



*Where there is no vision, the people perish
Proverbs 29:18*

God's Chosen Ones Ministry

*Creating a brighter tomorrow for Haiti by raising
up the next generation of Haitian leaders today*

Volunteer Mission Trip Information Packet

God's Chosen Ones Ministry

P.O. Box 53221

Indianapolis, Indiana 46253

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About Haiti



Haiti is a Caribbean country occupying the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola, sharing the island with the Dominican Republic. It is about the size of the state of Maryland, 50 miles from Cuba, and 600 miles from Miami, Florida. Haiti, the first independent black republic, has historically been poverty stricken due to a variety of factors such as war and war debt, occupations and dictatorships, isolation and racism. These factors are still impacting Haiti today along with current economic

and environmental factors such as international aid sanctions, internal political conflict, deforestation that leads to soil erosion and flooding, hurricanes, etc.

The average Haitian earns less than \$3 a day, and survives on a mere \$1 per day. There have been estimates that 1 percent of the country's estimated 8.1 million people control nearly half its wealth. More than half of the population lacks access to clean water or sanitation. Fifty percent of the population is undernourished, with one in five children underweight or under-height for their age. Twelve percent of Haitian children die before their first birthday, and one third do not make it to their fifth.



According to a 2004 U.N. report, Haiti ranks with Afghanistan and Somalia as one of three countries of the world with the worst daily caloric deficit per person with 2.4 million Haitians unable to afford the minimum 2,240 daily calories recommended by the World Health Organization. In addition, only one in every 10,000 Haitians has access to a physician. Today most Haitians are Christian and 50-60 percent Roman Catholic. The number of Protestants has been growing steadily, although Baptist and Pentecostal are the largest registered denominations, many others are represented. Many Haitians continue to practice Voodoo or incorporate Voodoo into Christianity as has been done for several hundred years.



Even with all the struggles that Haiti faces, there remain a people with open arms and smiling faces. It is a culture rich in music, art, and storytelling. The land is graced with beautiful beaches and breathtaking mountains. Some positive things Haiti is known for include: Haiti is said to have the best beach in the Caribbean, they were the first Caribbean country to ever qualify for the soccer World Cup finals, artists in Haiti produce nearly all the crafts

sold for tourism in the Caribbean, and it is the second largest exporter of Mangos to the U.S. (Arthur, 2004, pp.19-20) . A trip to Haiti is truly a life changing experience full of beauty and sorrow it will give you a better appreciation for the strength of these amazing people.

Travel Information



Weather

The climate in Haiti is hot and humid with an average temperature of 85 degrees. For a current forecast go to www.weather.com and type Port-au-Prince, Haiti in the “Local Weather” box.

Clothing

Summer clothing is appropriate with the high temperatures and humidity. Please wear modest clothing. Please bring shoes that are comfortable for walking long distances as due to the current conditions resulting from the earthquake we may be required to do some hiking due to damaged roads. DO NOT wear any jewelry that has sentimental value, however you will want to wear something that signifies you are married.

Showering

You will want to use unscented items if at all possible to help cut down on bug attractions.

Immunizations

Immunizations are not required to be admitted into Haiti. However we suggest you go to www.cdc.gov/travel to see the recommended immunizations, medical precautions, as well as handling the prescription medication you may be bringing with you. These immunizations are typically available at your County Health Department at cost or at any Travel Clinic. We advise you to have a current Tetanus Shot as well.

Food

We will do our best to provide you with meals but due to the current situations in Haiti as a result of the earthquake taking place in January of 2010 food supplies are scarce. For this reason we recommend that you bring light weight snacks such as energy bars. We will supply you with clean drinking water during your stay.

Luggage

We ask that your checked luggage be donated items for the relief efforts currently underway. You should be able to fit your clothing and personal items in a rolling carryon. However, due to the tightened restrictions, please check with the airline on toiletries allowed in carry-on. It might be necessary for you to pack some things in your checked luggage. If you do not have enough supplies to donate, our donations coordinator can ship additional items to the team leader.

Money

It is best to bring cash. Traveler’s checks are difficult to exchange and credit cards are only accepted in some places. Take mostly ones and fives and separate your money in different locations. I.E. some in your wallet, some in your suitcase, etc.... This is to ensure your money not to be lost or stolen all together, leaving you empty handed.

Travel Information

Passport

It is required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your departure date to travel to and from Haiti. Forms are available online as well as finding the location nearest you accepting applications. To find the information needed you can go to travel.state.gov/passport on the web.

Customs

You will be required to fill out a customs form on the plane before you arrive in Haiti. The address you should put on this form will be provided to you by your team leader in Miami the night before departure.

Airport

When traveling to other countries you will find the airports are not the same as in the States. Upon arrival, there will be lots of people waiting outside to “help you” with your bags. However, do not be deceived, you will be paying for this. It can be very overwhelming if you are unaware. Some of them wait there all day just for the chance to make some money so be prepared, it’s pretty hectic.

Final Note

There are no public restrooms, so there may be occurrences of people relieving themselves on the streets. Also the modesty is different in Haiti than in the States so be prepared to see more than you’re used to.

Approximate Trip Costs

Based on a 7 day/6 night stay.

- Airfare Varies Volunteers are responsible for making their own flight arrangements but are asked to book on a predetermined flight into and out of Port au Prince, Haiti.
- Non-Refundable \$25 Application fee to reserve your spot on the trip. Due at time of application.
- Mission Trip Fee- \$950 to be sent with your application, this covers the cost of Rooms & Board, drivers, tipping, escort fee, etc.
- Supplies Varies GCOM asks that all volunteers use 2 pieces of “checked luggage” for supplies. If the team does not have enough supplies to fill the bags, items can be shipped to the team leader from our donations coordinator.

Volunteers are responsible for any extra expenses incurred during their stay.



Items to Pack

We suggest that you bring the following items with you...

- Cash in ones and fives
- Unscented Soap, Shampoo & Lotion
- 100% Deet Bug Spray (Available at Target or other camping supply stores)
- Flashlight
- Sleeping bag
- Toilet Paper (1 roll, just in case)
- Baby Powder
- Walking Shoes
- Modest summer clothes, i.e. shorts or capris.
- Wet Wipes
- Antibacterial Hand Gel
- Wide Mouth Water Bottle with Lid
- Color Copy of Passport

Snacks:

- Trail Mix
- Turkey/Beef Jerky
- Granola Bars
- Peanut Butter
- Crystal Light “On the Go”

Items to return to GCOM prior to departure

- \$25 Application Fee
- Mission Trip Application
- \$950 Mission Trip Fee
- Volunteer Release Form
- Emergency Contact Information Form
- Medical Information Form
- Acknowledgement Page
- Color Copy of Passport
- Copy of Medical Insurance card



Volunteer Release Form

We are delighted with your decision to travel with God's Chosen Ones Ministry, and we are more than willing to help you with some of the arrangements. However, any travel is accompanied by certain risks. As our organization is comprised entirely of volunteers like you, it has limited funding and has no insurance to cover these risks. Each volunteer is expected to assume any and all risks that may result from his or her activities and to procure insurance coverage as he or she deems appropriate.

Please sign and date this document and return it to GCOM, acknowledging this notification, releasing us from liability, and indemnifying us from claims against us arising from your activities. We must receive a signed copy of this letter before we can continue to plan your trip. Thank you.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receiving this letter, and acknowledges the risks assumed by volunteers of God's Chosen Ones Ministry (GCOM), its officers, directors, members and all other persons and organizations working on its behalf from any and all loss, liability, actions, claims and demands of any nature, past, present or future, that may result from or be in any way related to the undersigned's activities conducted under the auspices of God's Chosen Ones Ministry.

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

DATE SIGNED:

DESTINATION:

DATE OF DEPARTURE:

DATE OF RETURN HOME:

Please return release prior to Volunteer Trip.

God's Chosen Ones Ministry

P.O. Box 53221

Indianapolis, Indiana 46253

Attn: Mission Trips

Fax: 717-754-5750

info@gcomintl.org

Emergency Contact Information Form

Volunteer Emergency Contact Information

Please provide us with the name and contact information of the person we should contact in case of an emergency.

NAME:

RELATIONSHIP:

DAYTIME PHONE:

EVENING PHONE:

MOBILE/PAGER NUMBER:

HOME ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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Medical Information Form

Please provide us with the following medical information in case of an emergency.

NAME:

EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITONS:

ALLERGIES:

LIST ANY MEDICATION YOU ARE CURRENTLY TAKING:

DOCTORS NAME:

PHONE NUMBER OF DOCTOR:

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN A
MEDICAL EMERGENCY:

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Acknowledgment Page

A mission trip can be a very rewarding experience. However, if a volunteer goes to a third world country unprepared it can make for an unpleasant experience. It is vital that all volunteers read and acknowledge that they understand the risks, requirements and expectations of travel to Haiti.

After reading the mission packet please sign the following document and return to the Mission Director along with the release of liability, emergency contact information and medical information form. Please also send a color copy of your passport and a copy of your medical insurance card.

Thank you.
God's Chosen Ones Ministry, Board of Directors

The undersigned hereby acknowledges, receiving this Mission packet, and acknowledges that they have read and understand all requirements and expectations listed herein.

NAME:

SIGNATURE:

DATE SIGNED:

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Mission Trip Application

God's Chosen Ones Ministry Mission Trip Application

Personal Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Marital Status: _____
Date of birth: _____

Health Information

Describe your general health condition: _____
Are you taking any medication? If so, what? _____
Allergies: _____
Blood type: _____
Family Physician: _____
Family Physician Phone #: _____
Medical Insurance Company for trip: _____
Medical Insurance Contact #: _____
Emergency Contact Person: _____
Emergency Contact Phone #: _____
Relationship: _____

Travel Information

Have you ever been to Haiti before? _____
Passport Number: _____
How will you be arriving to Miami? Airline: _____
Flight number: _____
Arrival Time: _____
Do you want to book your own ticket from Miami to PAP? _____

Other Important Questions

Have your fees been forwarded to the appropriate address? _____
What method were they sent? (regular mail, courier etc) _____

Additional information or comments:

What is your primary motivation for this trip?

Any other helpful comments or suggestions?

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MEDICAL INSURANCE IS NOT ONLY RECOMMENDED BUT ALSO REQUIRED FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO HAITI BY OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM.

IN SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING:

- The above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

GOD'S CHOSEN ONES MINISTRY AND / OR IT'S VOLUNTEER STAFF CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENT OR INJURY THAT COULD OCCUR WHILE IN HAITI.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

*Any questions should be directed to:
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ATTN: Mission Trips
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46253
Phone: 424-205-4415
Fax: 717-754-5750
Email – trips@gcomintl.org*

Your place will be reserved once we receive the following:

1. Completed application
2. Appropriate fees (payable in US funds to God's Chosen Ones Ministry in the form of cashier check or money order or paid via paypal on our website)
3. Volunteer Release Form
4. Emergency Contact Information Form
5. Medical Information Form
6. Acknowledgment Page
7. Color Copy of passport
8. Copy of Medical Insurance Card