

# TEAM COVENANT

It is important to agree on Christian attitudes and behavior prior to going to the mission field. The following Team Covenant is an agreement between each team member, team leaders, and First Naples Church. We are reminded that we are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. And as ambassadors for Christ, we confess our dependence on the Holy Spirit and commit to being above reproach in our actions and attitudes, especially while serving on the mission field!

## ABIDING

In John 15, Jesus commands His disciples to abide in Him. In verses one through seventeen, Christ explains what this means. If Christ's disciples are to bear fruit and have abundant joy, we are to know His Word, pray in accordance with His Word, obey His Word, and love one another. Therefore, an expectation for all Missions team members is that they will abide in Christ. Abiding means:

- Regular (at least 5 times a week) personal devotional times, involving scripture, meditation, and prayer.
- Consistent obedience to the God's Word.
- A growing love for believers and others.

## STRATEGY & VISION

Missions team members are expected to submit to the vision and strategy of field leadership. We are seeking to support and encourage field partners, not question or condemn their prayerful processes for church planting. Should there be questionable practices first consult with the Short-term trip team leader in private and they will have a private conversation with field leadership to obtain clarity. Most partnerships have already been vetted by the Missions Leadership Team and we do not foresee this being an issue.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Lord has blessed the church with spiritual gifts, for the purpose of edification, unification, and proclamation of the Gospel for the advancement of His Kingdom. Should spiritual giftings become a reason for disruption and disunity to the task of the Great Commission, the team members involved in the dispute will be asked to reconcile and refrain from discussing the issue for the remainder of the trip.

## DOCTRINE

Volunteers will not deliberately teach anything that is contrary to the Bible or the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>

<https://bfm.sbc.net/fe-y-mensaje-bautistas/>

## TEAM RELATIONS

Unity and loving one another is an essential part of abiding in Christ. Volunteers are required to maintain a Philippians 4:4-9 and a 1 Corinthians 13 heart and mind, always. In light of these passages team members will:

- Believe the best about each other.
- Will regularly affirm and encourage each other
- Will act respectfully and submit to leadership STM team leaders
- Handle conflict with a gracious Philippians 4:4-9 and 1 Corinthians 13 heart

When experiencing tension with a team member you are expected to:

1. **Take it to God**- Pray to God for wisdom, humility and above all love. Ask the Lord to first remove the log in your eye so that you can see the situation clearly. Questions to pray through:
  - Have I misunderstood the person or misread the situation?
  - Is this more about my own unmet expectations?
  - Is this in regard to my own insecurities?
2. **Take it to the Person**- The biblical model for conflict resolution is to go directly to the person in love and seek reconciliation. Gossip is a unity killer and should be avoided and discouraged.
  - If the person does not respond to loving confrontation, then the team leader will become involved. And follow biblical conflict resolution procedures according to Matthew 18.
  - If the person remains unrepentant, they may be asked to leave the trip and return to the States early.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIONALS

In our relationships with nationals, we will be obedient to the absolute truth of God and be women and men of integrity in our behaviors and motives. We will respect any cultural differences we may encounter. We will demonstrate our love for God and others in the community by respecting their opinions and differences. We will demonstrate cultural sensitivity, especially for behaviors pertaining to the opposite sex.

## FLEXIBILITY

We agree as a team to be flexible in our attitudes, actions, and circumstances as we allow Christ's purposes to be carried out through us.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

In all our actions on this mission trip, we are individually accountable to God, each other, team leaders, and long-term workers.

3. No team member will be alone with someone from the opposite sex behind closed doors unless it is an emergency and extreme extenuating circumstance.
4. Team members must always travel in pairs unless given permission by the team leader.
5. There must be two team members, one must be female, when caring for children.

## **TIME/PUNCTUALITY**

We agree to exhibit respect to field team and others by arriving on time and carrying out tasks on time. If a situation arises which causes a STM team members to be late, we agree to inform field leadership and STM Team leaders immediately. We agree that time a God-given stewardship that has been gift to us for the purpose of accomplishing His mission. Being punctual is an acknowledgment that we recognize this truth.

## **CULTURE SENSITIVITY**

As a team, WE REALIZE THAT WE ARE ENTERING OTHER CULTURES AS GUESTS. We will, to the best of our ability, refrain from passing judgment on customs that are foreign to us before we try to better understand them. As a team, we will strive to show respect to those who are native to the country we are ministering in by learning their customs and culture as well as living as they do. We hope that we may gain credibility as people with a genuine love for them as we labor to present the news of Christ to them. We will be particularly sensitive to the cultural values regarding relationships with the opposite sex described in the INFORMATION Sheet.

## **SECURITY**

We will not do any kind of support raising on social media. This should be done through a secure email or by written letters. We will not post any info about the nature of the trip online prior to, during and after the trip! We will not mention anything about the nature of the trip via social media prior to, during and after. We will not post pictures of the workers or their children or other people without permission. While in-country we will conduct ourselves according to the security standards described by field leadership. This may mean using certain code words at times.

## **DRESS CODE**

We will adhere to the dress code for the sake of not being a stumbling block to the Gospel while serving cross-culturally. We will represent modesty through our choice of clothing and not give offense to anyone. We recognize it is best to dress conservatively in most cultures and will seek to promote modesty through attire. We will follow the guiding, general principle that we will be covered as much as possible, and nothing will be form fitting. We will submit to the dress code below:

### **Tops and shirts**

- Loose fitting shirt with a neckline that never shows cleavage.
- No see-through shirts
- Ideally shirts that cover the bottom
- No midriffs
- No tank tops
- Sleeves approaching at least the elbows (women).

### **Loose slacks or jeans.**

- All shorts must be of at least mid-thigh length.
- It is recommended that team members wear long pants or skirts for women.
- Skirts must reach below the knees even when seated.
- Shoes that are comfortable for walking at least 5 miles a day without blisters.

## **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, MARIJUANA, and OTHER SUBSTANCES**

All team members will abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages, using tobacco products, marijuana, and other narcotics while on the mission field.

## **SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

All volunteers will travel in pairs or in groups. Under no circumstance should a volunteer travel somewhere alone. This is implemented to provide each person with accountability and safety.