

Updated: January 06, 2012



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Group Trip Commitment Packet

*“All the nations you have made will come and worship
before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.”*

Psalm 86:9

Thank you for committing to serve at Mission of Hope!

We are glad that you are planning a trip to serve alongside us in giving hope to the people of Haiti. To help be fully prepared, we encourage you to go through this packet in-depth with all your team members.

Once you arrive at our campus, we plan your week for you. We take care of all in-country traveling logistics and have a community that we have been deeply involved with since 1998. All off-campus travel will be escorted by a translator. Your week can consist of various construction projects amongst the community, visiting orphanages supported through our nutrition program, and outreach programs throughout the community. The last day of your trip will be spent at Wahoo Bay beach resort, where you will experience first-hand, the potential and beauty of Haiti.

Booking your flights

All individuals are responsible for their own airfare. Mission of Hope asks that all flights arrive and depart from the Port au Prince airport on Saturdays and Wednesdays. This is an effort to reduce the strain on the Haitian staff and to become more efficient in transportation expenses. If you are unable to find a flight that meets our request, please call the US office **before booking** and we will assist in the scheduling process.

All group members are strongly encouraged to arrive and to depart on the same flights to help ease Mission of Hope's transportation costs. Individuals coming alone will be given other groups' flight information so that they can arrive at the same time.

How to pay for your trip

Payment is due one month before departure and can be made online at www.mohhaiti.org by clicking **DONATE**, selecting the Mission Trips tab, selecting Group Trips, and then the Group Trips – General Payment link, and putting your **group name and trip dates** in the NOTES section. Or, you can mail your check or money order to:

Mission of Hope
PO Box 60004
Fort Myers, FL 33906
ATTN: Group Trips

For more information:

US Office (239) 791-8125

Email..... missiontrips@mohhaiti.org

Website..... www.mohhaiti.org

Please contact us at missiontrips@mohhaiti.org to discuss possible trip dates.

Feel free to ask any questions you may have regarding a trip to Mission of Hope, Haiti.

Preparing for your trip

PASSPORT

All North Americans traveling to Haiti are required to have a passport for entry in to the country. You can check with your local post office for a passport application. You can also go to the U.S. Department of State web page: <http://travel.state.gov/passport> or the Passport Canada web page: www.passportcanada.gc.ca. If you are applying for a new passport, please allow 4 – 8 weeks to receive it. All travelers should bring a photocopy of the first two pages of their passport in their carry-on luggage in the rare event that your passport is lost.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Your group will be responsible for all airfare to and from Port au Prince. Flights are asked to arrive and depart on either a Saturday or a Wednesday. A Mission of Hope representative will meet you at the airport in Port au Prince to escort you to our campus.

*****Be sure to check with the airline for current restrictions, embargos, luggage weight limits, etc. prior to travelling.**

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is required for all groups and individuals traveling to Mission of Hope. Mission of Hope can provide travel/medical insurance at no additional charge to your group. Some groups like to reimburse Mission of Hope for the insurance costs. If so, the price averages \$10 per person.

If you are intending to acquire Mission of Hope traveler's insurance, application forms must be given two weeks before departure to allow time to process.

If your group is planning to purchase your own travel insurance, please make sure that two very important areas are covered:

1. Emergency international medical treatment costs
2. Emergency air evacuation from Haiti to North America

You will then need to email the following information: insurance company name, address, phone number, contact person, policy number and list of people that are being covered. Please take a copy of the policy along with you to Haiti.

Approximately one month from departure you will receive our Departure Packet, with guidelines for dress code, packing suggestions, and detailed instructions regarding navigating through the Port au Prince Airport.

MALARIA PILLS

We require that everyone acquire anti-malaria medication. You should consult your doctor for proper dosages.

Each person should bring an antibiotic such as Cipro and an anti-diarrheal medication.

IMMUNIZATION

All groups are encouraged to have the following vaccinations prior to traveling to Haiti:

- Hepatitis A/B
- Tetanus/Diphtheria (DT) *REQUIRED
- Preventative malaria medication

PHYSICAL CONDITION & MEDICATIONS

If you are elderly or are prone to health problems, we strongly recommend a thorough physical examination before traveling to Haiti. Also, medical identification (tags, bracelet, card, etc.) must be carried by anyone with chronic illness such as diabetes or heart conditions. Trips to Haiti are usually moderately stressful and, sometimes, greatly so. Persons with mental illness or physical disabilities are required to disclose such information to the Mission before being approved to travel. If you have special needs while in Haiti (such as a medical condition, food allergies, or other special requirements), please let us know **before your trip**, and we will accommodate you as best as possible. Be sure to bring whatever you need with you in your carry-on luggage.

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Planning for everyday in Haiti

BUNKING

Group members will stay in our Guest House, located in the middle of the property. Your group members will be separated by gender into separate rooms. Each room can hold up to five twin bunk beds and features five ceiling fans. Standard, US three-pronged electrical outlets are available in all rooms. Each room has a standard bathroom with running water. Mission of Hope will provide a pair of clean sheets for you as well as a pillow. All locked and team members are given keys.

WATER

Please do not drink or brush your teeth with our tap water. Purified water will be provided for you at the Mission. We encourage you to drink as much water as possible. Make sure you are drinking continuously even when you do not feel thirsty.

SHOWERS

Please shower with as little water as possible as water is very precious in Haiti. It is strongly encouraged to turn the shower on to rinse, off to lather, and on to rinse again. The same is suggested for the washing of hands: on, off, on.

FOOD

Your group will be asked to bring food items from a list given to you by the stateside Group Trip Coordinator before departure. It is with these items that we will prepare most of the meals for you and other visiting groups' meals throughout the week. This is an effort to reduce overall trip costs, as it is more cost effective to purchase these items in North America.

Each week, teams will enjoy a variety of meals including both Haitian and American foods. If you are eating in public places, avoid eating salads or fresh fruit, and eat only food that has been thoroughly cooked.

TIPS

Please be kind and tip our Haitian staff members (cooks, drivers, and interpreters) who have worked with you all week. The money will be collected at the end of the week by the Group Trip Coordinator and dispersed to each person. **An idea of what to give in total is \$15 - \$20 per person in your group for the week.** Please do not give out money or gifts to anyone but the Group Trip Coordinator. This helps our staff immensely with fairness and lack of confusion.

HANDOUTS TO LOCALS

Mission of Hope firmly asks you not to hand out any

items to local Haitians while you are interacting inside or outside of the Mission of Hope campus. This includes but is not limited to money, candy, toys, or water. We, as an organization working for lasting change in Haiti, are trying to discourage local Haitians from seeing/expecting handouts from North Americans visiting in-country. Mission of Hope is striving to encourage a culture of Haitians helping Haitians. If you have any items that you would want donated to the community, please give these items to the Group Trip Coordinator, who will then give the items to our Church outreach staff to distribute to those in need.

SOFT DRINKS & SNACKS

Soft drinks and snacks will be for sale in our guest house snack shop. Soda will be for sale for \$1. Please do not throw the bottles out as they are recycled. Receipts are not issued as it is an honor system.

MONEY & VALUABLES

The amount of money you take will depend on your desire to buy souvenirs. We recommend bringing \$50-100 for souvenirs and emergency situations. However, some teams have communicated wishing to have brought more than the suggested \$50-100 due to the large popularity of our 3Cords accessories, designed by our Haitian amputee women. There will also be vendors selling souvenirs at MOH and at the beach.

****Your team will have the chance to visit a trusted, local restaurant: Gwo Papa Poul. It is normally \$6 per person, not including tip. Occasionally GPP will have ice cream available for \$2. If you require a receipt, please inform the Group Trip Coordinator before ordering and paying.**

LOSSES

Mission of Hope and/or its employees, agents, or volunteers are not responsible for any team member's lost money, stolen money, damaged luggage, lost luggage, or loss of any other personal property. Team leaders do everything possible to prevent these unfortunate incidents; however, they sometimes occur despite their efforts.

OTHER POLICIES

MOH is a smoke free environment. However, if you must smoke, please inform the stateside Group Trip Coordinator prior to leaving for Haiti.

Alcohol and drugs are prohibited by all MOH guests

All firearms are prohibited

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***You may want to brush up on your Creole before coming.
Take a look!***

CREOLE	ENGLISH
<i>Mesi...Padkwa</i>	Thank You...You're Welcome
<i>Alo...M'ale orevwa</i>	Hello...Good-bye
<i>Eskize'm...</i>	Excuse me
<i>Bonjou...Bonswa</i>	Good morning...Good evening
<i>Bonjou madanm...Bonjou Mesye</i>	Good morning madam...Good morning, sir
<i>Bonswa manman...Bonswa Papa</i>	Good evening mommy...Good evening daddy
<i>Ki jan ou ye?</i>	How are you?
<i>Byen mesi, e ou menm</i>	Fine thank you, and you?
<i>Tre byen, mesi</i>	Very Well, thank you
<i>Pa two byen</i>	Not too well
<i>Ki jan tout moun yo ye?</i>	How is everybody?
<i>Tout moun yo tre byen</i>	Everybody is fine
<i>E ki jan fanmi ou yo ye?</i>	and how is your family?
<i>Fanmi' yo byen, mesi'</i>	My family is doing well, thank you
<i>M kontan we ou</i>	I am glad to see you
<i>M'ale, n'a we pita</i>	Goodbye, I will see you later
<i>Konbyen?</i>	How much does this cost?
<i>Ki laj ou gen?</i>	How old are you?
<i>Ko' man ou rele?</i>	What is your name?
<i>Shita</i>	Sit
<i>Compe</i>	Stand
<i>Vini</i>	Come
<i>Souri</i>	Smile
<i>M pa Konnen</i>	I don't know

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How can I raise support?

TELL YOUR CHURCH

Consider going to your elders, ministers, or mission committee and tell them what you are doing. Often they will offer to contribute towards your trip. Many people who go to Haiti get financial help from their church.

WRITE SUPPORT LETTERS

Even if your friends and family are not believers in Christ, many support humanitarian efforts and may support you financially. It is also a great idea to include the Mission's web address somewhere in your letter, so supporters can better inform themselves about what you will be doing.

GET YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVED

Make it a project with your youth group, friends, family, or neighbors. Hold a garage sale, car wash, bake sale, or auction.

USE HOLIDAYS

Instead of asking for birthday or Christmas gifts, ask family and friends to help you go on a mission trip. You will find that the sacrifice of giving up a present will pale in comparison to the joy of serving Christ in Haiti.

Be sure to send thank-you notes to your supporters. And while you are at it, bringing them small gifts from Haiti is also a great way to show your appreciation.

How can I support Mission of Hope on my trip?

HELP THE CLINIC

Help support our clinic by bringing in antibiotic creams, eye drops, cough medicine, vitamins, antacids, and HP 60 printer cartridges. A separate list of prescription medications needed in the clinic will be provided for medical teams by our stateside Group Trip Coordinator.

HELP THE ORPHANAGE

We are always in need of children's clothes, shoes, sandals, backpacks, bars of soap, toothpaste, selsum blue shampoo, twin sheets, and vinyl mattress covers.

TELL YOUR CHURCH, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

Tell them about the work God is doing through the mission, and how they can help. We rely on people like you to spread the good news about our ministry. When you go home, use your talents to write letters, give presentations, share photos, or develop a website about your trip.

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Sample Support letter

Dear Friends,

I hope things are going well with you. I have some exciting news that I wanted to share!

A group from my church will be going on a mission trip to the country of Haiti. I have thought about this, prayed, and talked it over with many close friends. I really feel like this is an opportunity that I cannot pass up.

We are making the trip with Mission of Hope, an organization that has worked for over 15 years in Haiti giving orphans a home, spreading the gospel and providing food, medicine, and education for underprivileged Haitians. The dates of the trip are _____. The total cost of the trip is \$_____.

I am writing to you to ask for your financial support. Anything you are able to give would be helpful!

If you are unable to give at this time, prayers are just as welcome as I begin to plan my mission trip. I know that if it is the Lord's will that I make this trip, then He will provide.

While in Haiti, I will have the opportunity to:

- Work in an orphanage that houses almost 60 children
- Build homes for those displaced by the earthquake
- Spend time ministering to children living in a number of orphanages
- Share Jesus with a country that has very little

If you are able to help, please send in your check, payable to _____, by (DATE)_____.

To learn more about the mission and its ministry, please visit its web site at www.mohhaiti.org. My desire is to allow God to use me to impact others for Him and to allow Him to change me at the same time. Please continue to pray for me as these plans fall into place.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

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