



## Haiti Team Mission Trip to Village of Hope April 21-28, 2018

### PURPOSE:

To share the Love of Christ with the desperately poor children and families of Haiti. To support the workers who minister at the Village of Hope and the Health Center.

### FOCUS OF TRAVEL:

The group will focus on completing projects at the Hope House, Village of Hope and at the Health care center which is located on the school property. The group will also have the opportunity to visit different communities around the school as well as near Hope House. The Village of Hope is located in Ganthier, eastern rural Haiti. It is a school for 705 children grades Kindergarten to 13th grade. The website is [www.villageofhopehaiti.org](http://www.villageofhopehaiti.org).

### WORK PROJECTS:

Large projects will be determined according to the needs at the time and the various skills of the team members.

### COSTS:

Besides the cost of travel from Chicago to Port au Prince, there are other expenses involved. SidebySide for Christ requests a \$400.00 deposit to hold an individual's spot. Once the team is in place each team member is required to fund raise a minimum of \$600.00. Room and Board is \$75.00 per night and \$30.00 per person for Insurance. Work Projects are sometimes completely funded by the team. The money that is raised will be to cover specific projects that are not covered by the VOH budget. In addition we require that all team members get a Known Traveler Number from TSA. This will allow the entire team to go through TSA pre-check. Here is a more detailed listing of the costs associated with the trip:

<u>Trip Expenses</u>		
Room/Board	\$75/Day/person	\$525
Insurance		\$30
Airfare		\$800 (estimate)
Tourist		\$10
<u>Known Traveler #</u>		<u>\$85</u>
Total		\$1,450

<u>Team Member Requirement</u>	
Deposit	\$400
<u>Fundraising (minimum)</u>	<u>\$600</u>
Total	\$1,000

## PASSPORTS:

Passports are required. If you have a passport please make sure it has at least 6 months remaining before expiration. If you do not have one, it may take up to 8 weeks to get one. Passport information, including a downloadable application is available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Each person should make two copies of his/her passport. Leave one copy at home with someone who has access to it. Bring the second copy but carry it separately from the passport.

## KNOWN TRAVELER NUMBER:

It is required that all team members receive a known traveler number from TSA or apply for the TSA precheck. If you have a global entry card, you do not need the known traveler number.

## INSURANCE and HEALTH:

Be sure that your own health insurance is adequate. The insurance that is purchased with the trip is to cover medical emergencies and emergency evacuations from Haiti if necessary but does not cover flight or trip cancellations. No shots or medications are required for entry into Haiti or back to the states, but SidebySide for Christ suggests you check with your personal physician regarding suggested precautions. Be sure to bring an adequate supply of any personal medications.

## MEDICAL:

Check with your doctor or contact a Travel Clinic such as Passport Health. They should know what you will need for the trip. They need to know that you will be staying in a compound, drinking filtered water usually from Hinckley&Schmitt. The tap water is from a well and has been tested. It is ok for showering and brushing teeth. The food is purchased at local grocery stores and the cooking is all overseen by the directors at the compound. Shots are not mandatory but highly recommended. Check with your insurance to see what they will cover. Based on what you may need costs typically run between \$200-\$400. These are the shots and medications SidebySide for Christ recommend:

If you have not gotten these shots please try to get them 4-6 weeks prior to the trip.

### SUGGESTED SHOTS

Tetanus  
Typhoid  
Hepatitis A & B  
Diphtheria

### SUGGESTED PRESCRIPTION

Malaria  
Cipro (antibiotic)  
not recommended for under 18, please  
consult your physician

General information on health precautions for travel to Haiti can be found at [www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/haiti](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/haiti)

## BAGGAGE:

International flights allow two checked pieces of luggage up to 50 lbs. (one bag is free the other will cost \$40) plus one carry-on. Each person will be taking two full

suitcase/duffle/bags of supplies for any projects, Hope House, and Village of Hope needs. In addition to this each person will bring their clothes in a carry-on. Since much needed supplies for the ministry are very expensive in Haiti SidebySide for Christ will purchase as many supplies as possible to bring along. Please note that any health and beauty products larger than travel size will be placed in a checked bag. Please keep any personal medications with you or in your carry-on.

#### US EMBASSY:

Team members are requested to register their visit to Haiti with the US embassy. This can be done online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. Each person registers individually.

#### IMMIGRATION:

Currently, a visa is not required to enter Haiti. You can check visa requirements at <http://www.haiti.org/>. Each person will be given a customs immigration form to complete while in flight. Occasionally, the airlines run out, in which case, the forms are available in the arrivals hall at the Port Au Prince (PAP) airport. The form must be completed before proceeding through immigration. When completing the form, indicate the purpose of your trip by checking pleasure, recreation or personal. The local address in Haiti will also be required on the form and will be provided by your team leader. Retain the lower portion of the form as you will need to submit it to an immigration officer as you depart from Haiti.

#### CUSTOMS:

It is best to be sure the team is together before you proceed through the customs area. There is space to congregate away from the baggage claim area but before the customs area. Have your passport and customs declaration form ready for the agent\inspector.

#### BAGGAGE CLAIM:

If luggage is lost, the person whose name is on the airline luggage tag will need to fill out a form before leaving the customs area. The team should wait together and exit the building together. VOH will make arrangements to return to the airport to pick up the luggage after it arrives. Be sure people know which bag is theirs and be prepared to describe it. Be prepared to surrender baggage claim tickets as you leave the baggage claim area. Airport personnel do check that the baggage matches the claim tickets.

VOH will arrange to have a porter meet the team after you exit the building. There will be many porters wanting to help. Just tell them no thank you. You will need to be firm and repetitive. The porter will have a large card with the VOH logo and team's or team leader's name on it. He will identify other porters to assist him and he will pay the other hires. The tip is determined by the amount of baggage and will be paid by VOH. When others offer to assist, remember to just say "No, thank you" or "No, merci".

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

The team will be housed at “Hope House”, a secure compound that also serves as the office for Village of Hope and the residence for the directors. Rooms are basically dormitory style. Air-conditioning, showers, towels, and linens are provided. The Directors will orient you to areas that are accessible to the group and areas that are private. We will eat most of our meals at Hope House with the exception of lunch on Sunday after church. If we are working at Village of Hope or the Health Center we will bring our lunches with us to eat there.

### MEALS:

The Hope House staff will prepare all meals according to a pre-determined menu and availability of products. Efforts will be made to accommodate special diets. Please ensure to complete the dietary information section of the Team Profile. If cross contamination is a concern for individuals with severe dietary restrictions, they must discuss their needs with the team leader and VOH prior to committing to the team. Picnic lunches are prepared by the team when they will be away from Hope House for the day. Breakfast and dinner are served buffet style with everyone sharing the meal at dinnertime. Breakfast times are announced daily as the time is influenced by the day's activities. Many of the dinner meals are Haitian meals, all of them delicious. The team is requested to assist with clean up after the dinner meal.

### SECURITY:

VOH will do its utmost to ensure the security of the team while they are in Haiti. The country is known for its instability. Consequently, VOH monitors the security situation on a routine basis and will keep the team informed of any potential problems. The teams should be prepared to accept that their trip could be cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. VOH recommends that individuals invest in flight insurance. The Hope House is surrounded by walls as is common in Haiti. The entrance is secured at all times. The gate is opened by staff only. It is not opened after dark. To insure the security, VOH requires team members to obtain prior approval before inviting anyone to the Hope House. VOH cannot honor requests for team members to go somewhere with someone not affiliated with VOH. While traveling in Haiti, additional security personnel will be present as deemed necessary by the Field Director. VOH asks that while in route and in Haiti, team members refrain from giving out personal information about themselves and the specific address location of the guest house to strangers. It is difficult to stop unsolicited contact once addresses and telephone numbers are distributed. What sounds and feels appropriate while here changes once you have returned home. This is for your safety as well as for the safety of the guest house. VOH recommends that you use social media wisely relative to your mission trip. Weigh the benefits (a great way to raise awareness and funds) against the risks (everyone and anyone will know your home may be vacant while you are gone or uninvited guests may show up at Hope House looking for you).

### WHAT TO BRING:

Bring clothes suitable for the type of work your team plans to do. Bring one outfit appropriate for church (dresses or skirts with blouses that cover the shoulders for

ladies; slacks and collared shirts for men). Outfits should be conservative (avoid camisoles, plunging necklines, short-shorts) when going outside the Hope House area. Please do not bring expensive jewelry or anything valuable. This will be discussed in more detail at the team meetings.

#### DEVOTIONS:

Many teams plan daily devotions for the evenings. There are extra Bibles and song books at Hope House. A guitar is also available. The devotional time provides an opportunity for the team members to process their experiences and strengthen their relationships.

#### TOURS:

There may be one day that will be devoted to a tour of some sights and souvenir shopping in Haiti. If you would like to purchase souvenirs please bring crisp small denominations, \$1's, \$5's and \$10's. They accept American money but not if it is ripped or torn in any way. Typically people tend to bring approximately \$100.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Organizations/churches and other teams who are returning to Haiti are always encouraged to invite new participants. Sharing the mission experience by introducing others to the ministries of Village of Hope in Haiti will help to further the mission of VOH. As representatives of the body of Christ, all participants are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times, respecting the values and mission of the Village of Hope. This includes proper dress and behavior. There is no smoking permitted in the guest rooms, common areas of Hope House or any of the locations we visit. Public use of alcohol and tobacco are to be avoided.

#### LANGUAGE:

French and Creole are the official languages of Haiti.

#### CURRENCY:

Haitian Gourdes are the currency of Haiti. The current rate is approximately 46 gourdes to 1 US dollar. The situation is confused as many people also refer to the Haitian dollar, although there are no Haitian dollar bills. There are five gourdes to a Haitian dollar or \$9.00 Haitian dollars to a US dollar.

#### BOOKS ABOUT HAITI:

Haiti - The Aftershocks of History – Laurent Dubois

The Rainy Season – Amy Wilenz

Mountains beyond Mountains – Tracy Kidder

Farming of the Bones- Edwidge Danticat (fiction)

Haiti Noir --- a collection of short stories by Haitian authors edited by Edwidge Danticat

Bonjour Blanc – Ian Thomas

The Uses of Haiti – Paul Farmer

When Helping Hurts- Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Village of Hope has been blessed by many, many short-term mission teams over the years. Many started as members of the Lazarus Project, a group of dedicated people committed to helping those who are in need in Haiti. We look forward to sharing their passion for the ministries here with you. May God bless your plans and your preparation for this life-changing experience!