

Outline of Sierra Grace Fellowship Short-Term Mission Policy

For further information and clarification, please read the complete Short-Term Mission Statement of Policies and Guidelines.

The goal of the Missions Committee is to encourage each individual at Sierra Grace Fellowship to ask the question; “How does my life fit into God’s worldwide activity?”—and be moved to get involved. I Chronicles 16:24 “Declare the Lord among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

Essentials for Short-Term Missions

1. The Short-Term Mission Participant (STMP) exhibits a Christ-like character and a strong desire to serve.
2. The sending organization must be one that agrees with SGF’s theological doctrine.
3. The ministry with which the STMP will serve should be working with national workers and have a strong emphasis on evangelism.
4. The ministry should be seeking to reach unreached people groups and/or closed countries.
5. The Short-Term Mission Participant should be from our congregation.

Purposes and Goals of Short-Term Missions

1. Go where God is already working through missionaries supported by SGF and be a means of encouraging and assisting those Long-Term Missionaries (LTM). The short-term mission trip should be promoted by the vision of the SGF LTM.
2. Assist and encourage strategic partnerships SGF has or may establish, with the intention of developing or improving cross-cultural long-term relationships.
3. Be a discipleship-training tool of SGF for individuals in the body who want to integrate their faith with works.
4. Be a means of exposing and developing individuals for long-term involvement in ministry and missions.

Preparation:

1. In order to better prepare for your short-term mission trip, we encourage all STMP to read Serving with Eyes Wide Open by David Livermore. Other suggested reading: Ministering Cross-Culturally by Lingenfelter and Mayers, Short Term Missions by Mack and Leann Stiles, and Revolution in World Missions by K P Yohannan.

Follow-up:

1. A written summary of your STM experience using the Personal Reflection Questions in the STM Policy (1 to 3 pages) should be submitted to the Missions Committee upon return.
2. A 10 to 15 minute report of your missionary experience should be given upon return to the Missions Committee.

Suggested Minimum Length of Service

1. Canada, U.S.A., Mexico, and Central America – two weeks
2. Europe – three weeks
3. South America, Asia, and Africa – four weeks

Funding and Support Options:

1. We encourage the STMP to pay for as much of the trip as possible (transportation and all other mission costs).
2. Individuals should pay at least 25% of the cost from personal resources.
3. Help is available to present STM trip before the congregation. The SGF Missions Committee may provide a cover letter to accompany a letter written by the STMP explaining the trip and the specific needs.
4. We encourage the STMP to ask the congregation for ministry needs, such as: medical supplies, educational supplies, clothes and blankets, etc. to involve others in God's work.
5. Financial aid may be available from the SGF Mission Fund for those having difficulty raising their budgeted amount, but should be the last option and the final money into the account.
6. Funds raised above trip needs may go to program or material costs of the mission trip or will become part of the SGF Mission Fund.

How to apply for support from the Missions Committee:

1. First determine the level and type of support you are requesting:
 - a. A cover letter from the Missions Committee to send with a personal letter requesting prayer and financial support from the congregation
 - b. A cover letter from the Missions Committee to send with a personal letter requesting supplies for ministry needs of short-term mission trip
 - c. An account opened with SGF where tax deductible contributions can be received from friends, family, and others
 - d. A request for financial aid from the SGF Mission Fund to cover the costs of the trip not covered by donations or personal contributions (This is the last option for funding after all others have been exhausted.)
2. Then fill out the Short-Term Mission Application, being sure to indicate the support you are requesting.
3. Please submit the application at least three months prior to departure date.
4. If, after attempting to raise the necessary funds for the short-term mission trip, you find you have a short-fall, please fill out and submit the Request for Financial Aid form. (Forms are available on the SGF website or in the church office.)
5. If you have a financial deadline, be sure to submit the Request for Financial Aid form at least two weeks prior to the deadline.
6. Please submit all forms to the Missions Committee Chairman or the Sierra Grace Fellowship office, preferably via email. SGF office email is Vicki@sierragrace.org. The current Missions Committee Chairman is Janet White at globaljanet@gmail.com.

Sierra Grace Fellowship Short-Term Mission Application

Personal Information

Date:
Name:
Current Address:
City, State, Zip:
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
E-mail Address:
Permanent Address (if different)
Birth Date:
Country of Citizenship:
Male/Female
Marital Status:
Spouse's Name:
Will your spouse be serving with you?
Names and Ages of children:
Will your children be serving with you?
In case of emergency, please notify:
Name Relationship
Address
City State Zip Code
Home Phone:
Work Phone:

Assignment

Mission Agency or group you will serve with:
Dates of the assignment:
Country of assignment:
Please describe the ministry you will have on the field:
Will you be working with a team?
Who are the other team members (if known)?

Support Being Requested

Please indicate the type of support you are requesting from the SGF Missions Committee:

- a. A cover letter from the Missions Committee to send with a personal letter requesting prayer and financial support from the congregation
- b. A cover letter from the Missions Committee to send with a personal letter requesting supplies for ministry needs of short-term mission trip
- c. An account opened with SGF where tax deductible contributions can be received from friends, family, and others
- d. A request for financial aid from the SGF Mission Fund to cover the costs of the trip not covered by donations or personal contributions (This is the last option for funding after all other options have been exhausted.)

Purpose

What personal goals do you hope to realize as a result of this trip?
How do those goals relate to your long-term missions/ministry goals as a Christian?
What learning experiences are you expecting from this trip?

Preparation

What steps have you taken, or will you take, to prepare for this trip?
Do you have a current passport with sufficient pages and time remaining?
Does the country you are visiting require a visa?
With which family members or friends have you discussed your participation on this trip?
What were their reactions?

Experience

Please list any previous short-term or long-term missions experience (most recent):
Country, Mission Organization, Dates, Ministry
Please list any local outreach experience: Organization, Dates, Ministry
Are you a member of SGF? How long?
Please list ministries you have been involved in at SGF and what your participation was.
Please list any missions classes or training you have had.
Please list any special skills, talents, foreign language you have.

Spiritual Background

Please share your testimony of how you began a relationship with Jesus Christ and how you have grown in that relationship.
Please describe one or two examples of how God is currently working in your life.
Have you ever been discipled or been a member of a small accountability group? By whom?
What are your personal disciplines in regard to prayer, Bible study, scripture memory, worship?
Have you personally led any individuals into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
What do you consider to be your spiritual gifts?
What books have been most influential in your life?
What magazines/periodicals do you read with fair regularity?
Please explain briefly what you hope God will do in and through you on this mission trip.

Education/Employment

High School:
College/University (degrees and school) Other Education:
Present Employer
Title/Responsibilities:
Length of Employment:

Financial

How do you plan to finance your short-term mission trip?
Do you currently have any significant debts or financial obligations?
Please list the expenses pertaining to your short term trip as accurately as possible:
Project Cost
Travel Expenses
Medical Expenses
Paperwork
Total Support Needed
Total Support Raised to date
Date support is due:
Support should be sent to the following agency and address:

Health

How would you describe your present health? Excellent Good Average Poor
Please state any major illnesses you have had in the last five years:
Are you presently under the care of a physician? If yes, please explain:
Please list any medication you are taking and allergies you have:
Do you require special inoculations for the geographical area where you will serve?
Do you have any emotional or relational problems that may impact the team on this trip?
What medical facilities or arrangements are available at your ministry site in case of an emergency?
Does your medical insurance coverage include international travel?
Do you need to bring an extra pair of contact lenses/glasses?
Have you ever had an appendectomy?

References

Please provide two references. One reference should be an elder or staff member of SGF.
Name, Relationship, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone (home/work)

Commitment to SGF

If SGF decides to financially support my ministry, I will commit to the following:

1. Answer the debrief questions on this application after returning from my short-term mission trip.
2. Write a 1-3 page summary of my short-term ministry experience.
3. Prepare a 10-30 minute presentation of my short-term mission experience.
4. Be willing to present my short-term mission experience to two groups within SGF.

Signature _____ Date _____

Debrief Questions

Were your expectations for your short-term mission trip met? How or how not? How could you have been better prepared?

What are your most memorable experiences?

How did you see God working in your life and in the lives of others?

How has your life been impacted?

What was most challenging for you?

What was the greatest blessing for you?

Is there any ministry or service opportunity at SGF that you would like to become more involved with because of your experience?