

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20



What's so special about Malawi?

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world with over an estimated 50 percent of the 22.7 million of the population living well below the poverty line. An estimated 8.9 percent of Malawians are infected with HIV; many others die daily of malnutrition and malaria, as a result approximately 10 percent of the 7.7 million children 14 and under are orphaned. Unfortunately, most of these peaceful and kind people have never even heard the name of Jesus. Malawians are some of the friendliest people in the world and will welcome you with open arms. They are very open to and receptive of the Gospel. We'll be working from the capital city of Lilongwe in the outlying villages. An estimated 60,000 people move to Lilongwe each year to these outlying

villages. Churches in Lilongwe are eager to reach these new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to sponsor new churches. We are there to help them reach their people.

Village Evangelism and Church Planting

You will be working in areas around their capital city of Lilongwe and in their outlying villages. Each mission team is partnered with a Malawian pastor who is planting churches in the outlying areas and villages of Malawi. Each team member will have an interpreter and we will go door to door sharing the gospel of Jesus. You will be helping people understand how they can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You will invite them to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and become new members of the church that will start in the village that week. Usually at the end of the individual evangelism, the villagers will be invited to meet up as a group to establish a local church in that village. We hope to see many new churches started and thousands of new believers come to Christ through our outreach during the week. The local Malawian pastor will continue to disciple the village after we return home. You will walk many miles and share your faith with hundreds of people by the end of our trip. Everyone will participate in this aspect of the trip.

Visiting the Zoey's Place Ministry

Each team will have the opportunity to visit and spend a day at one of the Zoey's Place centers loving on Zoey's Friends. Team members will be given the opportunity to share the Gospel with Zoey's Friends, serve them food, and share the love of Jesus with them. The team should be prepared to share a Bible Story via skit or book, play a game or any other activity that has the team interacting with the children. They absolutely love having visitors!



*“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.” – James 1:27*

Our Story

The story of Zoey's Place began on a mission trip to Malawi, Africa in the summer of 2013. God lead a team of missionaries from Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas on a very specific journey to help a special orphan named Trinity that was only a few days old. Their encounter with Trinity opened their eyes to the life-threatening issues that Malawian orphans face.

Malawi, Africa is home to an estimated 2 million orphans. Statistics show that about 16.7% of the children under the age of 18 are either orphaned or in at-risk family situations. In remote villages of Malawi, these children are incredibly vulnerable to starvation, disease, neglect, and abandonment. Health issues such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, cholera, typhoid and many other diseases come along with unsanitary living conditions and poverty leave many children as orphans. These orphans are literally “the least of these.”

On that mission trip in 2013, God began to stir a great vision within the hearts of these willing missionaries That vision was orphan care ministry. It was a vision that seemed too huge to ever be a real possibility, but with God ALL things are possible. Zoey's Place has multiple orphan care centers where children come to receive food, tutoring, vocational training and most importantly, the love of Christ. These children matter to God, so Zoey's Place seeks to be the hands and feet of Jesus by intervening in the lives of these precious children.

Zoey's Place is named after a beautiful baby girl, and though her time here on earth was short, the lives she has impacted are too numerous to count. It happened that the encounter with Trinity in Malawi was on the second birthday of Zoey. We believed that God ordained this moment. While here with us, Zoey and her family showed God's love and grace to so many. And, through this heartache, Zoey's Place is now showing God's love and grace to many hungry children in Africa. Orphans at Zoey's Place will not only receive food for their physical body but food for their spirit, as they are being taught about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Vision

Our Vision is to see the eternity of these orphans transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to assist in meeting their basic necessities in such a way that they are able to live their lives to the Glory of God.

Our Mission Statement: Zoey's Place seeks to provide the basic necessities that might be missing from a vulnerable orphan's life, primarily being the gospel of Jesus Christ and proper nutrition. These children are known as “Zoey's Friends.”

Each day the children are fed one nutritious meal at Zoey's Place consisting of a protein, a starch and a green, leafy vegetable.

Our cooks begin the day with cleaning and food preparation. Our cooks are from the local village and their children are Zoey's Friends. These women are incredibly hard working and dedicated. They love what they do and enjoy working with the children. The job they have at Zoey's Place enables them to provide for their own families, something they struggled with before Zoey's Place.

The school aged children are required to go to school Monday through Friday. Our managers check the children's school attendance and their progress weekly. We feel that education is vital to their development and future. Many of Zoey's Friends were not attending school before they entered our program.

Each day, the preschool age children start preschool activities around 10:00am and are fed at 12:00pm. The school age children begin arriving at the centers around 1:00 p.m. The children bless their food, roll is called, they wash their hands, get their plates and eat their meal. After finishing their meal, the children rinse their plates. The bigger children are very good about helping the little ones.

After the clean-up is complete, the school age children begin their after-school tutoring. The tutoring is done by the secondary students, which is overseen by the managers. There is a curriculum that is followed and any child that is struggling with a particular subject in school will get one-on-one help with that subject. The subject matter varies daily which includes life skills and Bible study.



Meet our Missionaries

Jim and Melissa Hughes served as missionaries in Malawi overseeing Zoey's Place.

Jim and Melissa Hughes were married in May 1997. They have no children together but together they have 3 adult children, 1 son-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law and 6 of the greatest grandchildren on the planet.

When they are not in Malawi, home is Brownsboro, which is in East Texas.

Jim has been a Builder for 44 years. Melissa has worked as a legal assistant, office assistant and bookkeeper.

They are members of Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas.

Several years before Zoey's Place began, Jim and Melissa began seeking a deeper walk with the Lord. They began asking the Lord to show them what He wanted for them to do to serve Him. How they could serve the Lord. Whatever He asked they would do. The Lord led them to both go on short term mission trips in 2013.

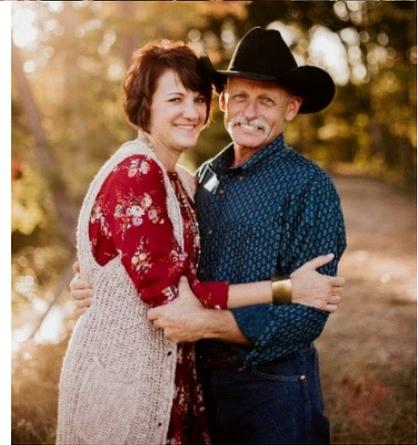
Jim went with a small team to Belize in April 2013 and drilled a water well for a remote village to have clean drinking water. Melissa went with a Rock Hill team to Malawi in May 2013. After these trips, Jim and Melissa knew then that missions was something that the Lord was leading them to. Little did they know what was ahead.

In June of that same year, Rock Hill sent the 2nd team to Malawi and it was on that trip that the need for orphan care was shown to 3 of the members of that team. When those team members came back and presented the vision of orphan care to Rock Hill at the end of June 2013, Jim and Melissa's question was answered with the call from God to go to Malawi and make this vision a reality. Zoey's Place began that night.

Jim and Melissa shut down their business, sold most of their possession, put their home and property up for sale and on October 30, 2013, left for Malawi, Africa, where they spent the next 9 months. During that 9 months, the first Zoey's Place center was built and began operating serving and feeding approximately 75 children.

Jim and Melissa are now overseeing the actual operations of Zoey's Place stateside. When they take trips to Malawi they encourage the children and staff.

They have a heart for the Zoey's Place ministry. They love the children. They love the people that work so hard within the ministry. They love the people that they meet and come in contact with when there in Malawi. They have seen God accomplish so many miraculous and wonderful things during their time in Malawi and they know that He has so much more ahead. They are forever grateful to God for allowing them to be a part of this truly amazing ministry and to see, first hand, the love that He has for all people, even those in remote villages in one of the poorest countries on the other side of the world.



A Typical Trip to Malawi

You will be picked up at the airport in Lilongwe, Malawi by a private carrier and brought to the Zoey's Place mission house. You will get room assignments, a meal and time to rest and prepare for the next day.

The days ahead will be you sharing the Gospel, ministering and loving on those God puts in your path. During this time, you will do hut to hut evangelism.

You will go to Zoey's Place. There you will sing, dance, play games with Zoey's Friends. Most importantly, you will share the Gospel and teach Bible stories to them.

You will encourage churches.

Men be prepared to preach, teach and possibly baptize.

Women be prepared to teach adults and/or children.

Leadership and/or family conferences are a possibility during your time. You will know this ahead of time and be able to prepare.

Prepare to give of yourself to minister to others. You are God's servant during this trip. Be open to do whatever He asks. Let down your inhibitions and don't take yourself too seriously. Be flexible and let go of the idea of a set schedule. You will be on "Malawi Time" which, in turn, is really God's timing and plan! Allow God to do His work through and in you and see Him do some amazing things!



What do I need to pack?

For the airplane:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Money holder
- ✓ Backpack;
- ✓ Electronic devices and Charger(s); portable chargers are convenient for airplane;
*NOTE: While traveling to and from Malawi, you will want to keep any electronic devices (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) with you in your personal bag or carry-on at all times. Do not transport in checked bag or it could be stolen.
- ✓ Headphones/ear plugs;
- ✓ Prescriptions, toiletries and personal hygiene products needed during trip (check TSA guidelines for items and their size allowed onto plane in carry on);
- ✓ Snacks;
- ✓ Books for the plane or down time (sometimes our TV screens do not work on the plane).
- ✓ Neck pillow and blanket (Airline will provide these as well);
- ✓ Flip flops, sandals or Easy to slip on or off shoes for security checkpoints.
- ✓ Credit card works best for small airport purchases due to foreign currency exchanges

For the suitcase (check TSA for number of pieces and weight of checked and carry-on luggage allowed by airline):

3-4 comfortable outfits:

- For Men - loose fitting pants or blue jeans, t-shirts or button up shirts, dress pants and shirt (tie/jacket optional) for church; lounge clothes for the house, and shorts can be worn for travel and in town when going out to eat or market, etc.
- For Women – long skirts and t-shirts; long dress or long skirt and top for church, jeans for travel or out to eat, or to market; (some women wear leggings or bicycle shorts under their skirts); comfortable lounge pants are acceptable for travel and for the house – no shorts. ****NOTE: Women are asked not to wear ANY makeup or jewelry (with exception of wedding band and small earrings) into the villages, to ZP or a village church.**
- ✓ Jacket, sweatshirt or sweater (mornings and evening can get cool)
- ✓ Comfortable, enclosed walking shoes, socks.... you will walk a lot during evangelism;
- ✓ Flip flops, and/or house shoes for around the house and in town.

For village evangelism:

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Small drawstring backpack for interpreter (option)
- ✓ Bible (that can get dirty and not heavy for your backpack)
- ✓ Notebook/pen
- ✓ Notes on gospel presentation, family conference/Sunday school lesson, personal testimony
- ✓ Sunscreen and lip protection
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Baby wipes
- ✓ Hand sanitizer
- ✓ Small snacks for backpack

- ✓ Soccer balls to give to a village are always a hit along with hand pumps and extra needles. Deflate for traveling and re-inflate once reach a village. Make sure they they are good, solid, strong ball or they will not last more than one day when given out. You can take one to Zoey's Place and/or you can give them as a gift to a village or school (but do not give out until AFTER any Gospel presentation or they will be distracted and want to play instead of listen! Do not even show it until finished with presenting the Gospel). Your interpreter can help with this. It is one of the best gifts they can all enjoy. They love soccer "Futbol!"
- ✓ A thank you card for your interpreter is a great idea and they really appreciate it.

What NOT to bring:

- × Bottled water
- × Towels
- × Bedding
- × Valuables – clothing, jewelry, electronics (many choose to use silicon wedding bands)
- × International power converter (already provided)
- × Materialism and a concern for what you look like!
- × Idea of a set schedule and thinking you are in control.

Where will be staying?

You'll be staying in Lilongwe, Malawi in the Zoey's Place Mission Complex. The accommodations are just like an American town house with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, bunk beds, kitchen, washer, etc. The complex is surrounded by an 8-foot brick perimeter fence monitored 24 hours by guards. The city of Lilongwe is a friendly and safe city, and the apartments are comfortable, safe, and secure.

What will we eat?

Zoey's Place employee, Esther will be your host and cook for the duration of the trip. Each morning you will be fed a hearty breakfast (eggs, bacon, biscuits, pancakes, French toast, etc.). It is recommended that you bring snack items from home to have in your backpack during the day such as jerky, packages of nuts, protein bars, etc. Following the day's activities, the team will return to the mission complex where an American dinner will be served. A couple of evenings may be spent at a local restaurant. All the food will be just as safe and clean as eating in America. You will not eat any native food (unless you want to).

What about spending money?

Very Important!! Money to be exchanged in Malawi for personal use while there must be \$50s or \$100s. They are the only bills that can be exchanged and must be 2017 or newer. Money and passports can be kept in a locked safe at the mission complex. During travel, do not store any money in your luggage – always keep it on your person. Luggage is frequently searched at security gates.

Are there any health concerns?

It is required that you receive a one-time Yellow Fever shot to travel to Malawi IF you are traveling through Kenya or Ethiopia. A yellow fever shot is not required if traveling through South Africa. You will receive a yellow vaccination card you MUST bring with your passport for travel. There are travel health clinics (www.passporthealthusa.com) or pharmacies which are able to administer these shots and medicine. We also require that you take Malaria preventative medication (Doxycycline, Malarone, or others) prior to and during your trip. There are other shots the CDC recommends but are not required.

Due to long travel times on airplanes or in the van to villages, it is recommended to start a low dose aspirin 81mg daily one week prior to your departure date and daily while on the trip to prevent blood clots forming in the legs. Compression socks on the airplane are also helpful to reduce swelling. Get up and walk around the cabin every two hours or do foot flexion exercises while sitting. Staying hydrated during travel is very important.

It is recommended that if you get carsick, bring appropriate medication for that and any other medications recommended by your physician.

How do I communicate with my family?

Internet availability is limited. You will be able to communicate with family. We encourage you to download the *WhatsApp* (green telephone message icon) on your device and those family member's devices that you are going to be communicating with prior to your trip overseas. We encourage you to limit your communication and use of social media

as much as possible. You cannot upload pictures or videos to social media while there and absolutely no streaming movies, sports, games, podcasts, etc.

When and where do I meet my interpreter?

The local church pastor will have interpreters available on the first day of village evangelism. You will be matched up with an interpreter by the group leader. Please be flexible as it is not always possible to choose your preference or have the same interpreter from a prior trip. Begin praying now for God to align you with an effective teammate. Most interpreters are leaders in their local churches or Bible school students. They are passionate about sharing the Gospel and look forward to sharing your story of salvation with the fellow countrymen.

For those that have been to Malawi previously, do not invite a previous interpreter to come and interpret for you. The in-country leadership will invite those interpreters that are ready and available.

Do I need to pay my interpreter?

Interpreters are paid generously with a daily honorarium (part of your initial trip cost). The in-country leader will handle the exchange of money. Individual monetary gifts or “tips” are **not encouraged** but not prohibited, they can plant seeds of envy, jealousy, and even lead to greed. Interpreters are our partners in sharing the Gospel and advancing the Kingdom. We must do everything we can to protect this important relationship. What seems like a loving gesture of generosity could be detrimental to the purpose and goals of the trip. Please read “When Helping Hurts” listed in the resources section of this handbook prior to your trip. It is a very practical and thought-provoking book providing insight into how good intentions of evangelical Christians on short-term missions can make matters worse for those in poverty.

We DO encourage you to pack water and snacks for both you and your interpreter in your backpack for the day and treat them as a fellow ambassador for Christ with a common purpose. A personal thank you note at the end of the week is always appreciated.



What if I have never shared my faith?

Don't worry. Most of the people who go on mission trips have never led anyone to Christ. You will receive extensive training prior to our departure and plenty of practice while in Malawi. Most people feel comfortable and confident after the first day on the field. By the end of our trip you'll be ready to storm hell with a water pistol! All God wants is a willing person and he'll prepare and use you greatly. He doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called!

Basic Outline

1. Introduction of yourself
2. Gospel presentation
3. Ask them if they would like to surrender their lives to Christ and receive the free gift of salvation
4. Lead them in prayer
5. Congratulate them if they prayed to receive Christ
6. Tell them anything else you would like as a way of encouragement
7. Allow them to ask questions (if you feel comfortable)
8. Ask your interpreter to explain the location of the church and when it will begin

Tips and Ideas

- Your presentation needs to be your own...take the things included in the pages to follow and make them your own.
- It needs to begin with a personal introduction of yourself, something like this:
- "My name is David, and I have traveled all the way to you today from the USA to tell you the greatest news that you will ever hear. It is news that has changed my life forever. It is the message of Jesus Christ from the Bible, God's Word."
- It needs to have the basic message of the Gospel: God's love, Man's sin and separation, Jesus free gift of salvation through the Cross, how to receive salvation, lead in Sinner's prayer.
- You need to speak one sentence and then pause to let your interpreter translate. Then continue to the next sentence and so on.
- Write out your presentation word for word and memorize.
- Your presentation should last around 10 minutes. Remember you have an interpreter so if you speak for 10 minutes, he/she will be speaking for 10 minutes also.
- Practice your testimony out loud for a friend, family member, or someone from your team.

Gospel Presentation Example

Hello, my name is Chad and I have come all the way from America to tell you some very good news. God loves you very much. God created you and God knows your name. In the Bible in the book of Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord said, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." He wants your life to be full of peace, love, and joy. The Bible says in Psalms 29:11, "The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace." But most people do not experience this joy, peace, and strength that God gives and that's because of sin. Everyone has committed sin whether it is telling a lie or stealing or anger or pride. Anything that displeases God is sin. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Our sin separates us from God and there is a price to be paid for our sin. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." Now that's not just physical death but spiritual separation from God forever. Isaiah 59:2 says "Your sins have made a separation between you and your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you."

But I said that I had good news for you and that is that God sent His one and only son Jesus Christ to earth to die on the cross, to die as payment for our sins. Then God raised him up from the dead to prove He accepted His death as payment for our sin. Jesus' death bridged the gap between us and God. Imagine you are standing on the edge of a large river that is very deep and God is on the other side. The water is going by your sin separating you from God. Jesus is the bridge over your sin to God. The Bible says in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the death then you will be saved. All we have to do is trust Jesus' death on the cross as payment for our sins. Romans 10:13 says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." If you believe in Jesus, you will be saved and have eternal life in Heaven with God forever. Salvation and forgiveness is available right now, all you have to do is admit you are a sinner, turn away from your sins, believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, and pray to invite Jesus into your heart.

Now for everyone who wants to do that raise your hand. Now we are going to bow our heads and pray to invite Jesus into our hearts. Repeat this prayer after me. Dear Lord Jesus. I know that I am a sinner and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I ask you to come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior in Jesus' name. Amen. Luke 10:20 Jesus said, "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven... 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come."

The Romans Road to Salvation

The Romans Road to salvation is a way of explaining the good news of salvation using verses from the Book of Romans. It is a simple, yet powerful method of explaining why we need salvation, how God provided salvation, how we can receive salvation, and what are the results of salvation.

- ✚ Romans 3:23 For all have sinned
- ✚ Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but God provides eternal life through Jesus
- ✚ Romans 5:8 God showed His love by sending Jesus to die in our place
- ✚ Romans 10:9 If you confess Jesus is Lord and believe in His resurrection you will be saved
- ✚ Romans 10:13 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved
- ✚ Romans 5:1 This pays the price for our sin and gives us peace with God
- ✚ Romans 8:1 We are no longer condemned if we have Jesus in our heart
- ✚ Romans 8:38-39 Nothing can separate us now from the love of God

Would you like to follow the Romans Road to salvation? If so, here is a simple prayer you can pray to God. Saying this prayer is a way to declare to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ for your salvation. The words themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation! "God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank you for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness-the gift of eternal life! Amen.

Spiritually Preparing for the Mission

Seven Days of Spiritual Preparation: (start one week prior to departure date)

Day 7 – Put on the BELT OF TRUTH. Examine your heart. What are your motives for going? What do you hope to achieve? Vacation, travel, accolades...or to further the cause of Christ and His Kingdom? Consider fasting today and praying for God to reveal any false or impure motives or unconfessed sin that may hinder your effectiveness on the mission field. Confess and remove any impurities until you are bared naked before our Holy Creator. Humbly ask Him to bind His Truth around your waist.

Action: Consider a day of fasting and prayer to focus on your heart and the true purpose of the mission.

Scriptures:

Hosea 14:9 Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

John 7:17-18 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.

Day 6 – Cover your heart with the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Now that you have prepared your heart for His work and glory, you must protect it. Satan does not want you on this trip. If you haven't already sensed you've been under spiritual attack, be prepared it is coming! You may hear comments from others, or even your own thoughts, implying you are inadequate or "not good enough" for the mission field. This is a lie from the father of lies. God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called through the righteousness of His son. It's not about you or your abilities...It is all about HIM!

Action: Place reminder scriptures on post-its or cards around your home or office. Pray for team.

Scriptures:

Jeremiah 1:6-8 Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. (*a.k.a... its all about HIM*)

1 Timothy 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.

John 17:1-3 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all the people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

Day 5 – Apply the SHOES OF READINESS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE. Today focus on your personal testimony. For this reason alone, God has chosen YOU to have a divine appointment with a stranger half way around the world! We have the Good News which can bring peace to the hopeless forgotten.

Action: Practice your testimony in front of a friend or small group such as your Sunday School class. Pray specifically for your interpreter.

Scriptures:

1 Peter 3:15-16 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Day 4 – Lift up your SHIELD OF FAITH with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Kids may get sick, the car may break down, luggage may be lost, or any of another tactics which satan can exploit to distract and discourage you. Be of good cheer, the testing of your faith produces endurance which you will need in the days ahead. There is no better place to be in this fallen world than in the middle of God’s will and plan for you.

Action: Start packing today if you haven’t already. Provide a copy of your travel itinerary to your emergency contact. Pray for protection over your spouse, children, home, pets, finances and health.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 11:1,3 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Jeremiah 17:7 But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.

Proverbs 2:6-8 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.

Day 3 – Put on the HELMET OF SALVATION. Rejoice today in the fact that your faith in Jesus has resulted in the perfect gift of salvation. Cover your head with this assurance and protect your mind from any doubts or insecurities in your ability to share protection with a different culture around the world.

Action: Finish packing your luggage today including your passport, travel documents, and spending money. Pray for every person you will encounter from the moment you depart until your return.

Scriptures:

1 John 5:4-5 For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Acts 15:11 Now we believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.

1 Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an expressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Day 2 – Place in your hand the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT which is the WORD OF GOD. Some of the best witnessing can be done on the plane to a stranger sitting next to you. That may be a divine appointment. Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have.

Action: Place tabs in your Bible for your “go to” testimony or evangelism scriptures. Make several copies of your testimony and place one in backpack, Bible, carry-on and packed luggage.

Scriptures:

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His Kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Romans 10:14 How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!”

Day 1 –STAND FIRM and REST. This is the last day before your departure. You have completed your preparations mentally and spiritually and your bags should be packed. When God completed His work, He gave us the *example* and even *commandment* to rest. Treat today like a sabbath rest.

Action: Enjoy and love on your family and get physical and emotional rest. Drink plenty of fluids and get to bed early. Pray for the missionaries Jim & Melissa to be given sweet rest and a time of renewal and closeness in their marriage as they prepare for your team to arrive. Pray for unity of the team.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Exodus 33:14 The Lord replied, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Psalms 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.

Romans 15:5-6 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with ONE MIND and ONE VOICE you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resources

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert

The Insanity of God: A True Story of Faith Resurrected by Nik Ripken

All In: You Are One Decision Away from a Totally Different Life by Mark Batterson

Sponsoring a Zoey's Friend

You can sponsor a Zoey's Friend through online giving on the Zoey's Place website. <https://zoey'splace.org>

\$35/month for child

\$48/month for infant needing formula

The entire gift designated to Zoey's Place will be used for The Ministry of Zoey's Place.

MAKING THE COMMITMENT

Commitment Agreement Prior to Departure:

1. I commit to go on this mission trip with _____.
2. I understand that I am fully responsible for paying for the cost of the mission trip.
3. I will work diligently to raise my funds as well as help others raise their funds.
4. I understand that, as a Mission Trip Team Member, I am a representative of Jesus Christ and that as a result my language, lifestyle, and behavior is to be lived above reproach.
5. I agree to live a lifestyle above reproach. Therefore, I will refrain from activities that would reflect poorly on Jesus Christ both outside the church, inside the church, and through social media.
6. I agree that if I involve myself in activities that do not represent a Christian character, I automatically forfeit my participation on the trip. I understand that I am still responsible to pay the cost of the trip if I forfeit my spot on the trip because of my behavior.
7. I agree to attend all team meetings

Code of Conduct on the Trip:

The following guidelines are meant to further your usefulness and safety on your mission trip. As a Team member you are expected:

1. 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.
2. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader(s) and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip. Do not argue with the group leader publicly.
3. Refrain from using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs at any time during the mission trip.
4. Come home the same way you left on the outside. This includes body piercing, tattoos, etc.
5. Abstain from making derogatory comments or getting involved in arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.
6. Attend all team meetings, both prior to departure and during the mission trip.
7. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and using obscene or insensitive humor.
8. Adhere to the dress code established for your trip.
9. Make sure the group leader(s) knows where you are at all times. You should never wander off alone while on the mission field.

10. Be on time every time.
11. Contribute to the daily cooking and housekeeping.
12. Willingly limit communication with home. Prepare your family and yourself. Communication ability will be limited.
13. Understand that mission trips can be difficult, and promise to adopt a flexible attitude, as plans may need to be changed.
14. Don't whine or complain.
15. Interact with all members of your team, not just those members that you knew before your trip.
16. Do not seek out romantic relationships with a team member, team leader, overseas worker, or national you might meet on the trip.
17. Act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or missionary. Respect the advice you are given concerning attire, eating and drinking, and either such traditions that will help you to assimilate into the local community.
18. Refrain from any other behavior or activity that would hinder your ministry or the ministry of your team during the term of your service.

I have read and understand and agree to the above standards for conduct. I understand and 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 with the mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____