

## Attitudes, Behaviors & Characteristics

**As team members share the love of Jesus Christ, both in the local church and in the mission field, they represent Christ's presence in the place where they serve.**

### **Essential qualities of effective team members are:**

1. A Christ-centered life
2. Commitment to the mission work of the church, exemplified by an enthusiastic and positive attitude
3. Willingness to follow guidance of the team leader
4. Flexibility and openness to other cultures and ways of worship
5. Willingness to serve in friendship and mutuality with the host and the host church
6. A cooperative and courteous way of relating to others

### **Attitude of Servanthood**

1. Lift up God in all that you do; radiate Christ's love by actions, attitude, and words.
2. Recognize that your attitude and behavior are crucial to the effectiveness of the team's mission.
3. Keep an attitude that is characterized by love, patience, joy, and service.
4. **Be flexible. Be patient. Be relaxed.**
5. Adapt to different living conditions (schedule, noise, food, work, etc.)
6. Remember that relationship building is the most important mission..
7. Serve Christ and his people so that both the purpose and the task of the mission will be accomplished.

### **Cultural Sensitivity**

1. Remember that team members are servants of Jesus Christ
2. You are not in charge. You are God's servant.
3. Expect things to be radically different from home. Prepare for less comfort and a different diet.
4. Expect different ways of doing things. Understand that cultures are different, not superior or inferior.
5. Respect the religious faith of other cultures. The expressions of faith may be different from those of team members.
6. Be supportive of the ministry that is going on in the area where the team is serving.
7. Look forward to meeting new friends and experiencing a unique Christian fellowship.
8. Look forward to the experience of a lifetime. Expect to learn new skills and ways of thinking.
9. Don't worry about time. Most of the people will not own a watch. A mission volunteer quotes someone from another country as saying, "In the USA everyone has a watch but no one has time. Here we don't have watches, but we have time."
10. Refrain from negativism and complaining when unexpected and undesired circumstances occur in travel and ministry.
11. Rejoice in the Lord always and be thankful for the diversity of God's people.

### **Teamwork**

1. Share Christ's spirit of kindness, acceptance, and unity.
2. Think team, not self. Participate in and cooperate with all team activities. Accept assignments for team duties.
3. Be sensitive to others and considerate of them. Be willing to listen – really listen.
4. The purpose is to share Christ's love in a spirit of kindness, acceptance, and unity.
5. Respect the leadership of the team leader, recognizing that some decisions will need to be made by him or her.
6. Attend training sessions. Complete and turn in forms and money on due dates as indicated by the team leader.
7. Creatively support and encourage fellow team members in fulfilling the purpose of the mission.
8. Recognize the unique contribution of each team member.

### **Spiritual Growth**

1. Have a healthy prayer life. Pray for and support the team leader in her or his decisions.
2. Be open to the Holy Spirit and to what God may be saying.
3. Be willing to learn, to grow and to expand your own horizons.
4. Expect a life changing experience. Be open and responsive to God's blessings.
5. Ask your friends and family for prayers and support. Encourage and support of the mission.
6. Keep a journal about the mission. Note how you saw God at work each day. Tell the story of the mission when you return home.

### **Personal and Financial Responsibility**

1. Do not give gifts, especially to children, unless you can give to all equally. Abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and profanity from the time of departure until the return home. The impression volunteers give to the community affects the Christian witness of the mission.
2. Pack lightly. You must carry what you bring.
3. Be modest in the clothing you wear. Inappropriate clothing is offensive in many cultures.
4. Be very careful with your luggage, purse, money, and all personal belongings, especially when loading and unloading.
5. Follow all health and safety precautions.

## Purpose, Values, Task, and Mission Policy Agreement

### OUR PURPOSE

The **purpose** of our mission is to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

### OUR VALUES

- ❖ To seek to glorify God in all that we do.
- ❖ We will equip our leaders and team members for effective ministry and seek, through our tasks and sharing of our own time, talents and lives, to build relationships that enhance ministry and fulfill our purpose.
- ❖ We will value and respect other cultures and ways of life and will conduct ourselves accordingly.
- ❖ We will fulfill our commitment to every mission by returning home and sharing the story of Christian difference making.

### OUR TASK

The **task** our mission is to share our abilities in partnership with our team members and with our partners in Ethiopia. As servants we participate in accomplishing particular goals of the mission.

### A NOTE ABOUT OUR PURPOSE AND TASK

It is most important that we be constantly mindful of the primary nature of our purpose. The task is important but is always to be secondary to realizing our true mission as Christians together...to share Christ's love. When we are faithful in our purpose – the difference that Christ intends will be made.

### MISSION POLICY AGREEMENT

I realize that the following commitment is crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and positive expression of our mission together. As a participating member of the Mission Team, I agree to:

1. Lift up Jesus Christ with my thoughts, words, and actions
2. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward the people our team serves as well as toward each team member.
3. Pray for and support my team leader and team members.
4. Respect the views of religious faith, realizing that different people have different expressions of faith.
5. Accept the ministry that is going on in the area where I am serving as well as the local approach to the mission, though it may differ from my own approach.
6. Abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medications not prescribed to me, inappropriate clothing, and profanity during the mission.
7. Refrain from negativism and complaining. Travel and ministry outside my church may present unexpected and even undesired circumstances. However, my support and creativity will enhance the moment.
8. Refrain from gossip. If it is not true, good, and positive, I will not say it.
9. Remember that I am a servant of Jesus Christ. I will serve as best I can so that both the spiritual purpose and the task of the mission will be accomplished.

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Signature

Date

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Printed Name