



Strong Tower
HAITI

Mission Manual

This manual is designed to help you prepare for your upcoming mission. Please carefully read this in its entirety! Thank you for your dedication to being fully prepared for our mission. May the Lord direct and lead our preparations for His glory and purpose!

Strong Tower Haiti is a non-profit organization that cares for orphaned and vulnerable children in northern Haiti through local church partnership. Partnering is important because the local Body of Christ is the light and love of Jesus in their community.

God and the local church, the Church of the Redeemer, invite Strong Tower to come serve alongside them. Both the invitation and the privilege serve to humble and empower the team to be the hands and feet of Christ in Haiti.

Mission Statement: Strong Tower is dedicated to sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ with orphaned and vulnerable children in Caracol, Haiti

Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Caracol, Haiti by sharing His love, forgiveness, and grace with orphans and those in their community.

Respond to God's mandate to care for orphans by striving to meet their physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational needs.

Partner with the Body of Christ to continually work toward improving the quality of life for the least of these.

Equip churches, as well as individual Christians, to minister to orphans through mission trips, volunteering, and giving financially, through sponsorships and general opportunities. **Learn** from a culture that exemplifies community, hard work, and total dependence on God. Remain open to the ways God has planned to stretch and grow our faith while in Haiti.

Strong Tower's Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Caring for orphaned and vulnerable children is more than strengthening families and providing the gift of family for children who are alone. It's about pursuing the complete well-being of each and every child. And this means keeping them safe.

God reveals His heart for children through His Word (Psalm 127:3-5; Luke 18:15-17; Matt 18:6; Mal 4:6). As followers of Jesus, we are called to reflect His character and heart in thought, word, and action. We are called to love children the way God loves children.

Strong Tower Haiti is committed to the protection, safety, and well-being of every child God brings into Strong Tower's care. In all Strong Tower Haiti ministries and activities where children are present, we seek to provide a caring environment where they will experience the love of Christ and where their own faith will be nurtured.

This Policy outlines Strong Tower Haiti's commitment to children:

- To protect children from abuse and exploitation.
- To protect staff, team members and volunteers from false accusations and allegations.

It applies to all activities authorized by or under the control of Strong Tower Haiti, where children are involved directly or indirectly, including those activities undertaken onsite in Caracol or away from the premises and includes all Board members, staff and volunteers engaged by Strong Tower Haiti.

Policy

1. Strong Tower Haiti believes that childhood should be spent in a protective environment that enables children to flourish and achieve their full potential. Therefore, Strong Tower Haiti believes that any form of child abuse and exploitation is unacceptable and such abuse and exploitation will not be tolerated. Strong Tower Haiti is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and/or young people and vulnerable adults who may come in contact with Strong Tower Haiti and its personnel.

2. We encourage our staff and volunteers to build and maintain a protective environment for children, by adhering to and promoting procedures on child protection.

3. As children's ministries are a part of Strong Tower Haiti's operations, this Policy and related Procedures aim to reduce the risk of abuse occurring, as well as ensuring that a caring and appropriate response is taken should abuse occur.

4. Some Strong Tower Haiti ministries, events or activities will involve participation by other organizations. These organizations will possibly have policies governing the issues of member and/or child safety and abuse. Strong Tower Haiti's Policy and Procedures are not intended to replace or conflict with other policies, but instead to operate in conjunction with them. Where those organizations do not have equivalent policies, we expect that their practices in relation to Child Protection to be equivalent to those adopted by Strong Tower Haiti.

GO

Jesus commands his people to go (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:5, Matthew 25:50, Luke 4:43)

- To encourage our partners in ministry on the field (Romans 1:11-12)
- To develop Christian character (Colossians 3:12-15)
- To be stretched spiritually, culturally and relationally (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Strong Tower's purpose in short-term missions is to allow God to work through the team to glorify Him and demonstrate His love to others. A short-term mission is much more than a mere adventure...it is part of fulfilling God's plan! **The ultimate purpose of the mission is to glorify God.**

God's ministry through you began the moment you were obedient to God's call to join this mission team. For this mission to be fruitful and pleasing to God, choose to dedicate your time to the team meetings, not just for the logistics of the trip, but to get to know and care for one another. This building up of team unity on the foundation of our faith and trust in Jesus Christ will make this team into a unified team not easily broken by the enemy. God has called you and will equip you to serve Him on this mission.

Getting to know and care about those who you will be serving with will make this a much more fruitful and fulfilling experience. The enemy will want to destroy what God has called and prevent what God is going to do in and through this team. It will remain important to pray and reassure one another throughout the preparations and duration of the mission.

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- The heart of every mission is Strong Tower Haiti
- Provide an opportunity to share the Gospel
- Encourage and work alongside our Christian brothers and sisters who already work in Caracol
- Develop a closer relationship with Christ and remain open to all the ways God intends to stretch and grow each team member during our mission
- Enhance your understanding of the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Haitian people
- Be the hands and feet of Jesus by loving and serving others well, while keeping in mind that God desires to do meaningful work through you and in you, as His transforming work continues in all of us.

MY OBJECTIVES

Please take a moment to reflect on your calling from God to be a part of this mission and write down some personal objectives to serving on this mission trip in your journal:

List the spiritual gifts you have to offer others.

Name some opportunities you are looking forward to during this mission trip. Consider how this trip will bring you closer to Christ.

Strong Tower Haiti is excited and blessed that you are coming to share your God-given gifts with the local church ministry in Caracol, including Strong Tower Haiti. We go to Haiti as guests of our local church partner and with a spirit of humility and servanthood (Philippians 2). **Please carefully review the following information.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lorie Holt at lorie@strongtowerhaiti.com or (660) 620-0866. **Your domestic and international flights will be booked for you. Itinerary for both will be forwarded when available.**

DATES OF MY MISSION:

TOTAL COST OF MY TRIP:

LEADERSHIP:

We believe a personal investment in a portion of or all of your travel expenses is beneficial. Personal commitment, investment, and sacrifice are part of the God-given call to short-term missions and specifically, to Strong Tower. Personal financial investment will increase your mission experience in every way.

Payment by check can be sent to:
Strong Tower Haiti
PO Box 485
Houlton, Maine 04730

Or, payment by credit card can be made on the website at www.strongtowerhaiti.com. Click on "Missions", then scroll down to the bottom of the page & click "Give to a Mission Participant."



Along with your personal investment, if you do have friends or family that would like to contribute toward your trip, they may submit payment in these ways as well, writing your name on the memo of the check.

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Haiti History: Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola and occupies about one-third of the island. The Dominican Republic (DR) makes up the other two-thirds. The size of Haiti is comparable to the size of the state of Maryland. The population is approximately 10.5 million people.

Haiti has one of the most interesting histories of any country. Columbus landed on the island in 1492 and through much blood-shed, eventually exterminated the indigenous population of native Taino Indians. The French eventually took over the island and spent centuries importing slaves from Africa. Haiti was once considered France's richest territory. The island gained independence from France in 1804 as a result of a successful slave rebellion. Haiti is the first black republic and the second independent nation in the Americas.

HAITI CULTURE: Haiti's culture is a unique blend of its history. Much like America, the island is a melting pot of Africans, British, Spanish, and the French; with about 95% of the population of African descent. All of this diversity is reflected in the architecture, cuisine, education, religion, and language. The language of Haiti is Haitian Creole. Haiti is a very poor country, most of the people make do with very little, much less than we would consider as adequate. The people seldom complain about their station in life and have a faith in God for provision that is inspirational and beyond comparison. Brilliant colors, lush landscape and beautiful people are prominent in a land that is riddled with poverty and hunger. People in Haiti enjoy life, take it easy and like to take things as they come. This uniqueness is among the vastest differences from American culture. You will find that in Haiti, time is NOT of the essence.

HAITI BELIEFS/CUSTOMS: Part of the unique history of Haiti includes the fact that the call to arms for the slave revolution was issued by a Vodou (voodoo) Priest. The belief system in place today still incorporates participation in vodou ceremonies in many regions of the country. Religious practices include creation of personal altars, music, dance, and spirit possession.

Roman Catholicism was the first of European religions to infiltrate the country and remain as 85% of Christian population. Today, there are Baptist, Methodist, and many other Protestant organizations spreading the love of Christ on the island. Haitians take proper behavior, good manners, and clean appearances very seriously, especially when attending church. Punctuality is not of importance and being late is never considered rude.

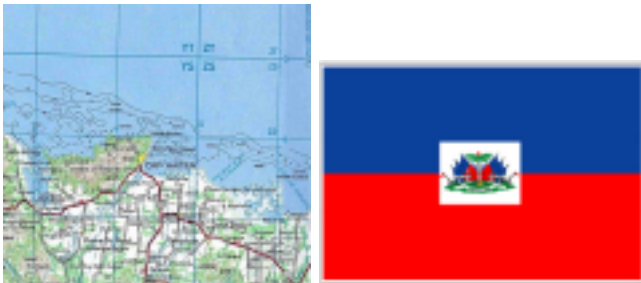
HAITI TYPICAL FOODS: Mangos, bananas, pineapple are among the delectable fruits readily available on the island. Beans, rice, fish, chicken are common, and often served with a liberal use of spices and peppers!



HAITI

We fly into Cap Haitien (northeastern coast)

We will travel by vehicle to Caracol (east of Cap Haitien)



Haiti Flag

How to Prepare Spiritually

How to Prepare Spiritually

Serving on the mission team is just one stage of a lifelong journey you have chosen to connect more deeply with God in your life, in your community, and in the world. The first stage of this journey will begin with preparing yourself spiritually, developing a deeper prayer life, and seeking understanding and guidance from God's Word. There are several ways that you may begin immediately to prepare spiritually for serving on this mission trip:

- SCRIPTURE READING
- THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD
- PRAYER
- JOURNALING

It is important to realize that our mission begins the moment we answer God's call. Our preparations begin with seeking God's will daily for us, praying for our team members, and searching our hearts about the upcoming mission trip. Since we go as soldiers of the Cross and messengers of Jesus Christ, we need to make sure we are equipped with the Truth of God's Word.

“Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 2:3

On this mission trip you may expect to endure some hardships. You will be required to sacrifice some amenities and conveniences that you are used to in the USA. Spend some time “getting in shape” by asking God to show the way of humility and self-sacrifice.

“Be self-controlled and alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” 1 Peter 5:8-9

When spreading the message of Jesus Christ, we can expect to “get hit” by adversity and spiritual attacks. Ask God to prepare you by giving you the ability to discern spiritual realities behind situations in the mission field.

**“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33b**

Have faith in Christ. Trust in the Lord.



SCRIPTURE READING

We encourage you to commit to looking up the following scriptures before, during and after our mission. Chew on the words; digest it, journal about it, lean on it...pray about it. **“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

Name some strongholds that you encounter in your life. Ask God to supply the weapons to demolish these strongholds.

“So be careful how you live, not as fools, but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:15-17

Seek a deeper understanding of the plans God has for you on this trip.

“I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.¹⁹I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power.” Ephesians 1:16-19

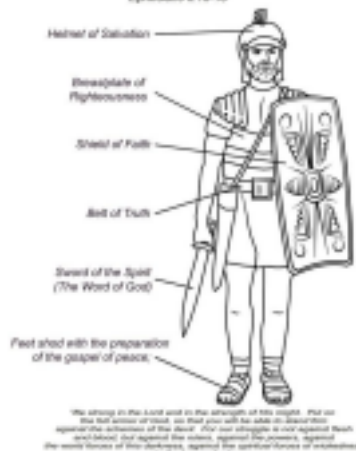
Thank God for wisdom, insight and knowledge. Ask Him for the Power of the Holy Spirit to sustain you during this mission trip.

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places...

Know who the enemy is and put on your spiritual armor.

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10-18



...Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:10-17

"Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind:" Psalm 26:2

Evaluate where your armor is weak:

- Belt of Truth buckled around your waist
- The Breastplate of Righteousness in place
- Feet fitted with readiness that comes from the Gospel of Peace
- Take up the Shield of Faith which can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one
- Put on the Helmet of Salvation
- Take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
- Pray in the Spirit on all occasions

"And pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6: 18



PRAYER...Our Foundation

Prayer is the foundation of your trip.

Prayer needs to start now...long before you pack your bags and travel. God is willing and able to do far more than we ask or imagine, but we must pray...

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Please take time each day to present these and any other requests to God:

- Pray you will emulate openness, trust and acceptance to the Haitian culture
- Pray the team is a living testimony of Christ
- Pray God will give you understanding and compassion for the Haitians you will meet

- Pray God will help you connect with Haitians through your smiles and the love of God. Love transcends cultural differences!
- Pray God will give you opportunities to share Jesus with Haitians you meet. Many times our actions speak louder than words. J
- Pray you will be sensitive and obedient to the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for God’s provision that our team would complete whatever task He has for the team
- Pray for God to give you a heart of greater compassion for others (Romans 12:16-17)
- Specific prayer requests (Write in your journal)
- Write a prayer for Strong Tower and those you will serve during our mission in Haiti in your journal.

Besides setting aside time for yourself to pray, you need to ask someone to be your prayer partner. Please see the attached pages you should give to your prayer partner.

These pages outline specifically what your prayer partner can begin praying for you right now - before, during and after your mission!



PRAYER PARTNER ~ WHAT TO PRAY

Dates of travel to Haiti:_____

Dates in mission field:_____

Dates of return trip:_____

Thank you for committing to being a prayer partner! Here are specific things to pray for your partner...

Before the team leaves:

- Wisdom, patience, discernment, confidence, in the mission leaders as they lead the team
- Team unity
- Sensitivity to Haitian culture
- Respect the authority of their mission leaders, Pastor Payot, his family & Church of the Redeemer leaders
- Prepare themselves for the mission through daily prayer, journal writing, Bible reading and/or fasting
- Ask your prayer partner for any specific prayer requests and list them in your journal.

A Prayer from Psalm 25:4-5 (insert your partner's name in the blanks):

“Show _____ your ways, O Lord, teach _____ your paths; guide _____ in your truth and teach _____, for you are God, _____’s Savior, and _____’s hope is in you all day long.”

During the mission:

- Team adjusts quickly to: time change, warm temperatures, surroundings, communication, cultural differences, health, food, accommodations, without family & the familiar
- Team unity during mountaintop experiences and trials
- Team member ministers according to his or her God-given gifts
- Good health & safety in travel throughout mission
- Fruitful ministry, and that many will come to know Jesus
- Ask your prayer partner for any specific prayer requests and list them in your journal.

A Prayer from Acts 1:8 (insert your partner's name in the blanks):

“But _____ will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on _____ and _____ will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After the mission:

- Time to meet with the team one final time for debriefing
- Debriefing is spirit-filled and God-designed and each team member's spiritual and emotional needs are met
- Discover how to continue to do missions every day in their community, and how they may involve themselves further with Strong Tower Haiti
- For wise preparation and confidence in sharing experiences during the mission
- Ask your prayer partner for any specific prayer requests and list them in your journal.

A Prayer from Acts 14:27-28

“Upon arriving in Antioch, they called the church together and reported about their trip, telling all that God had done and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, too.”

Thank you for being a prayer partner!!!



Dear xxx,

Thank you for being my prayer partner for the VBS Mission! We/I love what Pastor John Piper says about prayer. *“Prayer is the easiest step of love; it is also the most powerful.”*

Along with your prayer partner information, I thought I’d share a little information about Strong Tower Haiti.

- Strong Tower Haiti is a 501c3 organization whose mission is to honor God and bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ by caring for orphaned and vulnerable children in Caracol, Haiti.
- Caracol is a fishing village located on the northeastern coast of Haiti. The population is approximately 15,000.
- The foundational verse of the ministry is Proverbs 18:10: *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*
- Strong Tower partners with the local church in Caracol, the Church of the Redeemer, to care for vulnerable children and families in their community. We do this through programs that strengthen families and *prevent children from becoming orphans.*

****Initiatives such as Microfinance Program for Women, the School Lunch Program, and the new Soccer Discipleship Ministry empower parents and children with wrap-around support for their every-day lives.**

- Strong Tower also cares for children through residential care. 18 girls live in Strong Tower’s Family Home and are thriving in the love and care of family and the discipleship of the local church.
- There are usually 3-4 mission trips/year. These include a Building/Maintenance Mission, Medical Mission, and Vacation Bible School.

<Edit for applicable mission> At VBS, the team will co-lead VBS with the Haitian Children’s Ministry Team to share the love and truth of Jesus with 600 children in 2 locations. 400 children will attend VBS at the Church of the Redeemer’s main campus; 200 children will attend VBS at the church’s second site.

For more information, feel free to reach out to me <Insert email & phone #> There’s a lot of good information on the website as well. <https://strongtowerhaiti.com>

Thank you for your prayers around this mission and ministry! God bless you!

JOURNALING

We encourage you to begin journaling prior to your mission; as well as in the mission field and upon returning home. There are so many benefits to journaling: helps deepen your relationship with God, helps to refocus ourselves, helps you debrief when you return home, can help you remember experiences as you share with others, & helps us recall how faithful God has been in our lives. Journaling reminds us of the direction God has been leading our lives.

“I remember the days of old. I ponder all your great works and think about what you have done.” Psalm 143:5

Prior to leaving on the mission, you might answer the following:

1. What are my expectations of my teammates and the people I'm going to serve?
2. What expectations do my teammates have of me?
3. What expectations does God have of me? (see Matthew 25:31-46 & 28:18-20)
4. Write out some ways you will follow these expectations
5. What can we do on our own Strength to further God's kingdom? (John 15:5)

How to Prepare Physically

How to Prepare-Things to Do



Passport: IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PASSPORT PLEASE APPLY FOR ONE IMMEDIATELY!!

If you have a passport, please check the expiration date. It is also suggested that you keep a copy of your passport on your cell phone or on your person at all times while traveling.



Cell Phone Service:

We encourage you to check with your local cell phone provider regarding texting or calling home while in Haiti. We find that team members like to connect with family members at least a couple of times during the mission. (International plans vary between carriers, and not all have service in Haiti.)



Videos (REQUIRED):

To help prepare for the mission and enter a new culture, we require the viewing of 6 online videos prior to our trip. Link:

<https://www.chalmers.org/media/entry/small-group-experience-unit-1>



Insurance:

We purchase travelers' insurance and emergency evacuation insurance for all team members. (The cost for this is included in your trip package). You will receive a copy of the policy and an identification card which you will be required to keep on your person during travel.

Things to Do



Immunization & Medications:

Before your trip to Haiti, you may need to get some vaccinations and medications to prevent certain diseases and illnesses. It is important that you begin getting vaccinations when you start thinking about traveling to Haiti to allow for optimum protection. Some vaccines are a series and require more than one dose to be complete.

- Routine immunizations should to be up-to-date*. These include MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella), Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis), Polio.
- Hepatitis A & Hepatitis B: Available as a combination vaccine. Three doses are needed over a six-month period.
- Typhoid: Can have orally or as an injection. Typically, this vaccine will have to be given through a travel clinic.
- Malaria: Prescription available at a travel clinic or your doctor.

Any prescription drugs you need to take on this trip should be in the original bottle (with prescription label attached). You will be asked to remove these during security checks so all RX should be carried in a zip lock bag that is easy to retrieve.

*Please visit this link <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/haiti.htm> for information to make an informed decision regarding immunizations and medications for this mission. We strongly encourage and highly recommend the CDC precautions be taken; however, they are not required. We do require that you talk to and ask your doctor to prescribe an antibiotic for you to take with you.

How to Prepare-Items to Pack

Essentials:

(The following items will need to be with you at all times during travel) PASSPORT

Driver's License

Copy of flight itinerary

Copy of insurance card (travel & medical)

Money (or debit card) for food/incidentals at airport

Currency in small bills (\$1, \$5 & \$10) for use in Haiti*

Money for luggage costs (for 2nd bag if necessary)

Mission Manual

*cash in Haiti will only be needed for offering at church services and/or for purchasing souvenirs at the marketplace.

Items to pack in Carry-On:

All of the above items

Prescription medications (if necessary)

All valuables (or hard to replace items)

Electronics (camera, phone, etc.)

1-2 outfits (in case luggage is lost or missing for a few days)

Journal, Bible, book

2 empty water bottles (you might purchase 1 or both at airport)**

Upon leaving the United States you will need to have at least one full bottle of water in your backpack since there may be a long delay at the airport in Haiti and it will be extremely warm! You will not have access to clean drinking water until reaching the compound several hours after arrival in Haiti.

ITEMS TO PACK

Personal:

- Sunscreen
- First Aid kit
- Baby wipes
- Flip flops
- Ear plugs
- Towel & washcloth
- Germ-x/Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Plenty of snacks
- Plastic bag (dirty laundry)
- Flashlight/batteries
- Notebook, pens
- Insect repellent
- Pictures of family
- Personal Meds (including Malaria medicine)
- Antibacterial wipes (for surface cleaning)
- Hat/Visor/Sunglasses
- Chapstick/lip balm
- Personal hygiene items (deodorant, toothpaste, etc.)
- Liquid hand soap (to share in bathrooms)
- Baby powder
- Electrolytes (mix to put in your water)
- Trash bag (for collection of team's trash)
- Fanny pack/Backpack (can use as carry-on & use in Haiti)



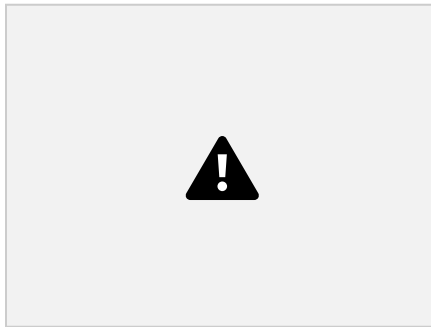
DO NOT BRING JEWELRY, VALUABLES OR ANYTHING YOU DON'T NEED.

What to Expect

Customs form (green): On the flight from Florida into Haiti, you MAY be handed a green customs form. If so, keep this departure form in a safe place during the entire trip as you must have it upon departure to the USA. This form will be your ticket out of Haiti. (Recently, this form hasn't been handed out.)

UPON ARRIVAL IN HAITI: Team members must stay with the team at all times.

Upon landing in Haiti, your senses may feel like they are in overdrive as you take in the new surroundings. Haitian adults and children may ask you for money. Do not take money out of your pocket, as a crowd will form quickly. Team leaders will handle any necessary tipping. Pastor Payot will meet us at the airport in Cap Haitien. We are in good hands with him and our Haitian church family. **KEEP HOLD OF YOUR LUGGAGE.** (It can be disorganized inside the airport.) **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO ASSIST WITH YOUR LUGGAGE UNLESS LEADERS TELL YOU TO. LOOK TO TEAM LEADERS FOR GUIDANCE IN AND OUTSIDE AIRPORT.**



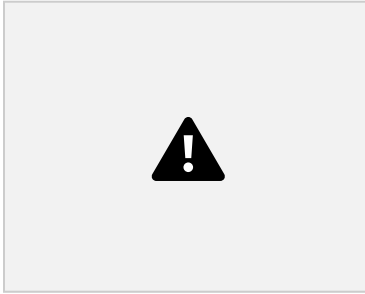
Travel arrangements:

This truck is our limousine while in Haiti. Please be aware that you will be boarding this vehicle by climbing a wooden ladder. Seating arrangements are exactly as pictured.

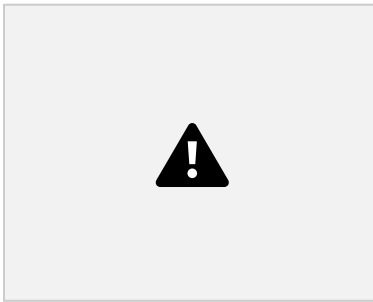
Dorm: We will stay in a dormitory within a secure compound.



Compound Entrance Dormitory

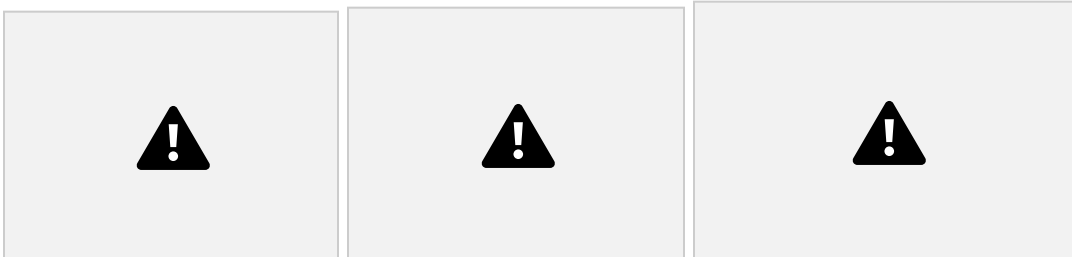


We will sleep in bunk beds. There are pillows and sheets provided; however, you may want to consider bringing your own pillow for personal comfort (and/or to accommodate any allergies). There are 4 bathrooms (2 on each floor) with toilet, shower & sink that work most of the time. **Ladies will room together and gentlemen will room together.**



The compound now has electricity. **There are window air-conditioning units that can be used overnight.** Electrical outlets are available to recharge your camera battery, phone, etc.

Other buildings in the compound include the church, school, and kitchen. The orphan home is located on property directly behind the compound.



Church of the Redeemer Schoolhouse Strong Tower Haiti

What to Expect...continued

Climate: It is hot in Haiti...during the summer months; the temperature is in the 100's. **There is an air conditioning unit in your dorm room to be used only overnight.**

Water: There will always be clean, safe drinking water available to you while in the compound. However, **sink and shower water should be used with caution**, as it is not treated. **When brushing your teeth, be sure to use the safe, drinking water- NOT the sink water.**

Food: If you have strict or limited food requirements, you should plan to bring suitable food options for your personal needs (*see more about bringing food on page 25*).

You are welcome to take photos from the truck during the trip from the airport to the compound. You may choose to use this time to simply observe the sights, sounds, and smells (*this experience can be overwhelming*). This is a good time to pray blessings over the people and our mission. There will be plenty of opportunities for photo-taking during the week. (*see more about taking photos on page 22*).

As the team enters the mission field, we will be guests in another culture. We will respect their customs and practices and will strive to learn about their culture and language as much as possible. Our overall goal is to glorify God by coming alongside our host leaders and workers to assist them in whatever mission tasks are assigned to us. **Any issues or questions related to local customs and practices should be taken directly and discreetly to a team leader.**

Haitians do most tasks by hand and are very skilled and strong. You will see people manually washing clothes, mixing concrete, hauling rice & charcoal. Given the premium our culture puts on using machines to do things efficiently, many people are quick to think that the Haitian way of doing things by hand is inferior. As we learned from the “When Helping Hurts” material, Strong Tower asks volunteers to be open-minded about the way the Haitians do things, and not assume that our way is better. Learn and appreciate the Haitian way of life.

While Traveling to the compound and going through the village you will see many sights and situations that will tug at your heart. Please rely on the Holy Spirit to give you peace and ask God to show you ways to reveal His love through interaction, smiles, and service.

**While You
Are There**

One of the most frequently asked questions: “IS IT SAFE IN THE MISSION FIELD?”

The safest place to be is in the **center of God’s will**. Jesus commands His people to rely on the strength and wisdom of the **Holy Spirit**. When Jesus left this world, He left behind the Holy Spirit to empower us to do our Father’s will. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand scripture, helps us pray, fills our lives with the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control), helps us to witness, fills in and equips us where we fall short & empowers us.

Every effort is made by Pastor Payot and the staff to ensure the safety of the team. There is a responsibility on the part of all team members to watch out for one another, adhere to the instructions of our leaders and hosts and take certain preventive measures, as outlined below.



Water: Drink only the safe water provided by Pastor Payot. **Drink plenty of water throughout the day** (even if you do not feel thirsty). Use **ONLY** the safe drinking water to brush your teeth. Be careful while showering to not allow the water in your mouth. Know the signs of dehydration: constipation, nausea, shivering, body ache, headache, weakness. (Check on other team members frequently)

BE SURE TO ONLY USE THE SAFE DRINKING WATER PROVIDED TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH!

All water we use is pumped from the well. We must remember to conserve water when taking a shower, washing hands, etc. **Many people will need access to the facilities in a short amount of time.** (You are free to shower whenever you are not required to be at a meal or devotion). There are two toilets and two showers available at the dormitory for the entire group; so please be mindful of the time you spend in the bathroom as a courtesy to all team members.

Preventive: Wash your hands frequently & use hand sanitizer generously. Cleanhands will help keep you healthy.



Insects: Apply insect repellent liberally & frequently! Treat any insect bites or stings with topical antibiotics.

Compound: Always stay inside the church compound, unless you are with **both** a team leader and a Haitian leader.



Animals: Do not reach out and pet any animals (this includes dogs and cats), as most are not healthy and may harm you. Animals are most generally not “pets,” but rather a source of food.



Hand-outs: Please do **NOT** hand out cash, toys, and items of clothing, candy or gifts of any kind. Handing out gifts sets a difficult precedent and creates an unhealthy dependence on future teams. Our mission is about building friendships, edifying relationships, and carrying the message of Christ. The heart of our mission is God’s plans and purpose for Strong Tower.

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to give a financial gift you **must** speak to the **designated** team leader. If approved, the gift will be given to the team leader to be left with the Church of Redeemer for distribution after the mission is completed. This way, church leadership can make the decision based on where the need is most in their village.

Mission team members are NOT allowed to give physical or financial gifts directly to individuals. This rule is non-negotiable and made at the request of Pastor Payot and the Strong Tower Board of Directors. *(Also, please do not promise to bring, or offer to send, anything with future mission teams.)* Your complete cooperation in this matter is respectful of Strong Tower’s desire to help the community of Caracol discover, celebrate, and further develop God’s gifts to them. This “Helping without Hurting” approach has potential power for developing empowering relationships between our cultures as we meet on mutual ground.

I agree and understand the above: _____

In The Mission Field

DAILY AGENDA IN CARACOL

7:00 am: Team Devotion and preparation for the day's mission. It is expected that all team members will be present (on time and ready to work) so we can begin the day in God's Word and prayer.

7:15 am: Breakfast (we will sit down and eat as a team). This meal is prepared and provided by cooks.

8:10 am- 1:00 pm: Mission Work (this time can be intense...be sure to stay hydrated)

1:15 pm: Lunch (we will sit down and eat as a team) & debrief from the morning activity. Team members are expected to bring and prepare their own food for the noon meal. Suggestions for this meal include peanut butter & jelly or honey, flat bread or tortillas, cheese & crackers. Tuna or chicken salad snack packs, beef sticks, power bars, or anything that does not require refrigeration.

2:00 pm-6:00 pm: This is free time for mission work, organized walk in the village, play-time with children and/or rest. This is also a good time for journaling or making plans with team members for the next day. There will be opportunity for scheduled visits to the Family Home for time with the girls.

6:00 pm: Dinner (we will sit down and eat as a team) This meal is prepared and provided by cooks. **After dinner there will be free time for interaction, attending church, etc.**

9:00 pm: Team will come together for evening devotions and testimony. All team members will be asked to participate.

10:00-10:30 pm: Lights out and in the dorm (team members are expected to be in their rooms or in the common area for a head count by leaders. Out of respect for all team members, lights should be out by 10:30).

We will be intentional about coming together as a team morning and evening to do devotions together.

Church services (according to the church's schedule): There may be services on several nights while we are in Caracol. Team members are welcome to attend any of these services. All team members are expected to attend Sunday morning services at the Church of the Redeemer. You will be greatly blessed by worshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be sure to have a flexible attitude and an open mind and heart. The pace in Haiti is extremely different and more relaxed than our rushed, time-conscious pace of life in the States. We need to be respectful and mindful that our agenda is for the structure of our team and it is NOT the agenda of our gracious hosts!

WHILE SERVING, LET'S REMEMBER...

- It is important to be a blessing and not a burden to Pastor Payot & leaders. Keep in mind this is a mission. We are there to serve; not to be served.
- It is important to adhere to the laws of our country, the host country and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ
- Respect Pastor Payot, his family, Church of the Redeemer leaders, and mission leaders
- Don't try to "improve" on what the Haitians have been developing for years
- Do not talk down to people we are going to serve
- There is more than one way to complete a task and we must be open to new ways, even if they don't seem, to us, to be as efficient or as effective as the way we would do it.
- Respect team members and others by arriving on time and carrying out tasks on time.
- We will always sit down **together as a team** for each meal, daily devotions and other activities as directed by the leadership. If a situation arises which causes us to be late, we agree to inform leaders and/or team members as soon as possible.

You will soon discover that our brothers and sisters in Haiti embody the Fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and gentleness abound. You are encouraged to use this trip to not only "go and do" but also to "be and learn". We have so much to share with each other.

(On the following page you will find some easy phrases to learn in Creole which will be helpful for quickly forming friendships!)

Haitians greet one another, saying "Bonjou" (morning) and "Bonswa" (afternoon). We encourage you to know and use these greetings!! Don't be shy to greet your Haitian friends. Your efforts will be appreciated...especially when accompanied by a smile!

COMMON PHRASES

Hello (before noon) Bonjou!
Hello (after noon) Bonswa!
Have a good night Passe bon nuit!
How are you? Kijan ou ye?
What is your name? Koman ou rele?
I'm glad to see you Mwen kontan we ou.
I don't understand Mwen pa konprann.
We are going to Cap Haitien Nou ale o kap ayisyen.
God bless you Bondye beni ou.
Jesus loves you Jezu renmen ou.

Jesus in my heart Jezu nan ke m.
Thank you, my friend Mesi zanmi mwen.
Come, children Veni, timoun.
Go, children ale, timoun.
Sit down chita
Please tanpri

You may want to know the following colors (on a VBS mission trip the children are placed in age groups and "color coded"). You will also find that knowing how to count (especially to 4) will be helpful in playing games with all of the children.

Blue ble
Yellow jon
Orange zoranj
Red wouj
Green vet
White blan (you may hear the children refer to us as "blan")
One Youn Two De
Three Twa Four Kat

Important Information

Contact Information:

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Customs form (green): During flight into Haiti or upon arriving in Cap Haitien, Haiti, you MAY be handed a green customs form. If so, keep this departure form in a safe place, as you must have it to return to the USA.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If an emergency or crisis develops, the team will follow these principles:

1. Whatever action is taken, the **TEAM STAYS TOGETHER** unless instructed by a leader to do otherwise. There is no room for individual action. If a team member is away from the group at the time of the event, he or she will immediately return to the group and contact the team leader.
2. After the team leader is contacted, he/she will discuss the situation with our host leader(s) and make further contingency plans. We will always have emergency contacts in the United States and have the United States Embassy at our disposal if needed. Any contacts with home or the embassy will be initiated by the team leader or his/her designee first. Any decisions to leave an area will be determined by the team leader and our host leaders.
3. In order to eliminate confusion and miscommunication, team members will refrain from calling/texting/emailing home during emergency situations until team leaders have given clearance to do this.

TRAVEL NOTIFICATIONS:

Please go to this link to read the most up-to-date travel notifications regarding travel to Haiti:

<http://haiti.usembassy.gov/service/us-citizen-services/travel-warning.html>

TEAM UNITY & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” Ephesians 4:2-3

TEAM STRUCTURE

The Strong Tower Board members and Operational leaders, together with Pastor Payot, give (servant) leadership to the mission. The team works **together** in a spirit of brotherhood, cooperation, and humility in the execution of the mission. Our purpose

is to allow God to work through us as a **team** to glorify Himself and demonstrate His love to others.

- We agree that being united as a team means, as in Phil 2:1-2, we must be "like minded". We will accomplish this as outlined in Phil 2:3-8 "We will do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than ourselves. We will look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others."
- As a team we agree to speak only words to and about each other that will serve to build up and encourage. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29.
- We will seek to place other team members' needs ahead of our own and will respect each other by submitting to one another. This includes listening to each other's opinions, ideas and needs, and respecting time, property, and sleep.
- Before planning any trips outside of our pre-scheduled group itinerary, we will discuss it with the team leader and will not travel anywhere without another team member. We agree to stay together in a group wherever we may go, unless given permission to be apart from the group.

Accountability and Conflict Resolution

Col 3:17: "and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

- In all of our actions on this mission trip, we are individually accountable first of all to God. We also agree to be accountable to team leaders and other team members. In light of Romans 13:1, "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities," we will respect our God-given leadership by understanding their responsibility, respecting their decisions, and praying before we approach them with our disagreements.
- As a team, we agree that when we have conflicts and differences among ourselves, we will begin with prayer and time in the Word to examine ourselves for selfish motives and/or unrealistic expectations of the other person. We will take responsibility to approach or confront the other person if it is appropriate. We will do this in love, for the purpose of restoring unity. (Matthew 18:15) We will forgive one another and pray together. (Colossians 3:13) We will not discuss the matter with other members of the team, causing them to become involved in the conflict. If a conflict cannot be settled between the two parties, we agree to seek counsel from a group leader.

- We will maintain relationships with other team members as brothers and sisters in Christ and friendship.
- We will not engage in dating relationships with each other or nationals while on this trip. We will also respect other cultural values of relationships with the opposite

sex.

- Prior to your trip, pray and ask God to help you see each team member as He sees them. Pray for each team member by name and whatever God brings to your mind that they may need prayer, or you might even ask your fellow team members how you can pray for them.

“How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony.”

Psalm 133:1

My Personal Journal

(You are encouraged to begin journaling your thoughts as you prepare spiritually and physically for the mission field)



Preparing for the mission

Why do you think God has called you to go to Haiti?

What are your fears as you prepare for the mission?

What are your hopes for this mission experience?

What have you sacrificed for this mission?

List the names of two people you will ask to pray for you?

(You are encouraged to journal as much as possible during the trip... while feelings, emotions, and experiences are fresh in your mind)



In the Mission Field

- Experiences from today.
- What made me upset/cry?
- What made me smile?
- How did I see God at work today?
- How am I doing?
- Am I allowing God to work through me? How?
- What God sightings have I seen?
- What are some amazing things I have witnessed?
- In whom did I see Christ today?

- What has been the biggest surprise?
- What are things I've learned/experienced that I want to bring back home with me? What are some amazing things I have witnessed?

(You are encouraged to journal your thoughts as soon as possible after the mission for sharing with team mates during debriefing at a later date)

Debriefing



- I've experienced this mission, now what?
- What have I learned about God's love for the orphan?
- What have I learned about myself?
- Did I depend on God throughout the mission? How can I continue this dependence at home?
- What do I want to take home with me?
- In what areas do I feel like God has changed me?