



### **A Note from our Founder**

Hello Missionaries!

I'm excited about your interest in an upcoming mission trip. I know that the Lord will bless you as you obey the Lord in taking the Gospel to other countries. You're fulfilling the command of Jesus to *"...go and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19.*

You have many things to do as you prepare for your upcoming trip, but there is one thing you must do, or else your mission efforts will be of little value. Your "must do" assignment is to prepare spiritually. In the upcoming days, make your daily devotion time with the Lord your top priority as you carve out time each morning to "center" yourself in Christ. Confess your sins daily and walk through the day with your eyes and heart open to what the Lord wants to show you. Learn something new everyday for Him and His word! When God is your teacher, the new discoveries are endless and priceless!

You are about to begin a journey that will change your life. I know that your family and church will be proud of you. You are their ambassadors! Go and share the love of Jesus with the world and know that wherever you go your Lord is with you.

*...for the least of these....*

~Bill Howard

Founder

Website: [www.disciplesvillage.org](http://www.disciplesvillage.org)

Or Find us on Facebook!

## TEAM MEMBER PACKET

Haiti is a country like no other. It is a land and a people rich in complexities and contradictions. Haiti's history is deeply embedded into every Haitian. It affects every aspect of their social, cultural and most importantly, their psychological framework. This can be a challenge to comprehend.

Many visitors come to Haiti with the best of intentions because they see everything Haiti doesn't have compared to all they have. Haitians are very much aware of this. As a foreigner, you are viewed as having means far beyond the reaches of the average Haitian. From time to time, you may be asked for money. Resist the urge to give a handout. At the least, you will deepen their dependency on Americans. At the worst, you could create an unsafe situation. Instead of giving money, offer a caring smile, a warm handshake and convey the truth through your words and actions that Jesus loves them, that you love them, and that all people are equal in the eyes of our Lord. Embrace Haiti for what it is and it's people for who they are!

### **A few tips to remember:**

- o Greet them as family – they are your brothers and sisters whom you are meeting for the first time.
- o Greet them with a Haitian phrase. You show respect when you learn their language. Practice some basic Creole phrases found in your packet.
- o Smile a lot... your face is your passport! They will follow your lead.
- o Establishing a relationship first is the pathway to a mutually respectful experience.
- o Be still and listen/observe. What is the Lord saying to you?
- o Remember that what may enrich you may violate others. If you are unsure about anything, don't do it.
- o Proper dress will lead the way to more respect than overly casual wear. Please review and adhere to dress code policy below.
- o Haiti is hot, dusty, and noisy. Not everything may be up to your standard. Be prepared, patient, and understanding.
- o Be aware that you are seeing Haiti through your own particular lens. What you may see or consider as being poor, Haitians may not. Do not disrespect them by feeling sorry for them when they may be proud to have what they have and choose to share it with you.
- o ***Avoid bringing candy for our children. A cavity in Haiti is more difficult to deal with than in the States, and we want to promote and encourage healthy eating habits. Please feel free to bring and share healthy snacks such as raisins, fruit cups, goldfish, crackers and/or granola bars.***

## Haitian Creole

There is a proverb in Haiti that goes like this... *Figi ou se paspo ou...* Your face is your passport. This means that Haitians respond well when you smile and say a simple *Bonjou* or *Bonswa*. It is your best passport to Haiti! To learn more creole, we recommend Haiti Hub at [www.haitihub.com](http://www.haitihub.com) (Disciples' Village guests receive a special rate for lifetime membership) or <http://sweetcoconuts.blogspot.com> for free lessons.

## Accommodations

Our teams stay at our York Guesthouse, which is located across the street from our orphanage in Kalico, Haiti. The York Guesthouse provides a safe haven for our teams, and is a retreat for its guests. Guesthouse accommodations include running water, indoor toilets, indoor & outdoor showers (cold only), bunk beds, electrical outlets, fans, sheets, pillows, towels and meeting areas. We have a guitar for teams to use, but you might want to bring an extra set of strings for team worship.

Please refrain from flushing toilet paper in our guesthouse toilets. Also, please use water sparingly. It is a very valuable and sometimes scarce resource.

On Friday morning, trusted local vendors will “set up shop” inside the walls of our guesthouse to allow team members to shop for local souvenirs and experience the Haitian shopping experience in a safe, non-threatening atmosphere. Negotiation is encouraged.

## Food

The food is excellent at the York Guesthouse, and breakfast and dinner are included in your trip costs. However, individual team members are encouraged to bring plenty of snacks for lunch and in between meals. Filtered drinking water will be available at all times. Soft drinks and bottled water are available for \$1.00 so please bring \$1 bills. Diet drinks are rarely available in Haiti.

## Common Daily Schedule

Rule of Thumb: “Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape!”

**7:30 a.m.** Breakfast - promptly when the bell rings

**7:50 a.m.** Morning devotions and prayer

**8:45 a.m.** Leave for ministry – please make sure your team is ready “to go” at this time – water bottles filled and bags packed.

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch – team members are reminded to bring their own food for lunch. 1:00 p.m. Resume ministry

**4:00 p.m.** Return to Guesthouse

**5:30 p.m.** Dinner –promptly when the bell rings

**7:00 p.m.** Evening devotions & debrief

**8:00 p.m.** Free time

\* We worship in a local church on Sunday. Please dress properly. See dress code listed below.

\* One day towards the end of the trip will be “Your Day Off.” Groups can decide between a day at the beach, a day in the mountains, a Fun Day with our Alex’s House kiddos, or if there is undone task that just need to be done, your group can spend part of the day completing ministry goals.

### **Dress Code**

We continue to live and learn in Haiti and understand more about its culture. This experience and subsequent talks with pastor friends have given us the understanding that shorts, especially on women and sometimes on men as well, are viewed as inappropriate dress for business and worship. Therefore, in order to ensure that our Christian witness is strong and positive, please adhere to the following dress code while in Haiti:

#### **MEN:**

Sunday Church - Long pants and closed shoes (tennis shoes acceptable)

Ministry Sites during week - Long pants (sandals may be worn)

On Construction site - Long pants & closed-toe shoes

At York House & Alex's House Orphanage - (long) shorts are acceptable\*

#### **WOMEN:**

Sunday Church - Long skirts and dresses with shoulders covered. Sandals are acceptable.

Ministry sites during the week - Long skirts / long dresses with shoulders covered.

Sandals are acceptable.

On Construction site - Long pants & closed-toe shoes

At York House & Alex's House - (long) shorts or pants are acceptable\*

Swimming - One-piece suits

\* Note – longer shorts can only be worn on our property - York House & Alex's House

\* No gym / workout garments at any time

In keeping with the Haitian culture, jewelry should be minimized (no jewelry is preferred

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and men should have no earrings.) **Body piercing of any kind, on either male or female, is unacceptable with the exception of pierced ears on females. In general, the Haitian culture frowns upon tattoos, so please be prepared and willing to cover all exposed tattoos while ministering and serving with Alex's House.** Improper dress is considered disrespectful to the Haitian people. Even the poorest Haitian family takes great pride in personal cleanliness and proper dress.

### **Donated Items for Disciples' Village/Alex's House Orphanage**

As previously stated, **avoid bringing candy for our children.** A cavity in Haiti is more difficult to deal with than in the States, and we want to promote and encourage healthy eating habits. Please feel free to bring and share healthy snacks such as raisins, fruit cups, goldfish, crackers and/or granola bars.

If you desire to bring extra clothing or items for our children, it will be greatly appreciated. For clothing, please place each outfit in a Ziploc bag with the estimated size/age and gender of the child written on the bag. This will make for a smoother distribution of the goods. The same goes for clothing, socks, shoes and undergarments. If you have any questions about what may or may not be appropriate for our children or what their needs are, please contact us.

Many teams ask "what can we bring?" As a result, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know some of our continued needs and suggestions. Please know that you coming is more than enough, but if anyone is interested in helping through bringing donations, here are some suggestions that will help significantly. Your donations make a huge difference in Haiti, and we are so grateful for anything you bring. At a convenient time during your trip, please assemble all donated items that your team has brought (Sunday afternoon is a good time for this), and bring to the kitchen's pantry at Alex's House Orphanage. If you have willing team members, please divide up the following list among your team:

#### **NEEDED FOOD ITEMS (order of priority):**

- 5 Dry/Powdered Milk (64 oz)
- 1-2 containers of Raisins (20 oz)
- 8 containers of Herring fish fillets
- 8 containers/cans of Salmon fillets
- 3 Large Jars of Peanut Butter (any kind)
- 2 plastic Jars of Jelly

**NEEDED HYGIENE ITEMS (per team):**

4-5 bottles of children's shampoo  
Extra rolls of toilet paper for guesthouse

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2-3 bottles of Coca Butter Lotion (20 oz or more)  
12 BARS of soap (any kind) – no liquid soap  
4 Tubes of Toothpaste – kid's toothpaste would be great  
2 boxes of Baby Wipes



**Extra Spending Money**

If you chose to bring extra spending money for soft drinks and souvenirs, we recommend smaller bills (\$1 and \$5 bills). Soft drinks are available for purchase at the guesthouse for \$1.00, so please pack some ones!

Your team will visit a local Haitian church on Sunday where a offering plate will be passed around. Please feel free to give what the Lord lays on your heart. No amount is too small or too large.

**Praise Songs and Bible Story Preparations**

As a team, please come with at least 3 praise/worship songs prepared and be ready to sing as group at local church and during devotional time each morning. You might also have an opportunity to deliver an 8-10 minute (translates into 15 minutes) message to a local church or our children, so please designate someone in your group to prepare a short message from God's word, in the event an opportunity presents itself. Please be prepared to **PASSIONATELY** teach God's word . . . please refrain from just reading off a sheet of paper that you have prepared.

**If your team is doing community bible clubs, please make sure your teachers are well prepared and have studied the passage thoroughly. Encourage them to teach God's word with passion and conviction! Engage and interact with the audience and**

**make a life application step – explain how they can apply God's words to their lives today!! God's word is ALIVE!!!! We encourage storying the bible, acting out God's word through skits, games, and appropriate crafts. If you have questions, please ask our Missions Director.**

## **Fundraising Letters**

Some team members will provide their own funding while others will prefer to send out letters to gain prayer and financial support for their trip. We encourage you to send out letters requesting prayer and financial support to at least 25 friends and/or family members as it allows others to be a part who may be unable to physically go themselves. Don't be afraid to ask! The Lord may pleasantly surprise you! Please remember that a letter done with excellence gives evidence of the importance and value of the mission God has entrusted to you. A sample fundraising letter is available on our website under "Mission Trip."

## **Suggested Vaccinations & Medicine for Haiti Trip**

**For more information visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/Haiti.aspx>. We recommend that you see your local physician or a travel clinic to help determine which vaccines and medications you need and are appropriate for you in light of any medical conditions you may have.**

**None of these are required by law, but some are recommended by CDC:**

- 1. Hepatitis A** - recommended for all volunteers
- 2. Malaria Prevention Medication** – recommended for all volunteers
- 3. Typhoid** – recommended for all volunteers
- 4. Hepatitis B** – especially if you are a medical volunteer
- 5. Tetanus** – recommended for all volunteers.

## Team Member Packing List

### Clothes

- **Please see Dress Code above.**

### Footwear

- **Closed-toe Shoes** (comfortable and broken in. Most cross-training sneakers are fine. Hiking shoes – like an REI-brand – can be great if you know you'll be doing a lot of walking outside of city centers.)
- **Water Shoes** (like Chaco's or Teva's or sandals for showering and river bathing. Also, Chaco's and other footwear of this type can, surprisingly, dress up just enough with nicer outfits.)

### Sun Protection

- **Hat** (baseball caps work fine, full brimmed hats are a good option for those who are quicker to sunburn)
- **Sunscreen**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Chapstick** with SPF protection
- **Water Bottles** (Purified water will be available to refill your bottles daily. Flavored powdering recommended.)

### Supplies

- **Bible**
- **Passport** and a photocopy of the picture page of your passport (keep the copy on your person and your actual passport at your guest house/hotel/home base)
- **1-2 rolls of toilet paper!** Please refrain from flushing toilet paper in toilets. Please carry a plastic grocery bag for used toilet paper. Also, please conserve as much water as possible – short showers.



- **Work gloves**
- **Small Flashlight** with fresh batteries (or a personal LED headlight is a great option) □ **Bug Repellent (30%-50% DEET)**
- **Baby Wipes and/or Anti Bacterial Wipes**, or pre-moistened wipes (great for the bathroom and also for wiping down at the end of a day as a shower replacement)
- **Medications** you take regularly.
- **Anti-malarial** medication (chloroquine, malarone, or doxycyclene)
- **Anti-diarrhea** medication (a prescription for Cipro or a Cipro-equivalent from your doctor is great in addition to Immodium)
- **Laxatives or stool softeners**
- **Tylenol** or aspirin (just in case)
- **Toiletries** (toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, razor, etc... )
- **Tampons/pads** (even if you don't anticipate needing them). Panty-liners are also very useful and can extend your underwear supply.
- **Earplugs** (help you sleep even when the room is noisy or the roosters get going early in the morning)
- **Antibacterial Gel** (one small travel bottle is fine)

- **Snacks** for lunch and snack time. Snacks that won't melt much (trail mix and nuts, jerky, power bars/cliff bars, instant oatmeal)
- **Compact notebook and pen**
- **Cash** for souvenirs and incidentals (bring it in 1's5's because many small merchants won't give change in dollars)
- **Daypack** (so you can have your water, notebook, pen, snack, camera, etc. with you during day programs)
- **Plastic grocery bags** (great for everything – dirty clothes, wet items, shoes, etc... and they take up practically no space in your bag)

#### **Optional Clothing & Supplies**

- **Buff** or Buff-type "multi-tasking bandana" (these can be great in lots of situations. See here for more: [http://www.buffusa.com/wear/how\\_to\\_wear\\_a\\_buff](http://www.buffusa.com/wear/how_to_wear_a_buff))
- **Scrubs** (are a standard go-to for medical folks. Scrub pants especially are good for many activities.)
- **Swimsuit** (if you know you'll be in the ocean or going through a river on foot). Women should wear a modest one piece or tankini that fully covers the belly.
- **Crystal Lite or powdered flavoring for water** to add variety to your water; sugar packets, if you wish to add it to coffee
- **Camera** with any replacement batteries (you may not be able to recharge) □ **Monkey Butt or other powder for chafing**(you may want this if you know you'll be doing many miles of walking)

#### **Miscellaneous Advice**

- Avoid drinking or digesting faucet water in Haiti. Brush your teeth with bottled water that is provided, and keep your mouth closed when showering.
- You will have the opportunity to buy souvenirs from local Haitian business owners. Be sure to bring small bills in good (not torn) condition. Torn bills may result in refusal to accept bills by the Haitian vendors.
- For a trip of 1 week or less, it's unlikely that you will wash your dirty clothes. For a trip of 2+ weeks, you will have an opportunity to wash dirty laundry (it could be by hand). Plan accordingly.
- For longer hair, baby powder can be great for soaking up oil and helping you feel/smell cleaner if it's several days between showers. You may want to consider bringing a travel

- size bottle if you've got longer hair.
- Electrical outlets are the same as in the U.S., so no need to bring a converter.

## Staying Healthy During Your Trip

**Center for Disease Control** <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/Haiti>

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### Prevent Insect Bites

Many diseases, like [malaria](#) and [dengue](#), are spread through insect bites. One of the best protections is to prevent insect bites by:

- Using insect repellent (bug spray) with 30%-50% DEET
- Wearing long pants and a hat outdoors
- Sleeping in beds covered by nets treated with pyrethrum, if not sleeping in an air-conditioned or well-screened room
- Spraying rooms with products effective against flying insects, such as those containing pyrethroid.

### Prevent Animal Bites and Scratches

Direct contact with animals can spread diseases like rabies or cause serious injury or illness. It is important to prevent animal bites and scratches.

- Be sure you are up-to-date with tetanus vaccination.
- Do not touch or feed any animals, including dogs and cats. Even animals that look like healthy pets can have rabies or other diseases.
- Help children stay safe by supervising them carefully around all animals. ● If you are bitten or scratched, wash the wound well with soap and water and go to a doctor right away. After your trip, be sure to tell your doctor or state health department if you were bitten or scratched during travel.

### Be Careful about Food and Water

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60% alcohol.
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.

- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.

### **After You Return Home**

If you are not feeling well, you should see your doctor and mention that you have recently traveled. Also tell your doctor if you were bitten or scratched by an animal while traveling. If you have visited a malaria-risk area, continue taking your chloroquine for four weeks after leaving the risk area.

**Malaria is always a serious disease and may be a deadly illness.** If you become ill with a fever or flu-like illness either while traveling in a malaria-risk area or after you return home (for up to 1 year), you should seek **immediate** medical attention and should tell the physician your travel history.

**Important Note:** This document is not a complete medical guide for travelers to this region. Consult with your doctor for specific information related to your needs and your

medical history. Recommendations may differ for pregnant women, young children, and persons who have chronic medical conditions.

## **Departure Day Tips**

### **Checking Baggage**

- Be certain you meet the requirements for checked and carry on baggage with your selected airline.
- Keep your baggage claims tickets in a safe place (with passport, etc), as you will need these to claim your checked bags in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure that you have your reservation confirmation number and flight information for the departure and return flights. Internet connection is not guaranteed in Haiti. ● After you have passed airport security, but before you board plane, fill up your water bottle so that you will have water available at the Haiti airport. Once you land in Haiti, you will need to be intentional about maintaining hydration. **On the Plane**
  - *Immigration Forms.* You will receive a green form and a white form. Both need to be completed while on the plane.
    - o Needed information
      - Full name, home address, passport information, contact Information, length of stay, purpose of visit (personal).
        - **Address and contact phone number where you are staying in Haiti:**

**Kalico Beach**  
**Km 61, Route National #1**  
**Carries, Haiti**
- Ensure that you have both of these forms, your passport, and your baggage claim stubs out and ready before you get off the plane.
- **Note: Photos are not permitted in the immigration area so secure your**

**camera in your carry on bag to avoid unnecessary delays with airport security.**

### **Arriving in Port-au-Prince**

Welcome to Haiti . . . you and your team are in for an experience of a lifetime. However, things will not be as you are accustomed to. Once you have exited the plane, you will walk up the ramp to the airport, and immediately turn left. Once your team has assembled together, proceed with the crowd and turn right to enter into the first immigration checkpoint.

**\* Note: There is now a \$10 per person Visitors Fee collected in the Customs area at the Port au Prince airport.**

After you pay your Visitor's Tax, proceed to the Customs Desk. Provide the immigration agent with both immigration forms and your passport – SMILE! The officer will stamp your passport and return the green form to you. **Keep the bottom portion with your passport, as you will need this to exit the country.**

After clearing the first immigration station, you should proceed to your right and go downstairs to obtain carts for your luggage. Each cart costs \$2.00 US, so please have the exact cash ready for the number of carts you need.

You will proceed to the baggage area to claim your luggage.

Note: The men in red shirts are NOT airport personnel, but instead freelance luggage men. They have NO authority over you! If you need help, you can hire someone to help for \$5. Sometimes an airport employee may check to ensure that your baggage claim stub matches the number on the bags you are carrying. Continue walking towards the exit. In a few yards, you will approach a Customs agent collecting the white "Declarations" form that you completed on the plane. Even though it is rare, the agent may ask you to go into the luggage search area, where they will look in your luggage. If this happens – just smile, stay calm, and answer their questions. In the unlikely event that they tell you "you must pay tax on these items" rely on your best negotiating skills and insist that you have very little money. After a few attempts at getting a bribe from you, they will let you proceed to the exit. (Again – this is unlikely, but you will want to be prepared – just in case).

After your team has gathered all luggage, please follow the EXIT signs to the parking lot, where you will be greeted by a member of our staff. There will be many offers from airport workers to assist you with your bags. Feel free to accept assistance if you like, but they will ask for a tip. If you need their help, our staff will handle the tipping. If you do not need help, you will need to firmly say "NO" – several times!

### **Departing from Port-au-Prince**

- Ensure that your bags are packed appropriately for weight. You will not have a scale, so try to remember what you placed in each bag so you can pack in a similar fashion.
- Prior to arriving at the airport, ensure that your passport and green emigration stub,

as well as your flight confirmation number are easily accessible. ● There several security checkpoints, and the attendants in the grey shirts will offer again to help with your bags and give you grand promises of taking you to the front of the line. (Don't bite the bait. They will "bully" others and push your way clear to the front.) You will have plenty of time. Simply wait in line with everyone. ● Upon entering the airport, you will need to show your passport. Once you reach the door, you will place all your bags on the conveyor belt, and then proceed as directed through the metal detector. Random searches/pat downs may occur. After you get your bags, proceed to the ticket counter to get your boarding passes. Once you have your boarding pass, proceed to emigration and present them with your passport, boarding pass, and green card. The officer will stamp your passport. Proceed down the hallway to the first security checkpoint. Then, you will be searched again. This is the same as a US security checkpoint. After completing this final checkpoint, you will be in the gate area. Flight times change frequently, and the attendants often call passengers names. Pay attention to the screens and listen for your name in case it is called. Food and drinks are available in the console area. We hope you have a great flight home, and pray that you will return again soon!

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### **Disciples' Village T Shirt**

For our team members, sponsors, and supporters, Disciples' Village offers its' signature t-shirts at a great low price. Ordering information is enclosed. We encourage our teams to wear their t-shirt on the day of arrival, but this is not required.

### **Team Leader Packet**

**If you are not traveling with a team or group, please read and review our Team Leader packet as it has important information regarding payments, applications/forms deadlines, and medical/travel insurance requirements that also applies to individuals merging into a previously scheduled team.**

### **Follow-up and Updates**

Disciples' Village would love to hear and share your overall team experience with our team of supporters, sponsors, and partners. Please consider appointing 1-2 team members to provide a brief description of how the Lord used your team for His Kingdom purposes in Haiti and how your trip affected the hearts of your team members. Please keep in mind that we will be sharing your testimony with others. Please send brief description along with team picture and/or special picture to our Mission Director at [jamey@disciplesvillage.org](mailto:jamey@disciplesvillage.org).

If you are interested in receiving future updates regarding our ministry, please visit our website at [www.disciplesvillage.org](http://www.disciplesvillage.org) and like us on Facebook!

Last, but not least, thank you for serving alongside of us and embracing God's vision to

serve the “least of these.” May God receive all the glory and praise for the great things He has done! Disciples’ Village is forever grateful and prays that the Lord will bless you abundantly for your obedience.

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Order Your 2021 Disciples’ Village T-Shirts Today!



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# Order Info

([www.disciplesvillage.org/purchase-shirts](http://www.disciplesvillage.org/purchase-shirts))

**Contact Kelli Estes with questions.  
kelli@disciplesvillage.org**