

Frequently Asked Questions and Additional Information

- 1. What can I do while I am there?** A GNI tour is more a “being and experiencing” tour rather than a “doing” tour. While the West thinks linear in terms of time, results, tasks and measurable accomplishments, the East thinks circular in terms of relationships, experiences, observations and events. The question is not just what can I do, but what can I learn and experience? Our kids do not speak English well and thus, communication is limited, but very doable if your heart is in it. Ministry will mainly occur in teaching, preaching, affirming, loving and sharing your life and experiences. You will visit several dream centers on your first trip. Subsequent trips can turn into long term or short term work with the kids in terms of their spiritual, social and academic development. We rarely host construction or maintenance tours due to the nature of our buildings and how different things are in India.
- 2. What type of accommodations are there?** Typically, the groups stay in simple, air-conditioned, small hotels (clean & comfortable). Nothing fancy, but comparable to a Motel 6. You will need a transformer if your gadgets require 110V.
- 3. What are the costs for food?** Food costs are generally included in the cost of the trip. Team members are encouraged to bring their own snacks **and** some extra spending money for airport food **and** two restaurant meals on the return trip. **Tip:** Drink only purified water; do not eat anything from vendors.
- 4. What vaccinations are needed?** Vaccinations are not necessary for India. We do recommend that you check with your city Health Department and they can instruct you accordingly. **A Tetanus shot is highly recommended.** These shots usually cost under \$100.00

Helpful information:

- ▶ Travel Health Online – www.tripprep.com
- ▶ Centers for Disease Control & Prevention – www.cdc.gov/travel
- ▶ U.S. Department of State – www.travel.state.gov
- ▶ World Health Organization – www.who.int

- 5. How should we pack and what should we wear?** Pack as light as possible since you may be carrying your own suitcases through airports and railway stations. Wheeled suitcases are the best. See the packing list for details.
- 6. What is the cost of the trip?** Most trips will start at about **\$3,000.00**. Cost varies depending on the airfare, location and length of trip. This cost covers A/C hotel room, all meals and travel. A **deposit of \$2,000.00** is required before tickets can be purchased. Refunds and cancellations as defined per our policy.
- 7. Can we make phone calls to the U.S.A?** Pay phones are plentiful all during our travels with a call back to the USA costing about 15 cents per minute. Using your USA cell phone in India will cost you about \$2.50 per minute. If you plan on bringing your cell phone, check with your carrier for coverage and costs. Dr. Rahman will always be accessible via his cell phone along with other numbers that will be provided to you with the itinerary.
- 8. How much spending money do we need?** We suggest you bring \$100.00 - \$200.00. ATMs are plentiful in India and they give the best rates. Just **inform your bank** that you will be withdrawing cash in India!
- 9. Who will take care of our airplane reservations?** *Good News India* makes all travel arrangements.

(Continued)

Frequently Asked Questions and Additional Information

OTHER:

- Always try and remember that this is *missions*, so be prepared for anything, such as unexpected delays and/or stops.
- Always wear your boots or closed toe shoes.
- Mosquitoes love fragrances! Do not wear perfumes/colognes. Try to bring unscented shampoo, conditioner and deodorant.
- Make sure your insect repellent contains DEET.
- Spray clothing and luggage inside and out with *Repel Permanone Insect Repellent*. *This is an odorless insect repellent (tick, mosquito, chiggers and biting flies) protection for clothing, tents, nets, and gear. (It is not recommended for skin application)*
- Wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer such as Purell.
- If you feel sick, notify your Team Leader immediately.
- You **MUST** have your passport if traveling outside the USA. (Make a photocopy of your passport and drivers' license, carrying copies with you at all times; you will be required to leave your actual passport at each hotel you stay in, to be picked up as you leave.)

APPLICATION FOR MISSIONS TRIP

Please print clearly with dark pen

PREFERRED TRAVEL DATES: _____

FULL NAME: _____ DATE: ____/____/____

PREFERRED NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____

ADDRESS: _____ APT NO. _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ - _____ WORKPHONE: (____) _____ - _____

CELL/OTHER: (____) _____ - _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME ON YOUR PASSPORT: _____

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____ EXP DATE: ____/____/____

SPOUSE: _____

CHILDREN and AGES: _____

CHURCH: _____

CHURCH ADDRESS: _____

PASTOR'S NAME: _____

NO. OF YEARS ATTENDING: _____

STRENGTHS: _____

WEAKNESSES: _____

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: _____

IN WHAT WORK AREAS DO YOUR INTERESTS LIE? _____

Emergency Information

FULL NAME: *(as it appears on passport)* _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

WORK PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

HOME PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

WORK PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

SECONDARY EMERGENCY

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

HOME PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

WORK PHONE: (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

MEDICATION ALLERGY

INFORMATION _____

LIST ANY CURRENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS: _____

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS: _____

Please note that you are going to a remote area where medical care and medication are not readily available. If you are on medication, make sure that you take extra! All prescription medications must be in containers labeled by your pharmacist with your name, medication, dosage, etc.

Mission Team Agreement

In order to fulfill the goals set forth for each Mission Team trip, the following guidelines have been established for each team member

- Each member must provide a letter of recommendation from his/her Pastor. If necessary, an interview will be conducted to determine compatibility with the spiritual beliefs of our group.
- Active participation is expected of all team members. Team members must work together to perform any task assigned. Each team member will assist in any area as needed and directed.
- Behavior during mission trips must be consistent with disciplined Christian conduct. In the interest of unity and to avoid conflict, the use of alcohol or tobacco is prohibited.
- Due to the customs and cultural beliefs of the host country, it is necessary to establish a dress code. Team leadership and the host pastor/missionary will determine dress codes. Team members will be asked to change if their attire is not appropriate. For ladies, we ask that shoulders be covered and no shorts above knee length. Swimming attire for ladies at the ocean needs to be shorts w/ sleeved T-shirt. [One of our homes is very near the ocean and there may be time to get your feet (or all of you) wet!]
- Team members are responsible for the entire cost of each trip.
- While in a host country, any member who may be unsure of the propriety of any action should consult with his/her team leader. Some things considered acceptable in the U.S. might be misunderstood or misconstrued by citizens of the host country.

Failure to observe these guidelines could seriously hinder a host missionary or pastor and their ongoing ministries. For this reason, we ask each team member to search his or her heart for God's will before committing themselves to this effort and our team.

I agree to abide by the established rules of conduct listed above if selected for this mission team.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

Missions Trip Waiver

Please Read Carefully

I know and understand that volunteering to work and build missions can be potentially hazardous. I understand that I should not enter or work in any missions activities unless I am medically able.

I agree to abide by any decisions made by a representative of Good News India. I understand that my disobedience may result in expulsion from the mission team and any further participation in the mission trip. At such time, I am liable for any and all expenses incurred for my return home.

I assume all risks associated with this trip including, but not limited to, effects of the weather, high heat and/or humidity, including the conditions of roads and traffic in the countries we will work, and all risks being known and learned by me before or during the trip.

I understand that any changes in travel arrangements confirmed by Good News India may result in additional charges. I hereby take full responsibility for these charges, which may be incurred if I so choose to change my travel arrangements with Good News India and the transportation companies retained.

Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration or acceptance of the trip, I, for myself and anyone entitled to action on my behalf, waive and release any and all persons involved with Good News India, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation with Good News India in any missions activity, even though liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of persons named in this waiver.

Furthermore, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures or any other record of any event. I also understand that all fees are non-refundable.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age) Printed Name, Signature & Date

“Must Haves” Trip Checklist

In order to go on the trip, you must have the following:

- A pastoral endorsement (letters are acceptable). If you are participating with a church group, a single endorsement **is not** necessary.
- Send a \$100.00 deposit to hold your trip reservation. We make reservations at least THREE months in advance.
- Signed Travel Waiver
- Signed Trip Waiver
- Signed Missions Application
- Signed Emergency Release Form
- Signed Parental Statement of Permission (if you are a minor)
- Signed Mission Team Agreement
- Signed Personal Covenant
- Please give us your full name as seen on your passport.
- Please send us a photocopy of your passport for our files.
- Passport **is required** at the airport.
- Send the above completed items to:



Dr. Faiz Rahman,
Good News India
P. O. Box 72747
Phoenix, AZ. 85050

GNI Personal Covenant

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this mission team, I agree to:

1. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
2. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions
3. 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 the trip.
4. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
5. Understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for this local mission host, and to do my best to help them attain their long-term goals.
6. Attend all team meetings during the mission trip.
7. Expeditiously follow up on all requirements for passports, visas, inoculations, financial obligations, travel insurance, etc.
8. Refrain from meddling, complaining and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team, during the journey, and while onsite will be looking at me as an example of how a Christian conducts himself, and will not treat that responsibility lightly. 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.
9. Regard the different styles of worship with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior, colonial attitude.
10. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just deal with one another, I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
11. Avoid any actions which might be perceived as amorous attentions toward indigenous people I meet.
12. Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages while in the host country.

13. Remember, we are the new Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting a good example.

14. Act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or mission organization. I will respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating, drinking, and other such traditions, which will help me to assimilate into the local culture.

15. Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is skills such as music, art, carpentry or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these areas as fully as possible.

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

17. In signing below, I represent that I am 18 years of age or and accept the above conditions. If I am under 18 years of the age, my parent must sign the additional form entitled: "Parental Statement of Permission".

Participant's Signature _____ **Age** _____
(If participant is under 21 years of age, additional form must be signed by parent/guardian)

Participant's Name: (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

Evening Phone (___ ___ ___) _____ - _____

Packing Check-List



- Passport!**
- Rain Pancho or small umbrella
- Hat and sunglasses/bandana (personal preference)
- Baggy jeans or pants – (bicycle shorts under jeans)
- Camera/film/batteries
- First Aid Kit/Personal medicines*
- Spending money
- Toiletries: ○ soap ○ shampoo ○ deodorant ○ insect repellent w/ Deed
 ○ sunblock ○ ace bandage ○ toilet paper ○ hand sanitizer
 ○ teeth items ○ hair care items ○ shaving items
- Sleeping bag or blanket/bedroll
- Shoes (good ankle and sole support)
- Small flash light with extra batteries
- Underwear
- Towel and wash cloth
- Snacks or personal food packs (for when you get tired of Indian food!)
- Juices in disposable containers (powder Gatorade)
- Bible and notebook/Pen

- **Remember first aid and personal medical needs!**

Possible medications to take with you:

Phernegan for nausea

Lomotil for Diarrhea

Bactrim (prescription from your doctor)

Benadryl for any allergic reactions.

- If you are taking prescriptive medications, be sure they are in the **original prescription bottle with your name on the label.**

- Have your *passport* and a *photo ID* ready at the airport. We will check-in as a group.

What You Should Know Before You Go

DO:

- Stay in prayer continually
- Listen to your team leader for every instruction
- Be adaptable and flexible at all times
- Drink plenty of bottled water and reduce the amount of caffeine
- Check with the Team Leader before eating food in the villages (some are safe, others not)

DO NOT:

- Go anywhere without the approval of your Team Leader
- Leave the group by yourself
- Drink the water
- Eat leafy green vegetables
- Take army fatigues or any other army issue apparel

Suggestions:

- You may bring 1 bag and 1 carry-on. Be sure and abide by most travel guidelines with regards to baggage size limits (50 pounds). A bag that exceeds the weight may cause you to pay for an extra bag.
- Pack light.**
- Feel free to take as many pictures of the kids and dream centers as you like. Be careful when taking pictures outside as many local people do not like to be photographed. If you are a professional photographer, please talk to Dr. Rahman before adding them to your shopping-cart-style-website.

Any team member under the age of 18 must comply with the following guidelines:

- You must complete the **Parental Statement of Permission** form, signed by both parents (or guardian) with Notary Seal to be presented at the airport.
- Each minor (under 16) must have an **adult sponsor** that is currently **attending the trip**. As the parent / guardian, you must provide a letter stating your child's name and the name of the adult sponsor. Only minors with an adult sponsor / representative will be accepted.