



MISSION POSSIBLE

Equipping the Next Generation of Christ Centered Leaders

Team Member Guide

Haiti - Frequently Asked Questions

Is it safe?

Our staff will do everything possible to keep you safe. You are, however, going to a foreign country where the rules of law and culture are very different. Road rules and safety are very different. North Americans can be targets for power moves and kidnapping. Is the threat greater than here in our local communities or large cities?

As stated above, we take your safety seriously and would never put you knowingly into an unsafe setting. There are many situations that are outside our control and the resulting safety conditions will be uncontrollable as well.

Can I drive while in country?

Unless given specific permission by the Mission Possible President, Director of Mission Teams, or Field Director, no team members are allowed to drive in Haiti or the Dominican Republic. Driving conditions in country are very different than our own. Accidents of any kind can result in the jailing or even the vigilante murder of the North American driver. For the team's safety, we will limit the number of North Americans authorized to drive in country.

What is the best way to continue contact or communication with my friends in country?

Communication with any individual in Haiti or the Dominican Republic must flow through the US or Canada office. Communication with individuals in country will be reviewed by the Mission Possible staff and relayed in country when deemed appropriate. We understand that this “monitoring” of communication with friends overseas seems restrictive, but it greatly helps prevent unintended consequences of communication with those in other cultures.

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.

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.” or “No, I don’t have anything for you.”

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. 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 when not at the Mission Center. This is for your safety and personal hygiene.

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 (for those staying in the Lanzoac area)?

The Mission Center is a secure area with multiple buildings. 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, pillows and towels are supplied for you.

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 directly from water filters or in water coolers.

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?

There will be a variety of Haitian and American foods. Haitian food includes rice, beans, fish, fresh fruit, and fried bananas.

Can I drink the water?

Only drink the water provided. Water from the sinks, showers, or places “on the street” 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?

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. You can check closer to trip time and get a bug update.

What can be done about mosquito-borne viruses?

You may have seen news coverage on Chikungunya, Zika, or other mosquito or tropical viruses. A few team members from past teams have contracted these viruses. Do what you can to prevent mosquito bites. This would include repellent, clothes that cover the skin, use of fans or mosquito nets while sleeping, etc. If you have current medical concerns, are pregnant, or could become pregnant, please consult with your family doctor concerning these and other potential viruses. Some viruses can be transmitted sexually or through blood transfusion. Zika is one of these. Work closely with your family doctor and information from the CDC (www.cdc.gov) to understand the potential concerns of these viruses to you and your family members.

Is there electricity?

Yes. Solar panels supplemented by a generator will supply electricity when commercial electricity is not available. Batteries for 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.

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 will be clean water available for you. Fill your bottle before you leave 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.

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)

Good bye

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

What is your name?

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

My name is Nancy. I live in USA.

Koman ou ye?
KOO-MAW OO YAY?

How are you?

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

I'm not so bad, thank you.

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

I'm very well thanks to God.

Ki laj ou?
KEE LAWJ OO?

How old are you (What age you?)

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

I am glad you are my friend.

Nou se zanmim.
NOO SAY ZAM-MEE

We are friends.

Nou se se.
NOO SAY SAIR(nasal)

We are sisters.

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

I love you (very much).

Ou Bel
OO BELL

You are pretty/handsome
(either gender)

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

You are important to me.

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

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 menm tou. MWEN(nasal n) MEM TOO	Me too.
Eskize mwen ESS-KEE-ZAY MWEN(nasal n)	Excuse me.

Notes: