Some team members may be coming from different parts of the country and will most likely join together at the Miami airport. Those team members that are from the same area are more than welcome to travel to and from the airport together.

What is the Mission Center like?

The Mission Center is a secure area with two buildings for sleeping, another for the Bible School, and another that is yet to be finished. Sleeping arrangements will be either in dormitory style rooms or individual/couple rooms. The dormitory rooms have bunk beds. The other rooms have twin or double beds. Sheets and pillows are supplied for you. You should bring your own towels and wash clothes.

There are ample bathroom facilities, but remember that they will be shared with other team members. The toilets are like the ones that we use, but remember to bring toilet paper. Don't count on hot water, but remember that it is much warmer in Haiti so the cooler water feels good at the end of the day. The sinks and showers have running water supplied by a gravity based water system. Water is pumped into two large reservoirs on the roof of one of the Mission Center buildings. During the day, the sun warms the water, but as water is added (as it is used for bathing, etc.) it goes into the tanks cold. Clean up from the day will most likely be done in the evening, so you may need to adjust your shower schedule if you are a morning shower person.

Since the water from the sinks and showers comes from these rooftop tanks and the water is pumped directly from the ground and has not been purified, do not drink the water, brush your teeth with the water, or rinse your mouth with the water from the sinks or showers. Clean water for drinking will be supplied in water coolers for you.

Here are a few pictures of the Mission Center.



(Eating area, Dorms, Kitchen)



(Mission Center house)



(Mission Center grounds)



(Eating area)



(Dorm room)

Can we swim in the ocean?

Yes, but only under the supervision of the Mission Center host. Remember that swim suits must be modest. Ladies' suits must be one piece.

What is the food like?

Each team will be taking and preparing the majority of their own food. So to answer this question, it will be similar to what you have at home. The kitchen at the Mission Center is very nice and modern. We can keep food items cold in the refrigerator and freezer. Haitian food includes rice, beans, fish, fresh fruit, and fried bananas.

Can I drink the water?

Only drink the water provided at the Mission Center. Water from the sinks, showers, or places outside the Mission Center should not enter your mouth for any reason (drinking, brushing teeth, or rinsing your mouth). You should bring a water bottle so that you can fill it at the start of the day to have available as you perform your mission. If you will be on a labor intensive worksite, drinkable water will be available for you. If you question whether water is safe to drink, always ask the team leader.

How big are the bugs and mosquitoes?

The Mission Center facilities have screened windows. This keeps many of the bugs and mosquitoes out. It is the responsibility of team members to keep the doors closed and screens in place to maintain this barrier against the bugs. The running of fans at night will keep many of the mosquitoes away, but you may still want to use repellent. The number of bugs and mosquitoes varies throughout the year. We can check closer to trip time and get a bug update.

Will my valuables be secure at the Mission Center?

The Mission Center and its staff work to maintain a secure and safe place for you and your things. The sleeping facilities are locked during the day and valuables left in the sleeping rooms are safe. Passports do not have to be carried with you all the time. Money should be left at the Mission Center. Purchasing of goods will be done at the Mission Center or through the Mission Possible staff.

Is there electricity?

Yes. The Mission Center has a generator that will be run when the team is on the Mission Center grounds. Batteries for cameras or other electronic devices can be charged during the evening. Electrical outlets and voltage is the same as in the US and Canada. There is no need to bring converters. Commercial electricity in Haiti is sporadic at best. This is why we have generators to supply electricity at the Mission Center and our MPCA school.

Can I bring a video camera?

Yes, but remember that you are responsible for it. Bigger video cameras attract attention and run the risk of being stolen. Always remember to be discrete in your picture taking. If you were out in your driveway washing your car and a group of foreign tourists came up and starting video taping you, what would you think? It is polite to ask permission when video taping or taking pictures.

Will we do individual devotions or group devotions?

Probably both. Morning is a good time to start the day with personal time with God. The evening seems to be a good time to talk about the day, share where you have seen God at work and close the day in prayer, praise and conversation.

What kind of stuff should I bring with me as we minister in-country?

When you travel about in-country, always have a water bottle with you and consider one that you can wear on your hip so that your hands can be free while walking or riding to your destination. There is always clean water available for you at the Mission Center. Fill your bottle before you leave the Mission Center for the day.

You may also want to bring a fanny pack or small back pack for your camera, little snack, some hand sanitizer, tissue, sun screen, hat, etc. Remember to keep your pack light as you travel around in-country and, again, use a pack that keeps your hands free for travel and work.

The students love bubbles. If your team will be interacting with students, pack a bottle or two to use for play.

Will there be free time to relax?

Yes, each team will have a unique schedule, but each team leader will allow for free time for rest, conversation, and fun. Team schedules will vary based on the mission of the team. Check with your team leader for a tentative, daily schedule.

What are some common Creole phrases I could learn?

Keep in mind that in Creole, every syllable is accented, so it has a very steady sound.

Jezi renmen ou!
JAY-ZEE REM-AY OO

Jesus loves you!

Bonjou
BON-JOO

Hello (good day)

Bye-Bye
(like our bye-bye)

Koman ou rele?
KOO-MAW OO RAY-LAY?

Yo rele mwen Nancy. Map viv USA.
YO RAY-LAY MWEN(nasal n) NANCY.
MAP VEEV USA.

Koman ou ye?
KOO-MAW OO YAY?

Mwen pa pi mal, mesi.
PAW PEE MALL, MESS-SEE

Mwen tre bien gras a Dieu
MWEN(nasal n) TRAY BEE-"N" GRAWSS AH DYOO

Ki laj ou?
KEE LAWJ OO?

Mwen kontan ou se zanmim.
MWEN(nasal n) KONE-TAWN(nasal n) OO SAY ZAM-MEE

Nou se zanmim.
NOO SAY ZAM-MEE

Nou se sere.
NOO SAY SAIR(nasal)

Mwen renmen ou (anpil).
MWEN(nasal n) REM-AY OO (ANN-PEEL)

Ou Belle
OO BELL

Ou spesyal pou mwen.
OO EN-POH-TAWN(nasal n) POO MWEN(nasal n)

Bondye avek ou.
BON-"G" UH-VEK OO

Good bye

What is your name?

My name is Nancy. I live in USA.

How are you?

I'm not so bad, thank you.

I'm very well thanks to God.

How old are you (What age you?)

I am glad you are my friend.

We are friends.

We are sisters.

I love you (very much).

You are pretty/handsome
(either gender)

You are important to me.

God is with you.

Ou spesyal pou Bondye.
OO SPES-YAL POO BON-"G"

You are special to God.

Bondy fe ou espesyal.
BON-"G" FAY OO ES-PES-YAL

God made you special.

Se pou Bondye beni ou.
SAY POO BON-"G" BENNY OO

May God bless you.

Mwen pa konprann.
MWEN(nasal n) PAW CON-PRAWN(nasal n)

I don't understand.

Souri
SOO-REE

Smile

Souple
SOO-PLAY

Please

Mesi
MESS-SEE

Thank you

Mesi (shaking head "no")
MESS-SEE (shaking head "no")

No thank you

Padekwa
PAW-DUH-KWAH

You're welcome

Wi
WEE

Yes

Non
No(nasal)

No

Mwen mem tou.
MWEN(nasal n) MEM TOO

Me too.

Eskize mwen
ESS-KEE-ZAY MWEN(nasal n)

Excuse me.