

OVERSEAS SUMMER MISSION TRIP INFO SHEET

LEEDS, ENGLAND

TOTAL COST: \$2800 (covers travel, hotel, food and ministry costs)

DATES: May 2018 (Most likely the last 2 weeks of May, still nailing down exact dates)

If you are interested in joining us on this mission trip, please fill out the attached forms and return it to Living Faith Church with your deposit of \$200 no later than Sunday, November 19th.

Dear Applicant –

We know you're excited about the opportunity to serve with us in Leeds, England this year, and we want to help you through the application process. Please read through this packet carefully before you begin filling out the application to make sure your forms are correct and complete.

In this packet you will find a Checklist, a Statement of Faith, and an Application. Be sure to keep the checklist on hand to make sure you submit all the correct forms. It is imperative that all the forms are completely filled out and submitted by the due date. An application will not be considered complete unless all the necessary forms are turned in. Carefully read through the Statement of Faith; signing the application states that you affirm these beliefs. It is important to remember that a trip of this magnitude is a privilege and it is designed to challenge and take your faith to a new level. There is a level of expectation both before and during this trip to commit to being prepared for the ministry we will do overseas. We look forward to receiving your application forms!

Yale Wall
Lead Pastor
Living Faith Church

Required Forms Checklist

The following items need to be completed and turned in by **November 19, 2017**. Please keep this first page for your records as a checklist of what you turned in. ALL of these items are REQUIRED to be considered for acceptance on the team.

- Completed application** (Please make sure this is signed and dated.)
- Initial deposit** of \$200. (If you are approved to go on the trip, this \$200 will put into your account to pay for your trip, if you are not approved to go on this trip, the \$200 will be returned to you)
- Passport**. If you do not yet have a passport, apply for one ASAP as it can take up to 6 months to get one in the mail! <http://travel.state.gov/passport>

Mailing address if needed:

Living Faith Church

8206 Rockville Rd #203

Indianapolis, IN 46214

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline: November 19, 2017. We need all the items listed above turned in by this date.

Passport Application Deadline: If you do not have a passport, we require that you have turned in your application to obtain one by January 1, 2018. Keep in mind that the sooner you put in your application the sooner you will get your passport! Please be diligent to get this ASAP.

We will contact all applicants by November 26, 2017 to let you know whether or not they have been selected to go on this trip. **There is limited space available** for this trip and decisions will be made only on completed applications that are turned in on time.

Payment Deadlines: The first payment of \$200 is due with your application by November 19, 2017. This will reserve your spot on the team. The remaining payment deadlines will be communicated to the individuals chosen to be on the team.

Meetings: There are 4 mandatory meetings in the months leading up to the trip. These meetings will be used as preparation for the ministry and culture we will experience. Please mark your calendar now as these meetings are NOT optional and will be:

Saturday, December 2nd: 10am-1pm (lunch will be provided)

Saturday, January 20th: 12pm-5pm

Saturday, February 24th: 12pm-5pm

Saturday, March 24th: 12pm-5pm

Saturday, April 28th: 12pm-5pm

Fundraising: Everyone is responsible for raising their own support for the trip. We will talk through some fundraising opportunities to do together as a team, but generally your finances will come through diligent saving of your own resources and support from family and friends.

Fundraising Information

***Please remember to wait until you have been notified that you have been accepted on to the team before beginning the process of fundraising for this trip!*

Raising support for a mission trip doesn't have to be as scary as it seems. In fact, the process of raising support can be a very positive one as God uses this experience to build your faith in Him. It really is a matter of perspective. When God provides you with the money you need to go, He will receive glory. And God receiving glory is really what missions is all about. So, your mission trip begins here...with raising support. This process also allows others to participate in missions by giving them an opportunity to give financially and pray strategically for you as you prepare to go.

God wants us to learn what it means to depend upon Him, and this experience will help you to learn what this means. Many people raise much more than they ever expected, or even needed. Some people may receive the remaining sum of their money just before the deadline to go on a mission trip. Ask God to build your faith in Him as you see Him provide for your needs.

As you may know, this short-term mission trip's cost is \$2,800. Wow, that's a lot of money! If you are like most people, you don't have that kind of money just sitting around! Many times the initial shock of discovering the cost of a mission trip completely steals the excitement and enthusiasm we initially had. However money, or the lack of it, should not keep you from going! If God has called you, He can provide the funds for you to go! Remember, "God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Yes, God is able to bring the money together for you to go! Commit that verse to memory, and trust God that He can bring the funds together for you to go.

Without a doubt, God can bring the funds in to help pay for your trip! However, unless God drops the money in your lap without publicizing the need to one person, you might consider informing others about the need. One of the best ways to pay for a mission trip is to involve your family, friends, and acquaintances in your mission effort. Individually meeting with and/or writing an informative and personal letter to those you know and love can be highly effective. In either meeting with a person face-to-face or sending a "support raising letter", both should communicate the following:

- the details of your trip (when, what work/ministry will be done),
- the call God has placed on your life to go,
- your specific need of funds,
- the incredible opportunity they have to be involved.

Obviously, you might include more than these four points, but these four points need to at least be included in any meeting or letter. You must understand that you are not just raising money. Focus on building and developing the relationships you have, and trust God to provide financial support through those relationships.

Fundraising - Steps To Raise Money

Step 1:

The first priority in your life should be your daily time with Jesus! You should definitely have a daily time to pray for God's provision for you and the mission project to which you feel God has led you.

Step 2:

Brainstorm and think of those in your home-town church, as well as your family and friends whom you can contact. Be sure to talk with the pastor or administrator of your home-town church to notify him of your plans to go on a mission trip. You may ask if there are resources the church has that can help you.

Examples of those who you may consider contacting include:

- Your immediate family
- Your extended family and relatives (uncles, aunts, cousins, etc.)
- Your friends
- Christian parents of your friends
- Friends of your parents/family
- Your home-town church (maybe the church congregation can help support you)
- People you know at your home-town church
- Other churches that you have a relationship with (both individual people as well as the church congregation possibly supporting you)
- People at your workplace
- Your neighbors (both current and previous)
- Your doctor, dentist, hairdresser/barber, insurance agent, etc.

Step 3:

Look at the list you created in terms of an "A" list, "B" list, and "C" list. The "A" list will include those you strongly feel will likely financially support you. The "B" list will consist of those you feel might financially support you. The "C" list will include those who you are uncertain if they will financially support you.

Step 4:

Preferably meet (in person) with those on your "A" list to share about the mission project, and about your call to go. Sometimes asking for a specific amount or giving a range of giving possibilities is best (i.e. asking them to give \$200, \$100, or \$50).

Step 5:

Send a warm, informative, and personal letter requesting financial and prayer support to all those on your "A", "B", "C" lists with whom you do not personally meet with. ***Be sure to include both a response card and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with any letter you send.***

Step 6:

Call your recipients about seven days after mailing the letters. When you call, ask them if they received your letter, if they have any questions, and if they have had a chance to pray about supporting you. If so, ask them how God has directed them. Note: Calling to follow up is a crucial step. Don't expect people to give just because they received a letter. Also, be sure to set a timetable and deadline for the entire support raising effort.

Step 7:

Say Thank You to those who support you! Do not neglect this important step! Don't hesitate when you find out about a gift. The same day you find out about a gift, thank them! Call AND send a personal handwritten letter to thank those who financially support you.

Step 8:

Following your return from the mission project, say thank you as you report the results of what God did on the mission trip. You may want to send pictures or possibly give them a small gift or souvenir you bought for them while you were away on the project. There is probably no better way to express your appreciation to someone who gave and/or prayed than to tell them a short testimony of someone whose life was changed by Jesus.

OTHER IDEAS

Writing letters isn't the only proven way to raise support. Some mission trip participants have put their creativity to work in order to make the support raising process more fun. Some ideas that others have used are:

- **Personal Sacrifice.** Before you ask for support from someone else, you should ask yourself what sacrifices you are willing to make in order to contribute to your own support. God might be leading you to get a part-time job, offer to do odd jobs, or even ask for contributions instead of a birthday/Christmas gifts this year.
- **Homemade crafts.** You can make jewelry, birdhouses, hot sauce, or whatever. Sell the goods to people after explaining to them where the money is going to be used.
- **Garage sales.** Get your whole team together to do a group garage sale with all money earned going towards the team's fund total.

Once again, no matter how you choose to raise your support, make sure you follow up with every supporter after your trip. These people want to know how things went and they love to hear how their gift was used to make a difference.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER:

Dear _____,

God has given me an incredible opportunity to go on a mission trip to Leeds, England with my church, Living Faith Church in Indianapolis! We will be going in May 2018. The cost of the trip is \$2800, which includes my transportation, lodging, meals, and the cost of the mission's project we will be undertaking while we are there.

I have been personally saving and making sacrifices to be able to financially afford this trip, but I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider being a part of this team through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as well. Whatever amount God might lead you to give will be a great blessing to me and to the people I minister to in England. Please make your check payable to Living Faith Church and return in the envelope provided.

Thank you for prayerfully considering being a part of helping me share the love of Christ with the lost in England. I anticipate God is going to do incredible things in the people we are reaching out to, and I pray I will never be the same.

Again, thanks so much for your support.

In Christ,
<Your Name>

(put this text on a notecard included with your letter)

_____ Yes, I will support you financially with a gift of \$ _____
_____ Yes, I will pray for you!

All donations are tax deductible and designated to the missions fund of Living Faith Church. If for some reason I personally am not able to go on this trip, the money donated will still go towards supporting the others who are going on this specific trip.

(Always include a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope in each letter you send!)

(**Tip: Adding a personal handwritten note at the bottom of the page will help personalize the letter**)

Living Faith Church Statement of Faith

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to gather all believers to live with Him eternally.

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him in Heaven is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

This form is for your records. When you sign the application, you will acknowledge that you have read and affirm this statement of faith.

Past this point is the part of the application you must turn in. You are free to keep the information before this for your records.

Section 1: Applicant Information

Use your current legal name as it appears on your passport/birth certificate/driver's license.

First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____
Permanent Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____
Email: _____
Gender: _____ Birth Date: _____ Age: _____ T-shirt Size: _____
School Year Classification (for students): _____
Passport Number (*if currently possess*): _____

Section 2: Emergency Contact

Full Name: _____
Relationship to Applicant: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Section 3: Christian Life Questions

Please answer the following questions in detail.

1. How consistent is your personal time in the Word and your prayer time?

2. What is something God has been teaching you **through the Bible** recently?

3. Why do you want to participate in this mission trip?

4. Is your family supportive of you going on this trip overseas? (yes or no) _____

Section 5: Health Questions

- 1. Yes No** Do you have any medical conditions that the Living Faith Church office should be made aware of? (Allergies, Surgeries, Recent Injuries...etc)
- 2. Yes No** Are you under a physician’s care or taking any prescribed medications? If yes, please list below.
- 3. Yes No** Are you concerned that your present physical condition may make it difficult for you on this trip? *Living Faith Church adventures involve long days which are physically demanding. This trip could entail a great deal of walking (sometimes as much as 10 miles per day).*

**Please be aware ahead of time that each individual is responsible for carrying all of their own luggage plus one bag of team supplies throughout the course of this trip along very quick transitions on and off of public transportation. Because of the nature of this trip, exceptions cannot be made—pack light and be prepared for a physically demanding trip.

More Detail

Please use the space below to explain all questions answered with Yes in the above section.

Section 6: Signature

Please print and sign this application before submitting.

I acknowledge that all statements on this application and the attached documents are true and correct to the best of my understanding. I also acknowledge that I have read and do affirm the Living Faith Church Statement of Faith.

Signature _____ Date _____