



Mission Trip To COLOMBIA

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Lamentation 3:51

Information
&
Application

BEMAGNIFIED.ORG

COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP

Information Packet

Colombia Mission Trip: ABOUT

Hello! We are excited that you are interested in taking a short-term missions trip to Colombia! In the following pages we hope to answer most of your questions and help prepare you for your upcoming trip. However, if you have any questions that we did not cover, you may feel free to contact us.

Introduction to The Vance Family

Aaron & Aubrie Vance, along with their two small children, are church-planting missionaries in Colombia and are committed to training leaders of leaders and establishing new local churches. This goal is pursued by the planting of model churches, the open proclamation of the Gospel to unbelievers, and life-on-life discipleship. After spending time training in Peru, South America and graduating from the Our Generation Training Center, God allowed the Vances to plant and pastor a Spanish-speaking church in the state of Georgia. After 5 years of pastoring and 2 years of deputation, they moved to Colombia in November of 2013 to begin the next stage of their church-planting ministry. You can visit their website, www.bemagnified.org, to find out more information about the family, ministry, goals, beliefs, strategy and philosophy.

Colombia Mission Trip: Our Vision

Our desire in providing this trip is that you may develop a vision for Colombia first-hand. We try to communicate the need through our blogs, prayer letters, and preaching but some things are hard to communicate. We want you to feel, smell, taste and see Colombia. We know that your eye will affect your heart and we want you to be

affected. We want to open your eyes to the true need of Colombia and implant a vision for the work of God here.

Also, we want to open the door for you to be involved in ministry. Even if you don't speak Spanish, there is a door of opportunity for you. You can help through flyer/tract distribution, preaching/teaching and giving your testimony through an interpreter and helping conduct outreach activities.

Finally, we want to be an encouragement to the churches and families who partner with our ministry and give them a chance to be an encouragement to the missionary families on the field. It is like a reverse furlough and allows us to have fellowship and be encouraged by those from our home country.

What to Expect: A Real Perspective

Many people have never traveled outside of the USA and don't know what to expect on a trip like this. Here are four perspectives we want you to keep in mind when taking a trip like this.

First, this trip may be one of the hardest trips you have ever taken. We don't say that to scare you, but to prepare you. You will be tired and worn out. The first few days you might be carried through by adrenaline, but eventually it wears off. You will be tired. Rest when you need rest, but keep pushing forward.

You will be living and traveling in a major city. Transportation will be different and uncomfortable. You will be surrounded by a cement jungle and people are everywhere.

The food will be different and even the common food doesn't exactly have the same taste as back home. However, there are many good foods and things to eat.

You will be surrounded by countless people. The overwhelming majority of these people are lost and spiritually dead people. They are no longer on the other side of the world. It is not a story. It will be reality staring you in the face. The reality that most of these people have never heard the good news.

Second, this trip will be one of the most rewarding trips you have ever taken. You will get to meet some of the greatest people in the world. You will get an opportunity to fellowship with people from the church. The churches are young and the people aren't perfect, but they love Jesus. Your time here is short, but we hope you will take the time to get to know some of these dear people.

As you are involved in ministry through sharing your testimony, distributing literature, or participating in an activity, we hope there will be those that hear and receive the Gospel because of your involvement.

Third, we can't guarantee you that the trip will go as planned. We can't tell you that everything is going to be comfortable. Actually, we can almost guarantee you that something is going to go wrong. But that is life. As missionaries, there are three words we constantly use, "adjust, adjust, and adjust," and that is exactly what we will do when a curve ball is thrown our way.

When things aren't as you imagined, a bad attitude can arise. We might not get to eat when it's time, situations might not be as comfortable, you get sick, or something else happens, but make an effort to keep the same self-less, humble, willing attitude that you had when you signed up for the trip.

Fourthly, prepare spiritually because, after all, this is a spiritual trip. We want God to work in your lives. We hope that He already is! Continue that as you take this trip. Read the Word and pray. As your eye affects your heart let what is seen be directed through the lens of the Word of God. We want a real, not emotional, impact.

When you return to America, we want the impact to be more than, "*I am thankful for America and all the things that I have.*" You will see poverty that is hard to swallow. You will see conditions that make you thankful that you have a nice house, car, clothes, church building, etc. We should be thankful for these things, but we want a greater impact. We want the kind of impact that a lost man can't comprehend. We want you not to just be burdened about their poverty and thankful for your prosperity, we want you to become burdened about their spiritual poverty and realize you were given spiritual prosperity to do something about it. We want you to surrender your lives or mobilize others to go in your place.

Let your life make an impact on this trip and let this trip impact your life.

Connect With Us

One of the best ways to learn more about us is to subscribe to and read our blog (www.bemagnified.org). We give updates about our life and ministry through this medium, as well as writing articles about missions in general.

Thank you for considering this short-term mission trip to Colombia, South America. We hope that we will get to meet you in person as we strive together to see Colombia and the world reached with the gospel!

~Aaron Vance & Family~

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COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP: INFORMATION

There is a lot of information that you need to know about taking a short-term trip to make sure you get the best out of the trip. Below we have divided the information in separate categories to help you easily find what you need.

Dates

- A general set of dates can only be given until the plane tickets have been purchased.
- 1 year prior to the the trip, set dates, make plans, apply for passport.
- 9 months prior to the trip, \$200 non-refundable deposit & application.
- 6 months prior to trip, reserve group plane tickets.
- 1 month prior to trip, pay the final amount due.
- Day of the trip, bring the designated cash and any extra cash with you.

Cost

- The cost is approximately \$1,300 - \$1,600.

- Breakdown of the general cost are:
 - \$500-\$800 Airfare
 - \$650 Food, Lodging, Transportation, Activities
 - \$150 Travel Meals/Snacks, Souvenirs, Spending Money.
- If you do not have a valid passport, you must obtain one for an additional \$135. Airline Tickets range from \$500-\$800. We base our pricing roundtrip from Atlanta, GA to Bucaramanga, Colombia. If you are not flying into or from either of these airports, the pricing may be different.
- The cost doesn't include transportation from your house to the airport and vice versa or meals previous to the time you are flying out.
- The cost does include everything from once you check in at the airport until you return back to the airport (unless there is something unexpected).
- It is not hard to have enough money but you should start planning now.
- It is better to have "too much money" and leave an offering than leave missionaries to pay your load. You are responsible to cover unexpected expenses during this trip.
- You will also be visiting churches and will have the opportunity to give in the offering. This is money you will need to prepare in advance and above the trip cost. This is your opportunity to be a great blessing to the churches.
- You will be responsible for any incurred expenses due to interrupted travel plans, price changes, or any problems that are unforeseen.

Schedule & Activities

- Devotional time each day.
- Attend church services in a brand new church plant
- Orientation, missions classes and discussion.

- Various outreach activities. i.e. tract distribution, orphanages, etc.
- Visit and tour the central part of town - streets filled with people.
- Shopping in the markets and interacting with the local people.
- Visit the local tourist areas of the city.
- Visit the graveyard and consider your life.
- Go to the highest point in the city and pray over the city.

Passports

- Everyone participating on the trip needs a passport.
- You need to get your passport ASAP.
- This is the first step if you are really considering this trip. We need your passport number to for the application and to possibly to make reservations for plane tickets or hotels.
- You can apply for a passport through your local court house/post office.
- You will need a couple of passport photos, two pieces of identification, and the required fee.
- It can take several weeks to get your passport so please start early.
- Call your local courthouse/post office to be sure of what you will need to do. Also, you can check online.
- Every person is responsible for their own passport.
- Every person needs to bring a copy of their birth certificate in case you loose your passport on the trip.
- Keep your birth certificate in a different place than your passport.
- If you loose your passport, you will have to apply for a new one at the nearest embassy.

- You will be responsible for all of the cost that is involved with replacing your passport (i.e. Passport Fee, Traveling to the Embassy, Etc.).
- If you do not have an American Passport, please let your group leader know, because there may be different requirements for you.

Visas

- Unless you plan to come to Colombia on a long-term basis, there are very little requirements for a US citizen to enter the country. In fact, a tourist visa will be all that you need for any trip lasting under 3 months.

Shots & Vaccinations

- You are not required to take any special shots or vaccinations to come to our area.
- You are responsible to investigate and act as you see fit.

Traveling & Arrival

- Keep in mind, for international flights, you are supposed to be at the airport at least 3 hours before your flight. Plan enough time to travel and arrive at the airport on time.
- Remember your passport and keep it on you! Don't pack it in your luggage. You can use it as your ID in the airport and must use it once you leave the USA.
- If you want to exchange money, bring new bills. Many banks reject older bills and refuse to exchange them for us.
- Everything won't go perfect and at times plans might change drastically so when things like this happen our motto is "Adjust, Adjust, Adjust!"
- Once you get to the airport, you need to check in all the bags (except your carry-ons and personal items). You can try to check in as a group!

- Once you are checked in, you will need to go through security. After security, you will find your terminal and gate. After this you can take a deep breath and get some food. Just watch your time and note when they start boarding.
- Keep all luggage tags and ticket stubs. Once you arrive in Colombia, they may ask you to see them.
- If you don't have a direct flight, you should still only need to pick up your luggage once you arrive in Colombia. Check with the clerk at the ticket counter to make sure. Once you arrive at your layover destination, check in and find your gate as before.
- Once you get to Colombia, you need to go through customs and the baggage area and collect all of your bags (follow the crowd). Then you have to re-check-in all the bags and go through the whole process again (if you are flying to another city in Colombia).
- Once you finally arrive at your destination, we will get all the bags and take a bus to the place you will be staying. For those that are hungry, we can make a McDonald's stop (even if it is midnight)!
- Your body will be tired from travel. Rest on the plane if you can.
- Stay up the first full day here. You will be worn out and want to sleep, but try to stay up the first day you are in Colombia and it will help you adjust for the rest of the week.

Housing

- There are different options for housing and you need to be prepared for each and make sure you have a good attitude no matter where you end up staying.
- Each person could be staying in a hotel, the home of one of the missionaries, or a rented apartment. Wherever you stay, there should be electricity, running water and a bed.
- There may be several unexpected inconveniences, but then again, this is the mission field.

- When you are “on the move,” each person might only have a chair for the night. You most likely will spend a night in an airport coming to the country. We might travel overnight by bus to another city, in which you will have a reclining chair if available. Basically, be prepared for minor inconveniences.
- If you are staying in a missionary’s house, please be considerate and remember the following:
 - Do not drape wet towels over the back of varnished dining room chairs, leave your beverage glass sitting in a puddle of water on the coffee table or end tables, etc.
 - Do not go into the closet or kitchen cabinets to get out clothing or food without permission. Many times the missionary has candy or special foods that he has brought from the states that will be rationed to his children over a long period of time.
 - Help out! Don’t sit there and let the missionaries serve you. Go to the kitchen, see what you can do to help. Pick up after yourself. Take your dishes to the kitchen, help wash dishes. Make up your bed. Ask what you can do to help. Be a blessing.
 - This home has been opened to you. It is not a motel to be treated carelessly because you paid for the room.

Food

- You will be eating Colombian meals from local restaurants, American meals prepared by the missionary wives and maybe a few fast food stops.
- Meals may not be served at the consistent breakfast, lunch, and dinner times, but you should be well fed during your time here.
- You will get meals on the plane, but it is also a good idea to bring snacks.
- You should take caution from drinking water from the tap. Colombia’s water is much purer than other places in the world, and will be fine for brushing your

teeth, but you should still take precautions in only drinking bottled water. Bottled water is easily accessible and available.

Safety / Caution

- **Thieves**—Always be careful to watch your things while on the trip or in town. Airports and busy city centers always have lots of thieves, pickpockets, etc. Do not wear excessive amounts of jewelry or something that might call attention to thieves. Do not flash your money around.
- **Neglect**—Please pay attention to your items as many things are lost simply do to neglect or leaving them in a taxi.
- **Stay Together**—The group should stay together at all times and you should not wonder off by yourself. This is for your safety. There should be the basic buddy system and if you need to go somewhere, you are feeling sick, have to go to the bathroom, or want to go back to the hotel, first ask the group leader and lead missionary.
- **Own Risk**—Colombia has had a tainted history of kidnappings and violence. That has changed drastically in the past 10-20 years and it is no longer the red-zone it once was. In fact, you will find most places in Colombia to be safer than cities in the US. That being said, please know you come at your own risk and we hope you come willing to suffer for His name's sake if anything happens.

Luggage

- Check with the airline to see what the luggage requirements are.
- Normally airlines allow two checked pieces of luggage, one carry-on, and one personal item.
- If each person is allow two checked bags, we ask each person only to bring one checked bag and allow the missionaries to use their second check bag to transport supplies (this is a huge help and blessing to the missionaries).

- If you are asked to carry this second checked bag for the missionary, the trip leader will coordinate with you so that each person in the group can bring one bag in and take another out for the missionaries if needed.
- When bringing the extra bag through security, if they stop and open it, don't act like, "this isn't my bag, I don't know what's in it." You can just say, "it is stuff for the friends we are visiting."
- There are weight and size limits on each checked bag. The airlines can confirm the weight. Usually, it cannot weigh over 50 pounds and the carry on must be small enough to fit under the seat in front of you or in the overhead bin.
- If your luggage is overweight, when you get to the airport they will make you pay a pretty big fee or you must take stuff out of the bag (and you will just have to throw it away or stuff it in your carry on) for them to check the bag. You are responsible for any overweight fees.
- Pack light. You are responsible for carrying your own luggage. We will be taking many different means of transportation and packing light makes it more convenient.
- Keep your carry-ons with you. You usually don't have to weigh them and check them in (a carry-on can be a suitcase and a personal item can be a backpack).
- We have had luggage lost before. It was never found, nor was reimbursement given for it. So with that being said, if there is something you can't afford to lose, don't bring it or put it in the checked luggage.

Dress

- We ask groups to dress modestly (at your discretion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) to be an example to the church here.
- During the week, feel free to dress casual. The city can be dirty and we will be doing a lot of traveling.
- During service time, treat it the same way as you do in America. Speakers should wear a shirt and tie, but it is not mandatory.

- Bring/wear comfortable walking shoes for all the walking we will be doing.
- Take an extra pair of clothes with you in your carry on in case your luggage is lost or delayed.
- Wear comfortable clothes when traveling, you will be in them for a long time. Also, at the airports you will be going through several metal detectors etc. so don't wear too much bling.
- Yes, it is okay to wear shirts with "Christian logos" (cross, church, verses, etc.).
- Pack for a mild climate. You will be in Bucaramanga, Colombia for most of your trip, where the weather stays about 70-80 degrees, and a little cooler at night. It might be good to bring a light jacket. Also, It rains most afternoons, so a small, travel umbrella would not be a bad idea.
- If you are unsure, contact the missionary to find out what would be the most appropriate attire for the weather during your visit.

Electronics

- Electronics: Feel free to bring whatever electronics you want but remember we use a different plug. The voltage is the same as found in the US (110) but many outlets do not have a third prong for a ground. In other words, it might be good to bring a few 3 prong to 2 prong adapters for your computer/appliances that have 3 prongs. Anything from the states with only 2 prongs will fit well.
- Remember, you always have the chance of something getting stolen.
- Your flight to Colombia may show a movie or TV show. Some people take their computers or DVD players to watch stuff on the plane, but know this option may be available, so it's not necessary.
- Most cell phones will automatically work internationally now, but you will be charged a fee for every text, call, data, etc. Make sure to keep your phone in "Airplane Mode" to avoid these charges.

- The missionary should be able to provide a way for you to call the States for free if needed. Also, if any of your family needs to contact you, in an emergency, we can provide a number for them to call and reach you.

Culture

- It is important to remember you are crossing cultural lines! They don't do everything like you do back home.
- Do not treat their church any differently than you would a church in the USA.
- Don't treat national pastors any differently than you would a pastor in the USA.
- Do not eat or drink in front of them without offering them something.
- Do not constantly criticize their country or talk about your country and all that you miss there or how it is better, etc. Don't bring up and joke about drugs and violence. This is a touchy subject and often offends the Colombians.
- Develop a taste for their foods. Eat with them. Do not turn your nose up at their food.
- Do not skip church or stay outside the building during church services, even if you don't understand etc. Get involved with the people in the service.
- Look at things like they do. They aren't strange or new—you are.
- Do not refer to Colombia as a third-world country.
- If you are not used to being called fat, being stared at, or having people wanting to take pictures with you, then get used to it and don't take offense while you are here. Just smile and don't let it bother you.
- I hope you like Colombian food, because we will eat a lot of it! We also have some American restaurants in our city: McDonalds, Pizza, Burgers, etc...
- Make sure to always have toilet paper on you. Most bathrooms don't have toilet paper in them.

- Culture shock that you might experience from a short-trip: time change, huge city, poverty, dirtiness, the only white people are in our group, the amount of people, eating different foods, or not being able to speak to the majority of the people.

Preaching, Testimonies & Evangelism

- We want everyone who is willing to have a chance to preach, testify, and participate in evangelism.
- Your group leader will organize this with the missionaries according to the service times and those willing to participate.
- Preaching will be reserved for those in full-time ministry or preparing for full-time ministry. Please note the following:
 - Don't use jokes unless you check with the missionary to make sure they will translate.
 - For any unfamiliar words or stories, check with the interpreter to make sure they know the less commonly used words.
 - Don't speak fast unless your interpreter can keep up with you.
 - Speak, stop for interpretation, speak, stop for interpretation. Don't speak a paragraph and then stop for interpretation, speak in phrases or short sentences.
- If you are willing to give your testimony in one of the service, please follow these guidelines:
 - Write out your testimony. It will surprise you how easy it is to get sidetracked by all the commotion and interpreting.
 - Keep it brief, maybe about 3 minutes! With interpretation, 3 minutes will turn into 5!
 - Open with a greeting in Spanish. The folks like it when you try to speak their language and show a genuine interest in them.

- Tell who you are and a little bit about yourself: married, work, family, etc.
- Add a couple of positive statements about the country, the church, and the people!
- Do not talk about the poverty of the area, the currency as funny money, how sorry you feel for them, etc.
- Tell what Christ has done for you, how you got saved, how you realized your need of a Savior, how your life has changed, how Christ has helped you lately.
- Give a verse and make sure to give the application.
- Do not give graphic details about your sin or your past life.
- Avoid slang, idioms and jokes. It usually doesn't interpret with the same meaning.
- Do not use very long sentences or very short either. Give a good thought that can be easily remembered by the interpreter!
- Avoid stressing your material success or blessings and especially making any comparisons to what the people have in the country you are visiting!
- Avoid speaking of the sacrifice that you made to get to the field.
- Remember what it cost you to get to the country may be several months of a working-man's income.
- You may share with them the blessing of being able to come and how good God was to answer your prayers and make it possible to be there!
- Thank the folks again and ask them to pray for you. Be excited about the country and the opportunity to be there.
- When conversing with those who speak English, share your testimony with them and ask them their testimony. Sharing the Gospel is always our goal!

- The two things that we try to avoid are (1) anything political (2) openly giving the idea that we are better than the Colombian people. We just want to bring them to Jesus! We don't want to set up walls of contention that would make it harder for them to accept our message.
- We usually just refer to ourselves as Bible teachers instead of missionaries because outside of the U.S. "missionary" has a bad connotation (what would you think of a foreign person you met who said he was a missionary to your hometown). We would rather have someone compelled because we started talking about Jesus verses turned off because we gave our title.

Journal Your Trip

- We encourage those taking a mission trip to keep a journal of the trip through writing down what happens each day and taking pictures and video.
- Because of today's technology, your journaling might not be by means of pencil and paper, maybe a computer or iPad. Whatever it may be, record your trip.
- You will be so busy during the trip and so tired by the end of it, you don't want to forget all the great things that happened and that you experienced.
- Journaling will allow you to share with your family, friends, and church all that God did in your life on the trip.
- Here are some ideas to help you journal:
 - Write down your daily thoughts and events.
 - Keep a record of your prayer requests.
 - Keep a record of how you felt on the trip.
 - Keep a list of what you are learning and how God is working in your life.
 - Right down quotes and sayings that you hear that are a blessing for you.
 - Review your day with God.
 - Start before you leave home.

- Set aside a quiet time each day for writing.
- Talk to your journal as though it were your best friend.
- Keep your journal confidential.
- Here are some questions you could answer:
 - What did I learn today that will benefit my spiritual life?
 - What areas of my life does God seem to be talking to me about right now?
 - What did I learn about serving Him?
 - What did we do today?
 - Who did we meet today?
 - What decision did you make today for your spiritual life and growth?

Airplane Tickets

- If you are coming as a church group, you will need to find and purchase the airplane tickets as a group.
- You can do this through an online website or through a travel agency.
- Be constantly looking for cheap tickets online. Sometimes you can find a great deal. Sign up for cheap fare alerts from different websites.
- Note that many travel websites will limit the number of tickets you can purchase (usually 6–9) at one time or per transaction. Also, you will need a credit card with a balance large enough to purchase the tickets for the group.
- If the group has 10 people or more you can buy group tickets through a travel agent. We recommend Laurie Shuping (www.shupingtravel.com). Usually you are only required to pay \$100 per ticket to reserve seating for the group. The remaining cost of the tickets is due 90 days from the time of travel. This also allows you to change the name on the ticket with 72 to 24 hours before the

time of travel. So if someone has to drop out, you don't lose the ticket. It is good to reserve the tickets for 6 months before the trip.

- Airfare can be purchased from the US to Bucaramanga, Colombia (BGA). You will have to fly in to either Bogotá (BOG) or Medellín (MDE). Your host will help you make arrangements in the country.
- Please check with your host before purchasing the tickets to confirm the dates work and the time of arrival/departure. For example, if you arrived on Sunday morning at 10:30, this would be a problem since the host would be in church.
- If you are NOT flying directly to your destination city, you will have to purchase a second ticket. The host can help you purchase this ticket, but it may not be cheaper than a direct flight.
- Remember, this can be stressful, so be well organized and ask for help when needed.

Leader Responsibilities

- Mobilize people in the church to participate in the trip.
- Make information about the trip easily available.
- Make a sign-up sheet and have people who are interested sign-up.
- Plan an orientation meeting to explain the details and answer question.
- Print and give everyone the About, Information, and Application documents.
- For everyone who is committed on going on the trip, have them:
 - Read, fill-out, sign, date, and turn in the application and covenant.
 - Turn in their money for each deadline.
 - Apply for Passports ASAP! This is urgent if they don't have one.
- Prepare a Passenger Manifest to keep up with all vital information about those going. It can include all the information on the application, such as, name,

photo copy of passport, passport number, shirt size, phone number, amount paid so far, and any signed documents etc.

- Turn in all the applications for each person to the missionary via Macedonia World Baptist Missions with the necessary money due per person.
- Search for and Purchase the airplane tickets about 6 months prior to the trip.
- Give all group members a copy of the trip itinerary.
- Plan at least two meetings where you cover the content of the trip documents to help build camaraderie and excitement about the upcoming trip.
- Prepare yourself and the group spiritually.
- Assist the missionary in any area need to make the trip go smoothly.

COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP: APPLICATION

If you are ready to sign-up for the Colombia mission trip and have already read our “About” and “Information” documents, then this application is your next step.

Checklist

- Sign up with the group leader.
- Read, fill-out, sign, date and turn in this application and covenant.
- Turn in a photocopy of your passport with the application.
- Turn in your funds and whatever is needed by each deadline.
- Apply for your passport ASAP! This is the first step if you don’t have one.
- Attend any meetings about the upcoming trip.
- Prepare yourself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Authority: _____

Church Membership: _____

Church Website: _____

Your Occupation: _____ Position: _____

Marital Status: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Talents (Singing/Instruments/Etc.) : _____

Languages Spoken & Degree of Fluency: _____

Other Countries You Have Visited: _____

Anything you want us to know? _____

Medical

Describe any medical conditions you have (that a doctor might need to know about on this trip). _____

List any prescription medications (generic name, strength, frequency of dosage):

Describe Your General Health Condition: _____

Please list any known allergies: _____

Doctor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency

In the event of an emergency, whom should we notify? _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Covenant

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission trip. I understand that Colombia does not have the same conveniences that I am used to at home. I realize how important it is to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of my host. If accepted on this trip, I agree to the following:

- I will go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during this trip. I will maintain and exhibit a good attitude that will honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I realize that it is my responsibility to die to myself and seek to serve others. I will not seek my own, but that of others. This means not putting myself first and leaving the others out. I will be a blessing to all on our team and especially those that I have come to minister to.
- I realize and agree that this is a missions trip and not a vacation. I want to go on this trip to learn more about missions, learn how I can serve God better, and be a blessing to other Christians and the missionaries on the field. I will not complain about the food, lodging accommodations, etc. I will conscientiously set aside the time to have my personal devotions and take care of my daily responsibilities both spiritually and physically. I will attend all services, activities, outings, etc. and carry my share of the load in the work we are trying to accomplish.
- I will accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the trip leader and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they conduct this mission trip. I will submit to the instructions concerning attire, eating, drinking and other such traditions that will help me to assimilate into the local community. I agree that

in the event that my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.

- I will avoid any actions which might be perceived as amorous attentions toward indigenous people I meet. Before I give a gift to someone I will consult with the team leader and missionary and allow him to make the final decision on this matter.
- I will always pay my own way! I will trust God to provide my funds to be able to pay for this trip. I won't expect the missionaries or national pastors to pay my expenses or team expenses. I take full financial responsibility for any interruptions on the trip which may be above and beyond the original stated amount.
- I will be a gracious guest. I realize I am a houseguest and will not act carelessly. I will serve, pick up after myself and ask what I can do to help. I will be respectful of the missionary's home. I will treat the possessions of the owner with care. I will always leave a home and its furnishings in as good a condition as I found them. I will do any house-duties asked of me. I will respect the missionaries right to privacy. I will try to be a blessing to the missionaries so they will remember and be glad and thankful that I was on the trip.
- I will remember I am the new Christian from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I realize that others on my team, during the journey, and while onsite will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and will not treat that responsibility lightly. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for our missionary hosts, and to do my best to help them attain their long term goals.
- I understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.

- Given the nature of this mission trip, ministry and location I will be desirous of working in a church-planting ministry, humble enough to be taught to make disciples, spiritually mature to maintain a joyful attitude, physically able to work long and changing hours, bold enough to risk expulsion from the country, supportive of the missionary's ministry strategy and willing to abide by the team's guidelines and rules.
- I release and discharge the organizations and individuals which helped me make these arrangements, including (but not limited to) Aaron Vance, Macedonia World Baptist Missions, their agents, employees, officers and volunteers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, or executions that I have ever had, or now have, or may have, or which my heirs, executors, administrators or assigns may have or claim to have against these organizations, their agents, employees, officers, and volunteers, and their successors or assigns for all personal injuries, known or unknown and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of this journey. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.

Signature

In signing below, I represent that I am 18 years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, accepting the above conditions on my behalf. Also, I have filled out this application truthfully, to the best of my knowledge.

Participant's Name (Please Print): _____

Participants Signature: _____ Date: _____

If participant is under 18 years of age, parent or legal guardian's signature:

_____ Date: _____