

Within Reach Global

GUIDELINES — SHORT-TERM TEAMS

This document outlines guidelines and requirements for churches, organizations or schools who are looking to send a short-term missions team to work with Within Reach Global. If you are an individual interested in a hybrid or long-term trip or would like to be one of our advocates, please refer to our website for the proper guidelines.



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ANSWER THE CALL TO GO!

Hi! If you're getting this document and are reading to know more about how to bring your team on a mission trip with Within Reach Global, then it's most likely that you have the desire in your heart to fulfill God's Great Commission and go reach the unreached.

You may have a myriad of questions swirling around in your brilliant cranium. That's why we compiled these guidelines in hopes of giving you as much information as you need to make a decision on whether or not you and your organization would want to work with us.

Just to make things clear from the get go, we consider a short-term missions team to be a group of three or more Christians who want to get involved in missions for any period of less than one month.

That being said, the following are everything we think you need to know if you're interested to come join us on the mission field.

Should you have any more questions not addressed in this document, you can get in touch with us via <http://withinreachglobal.org/contact-us/>.

PRE-TRIP REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in bringing your team, please send the following information to withinreachglobal@gmail.com:

- Your church, organization or school profile.
Tell us about your vision, mission, and objectives. Let us know why your church, organization or school is interested in going on short-term missions.
- 1 Pastor's Recommendation

We'll try to get back to you within a week after receiving these requirements.

Please note that you should have received this document packaged with three other documents:

1. Short-Term Team Leader's Checklist
2. Short-Term Team Information Form
3. Short-Term Volunteer Information Form

You won't need to fill out the forms immediately. We can discuss the checklist as well as the forms after we've received your initial requirements and have scheduled a talk with you.

WHAT YOU NEED TO PREPARE

FINANCES

Please don't expect to be able to use your credit card where you're going. It's better for each team member to always have cash on hand in case of emergencies. We suggest bringing actual cash with you (the bigger the denominations, the better). Money can be exchanged upon arrival and not have to pay ATM fees.

If you want to be able to withdraw money from your bank, make sure to consult with your bank on how this is possible given your destination. Don't forget to take into account withdrawal fees that they may charge for international banking.

Please note that we do not handle any of your money upon your arrival here. This will be the job of your team leader or your appointed treasurer for petty cash.

Currently, we don't have set trips for Thailand, but the following are the per person amount breakdowns for the trips to China:

TRIP SEVEN: **\$699**

For trips lasting 7 days including visits to The Hub and a 1-day trip to The Bridge outreach center

To The Hub (in city):

Food -	\$149.00
Accommodation - (Nissi Hotel – reserve here)	\$175.00
Transportation -	\$50.00

To The Bridge Outreach Center:

Food -	\$15.00
Transportation -	\$10.00

Missions Fund:	\$300.00
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TOTAL:	\$699.00
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TRIP TEN: \$999

For trips lasting 10 days including visits to The Hub, a 1-day trip to The Bridge outreach center and a 3-day village trip to 26 Tribes outreach center

To <i>The Hub</i> (in city):	
Food -	\$200.00
Accommodation - (Nissi Hotel – reserve here)	\$199.00
Transportation -	\$75.00
To <i>The Bridge Outreach Center</i> :	
Food -	\$15.00
Transportation -	\$10.00
To <i>26 Tribes Outreach Center</i> :	
Food -	\$40.00
Accommodation -	\$50.00
Transportation -	\$110.00
Missions Fund:	\$300.00
TOTAL:	\$999.00

TRIP FOURTEEN: \$1,399

For trips lasting 14 days including visits to The Hub, a 2-day trip to The Bridge outreach center and a 5-day village trip to 26 Tribes outreach center

To <i>The Hub</i> (in city):	
Food -	\$280.00
Accommodation - (Nissi Hotel – reserve here)	\$299.00
Transportation -	\$140.00
To <i>The Bridge Outreach Center</i> :	
Food -	\$30.00
Transportation -	\$20.00
To <i>26 Tribes Outreach Center</i> :	
Food -	\$80.00
Accommodation -	\$100.00
Transportation -	\$150.00
Missions Fund:	\$300.00
TOTAL:	\$1,399.00

TRIP SEVENTEEN: \$1,499

For trips lasting 17 days including visits to The Hub, a 2-day trip to The Bridge outreach center, a 5-day village trip to 26 Tribes outreach center and a 3-day Student Camp

To The Hub (in city):

Food -	\$280.00
Accommodation - (Nissi Hotel – reserve here)	\$299.00
Transportation -	\$140.00

To The Bridge Outreach Center:

Food -	\$30.00
Transportation -	\$20.00

To 26 Tribes Outreach Center:

Food -	\$80.00
Accommodation -	\$100.00
Transportation -	\$150.00

Student Camp:

Registration (for you) -	\$70.00
Registration (for a local) -	\$30.00

Missions Fund:	\$300.00
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TOTAL: \$1,499.00

Note that the values in the above breakdowns are all estimates. They are just guides to help you come up with an appropriate budget. You may need less or more than the amount specified depending on what you choose to do.

LEARN THE CUISINE

If any of your team members have allergies or medical problems that limit your food options, it would be wise for you to research beforehand what types of food the country of your destination offers.

Whether you're going to China or Thailand, you'll be sure to find places to buy good vegetables and fruits. We'll make sure to have someone show you the best spots to shop for food once you arrive.

However, in case you're going to a village trip, we strongly feel that in order to bless the ethnic people group you are visiting, we highly recommend that you eat whatever meal your host offers to you.

Also, you might want to practice using chopsticks before arriving, or pack a knife or fork if you need to.

Note that there are ample opportunities to satiate your craving for Western food; however, be prepared to pay more for the luxury of a juicy steak.

LEARN THE CULTURE

Before going to missions in any foreign country, it would benefit your team (and the people of the country you're going to) if you brush up on their culture and know a bit more about their norms and mores.

For example, if you're going to China, here are a couple things you might want to read up on:

- Save-face culture
- Buddhism
- Ethnic people groups
- Ancestry honor
- Migrant workers

Every culture carries its own amount of pros and cons. Cultural differences are sure to arise no matter how much you prepare. Let's remember to get back to the things that transcend cultural boundaries. The basic needs of every human being: Acceptance. Hope. Joy. Love.

This is a question that arises often: *How do I share the Gospel kingdom culture without culturally stepping on anyone's toes?*

The answer to this question is: Show your sincerity. Make eye contact while having a conversation. Girls, embrace a woman in need of a hug. Guys, slap an old man on the back. Twist a long balloon into the shape of a dog and hand it to a child. Smile a lot. These are practical ways to extend God's kingdom culture.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE

Your team, of course, can better learn the language once you arrive in the country and get immersed in the culture. However, it wouldn't hurt to learn a couple of basic phrases before heading out. Here are a couple of phrases that you might want to research:

- Hello! How are you?
- How much is this?
- My name is ____.
- I want this.
- Can I use your phone?
- Jesus loves you.
- God bless you.
- What is your name?
- It's nice to meet you.
- Numbers 1-10

You might even want to go to your local library and get a language phrase book. This isn't a requirement, but why not have the benefit of being able to communicate with people you want to minister to?

Important: Although we will do our best to provide enough translators, you may not have an interpreter wherever you go. However, don't let the language barrier stop you. Be creative and flexible in allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through you.

PROPER CLOTHING

Make sure to remind your team to bring appropriate and comfortable clothing for your chosen destination. Research the climate of the specific place you're going to and choose the right outfits that will allow you to get around and move along comfortably. The team will do a lot of walking and climbing up staircases so bring comfortable walking shoes! Make sure you have all good quality essentials you need with you.

Also, bring lip balm and good quality lotion for dry skin!

We do not have any clothing restrictions for either men or women other than general decency.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Different countries have different visa guidelines, so ask your consulate about the rules for your country. You won't need a visa if you're going as a tourist to Thailand, but you will still need one for China.

There are a number of questions that can be quite tricky on the China visa application form – specifically the contact info section. We will provide you the proper information to place in that section. Be sensitive about the amount of Christian information you disclose. For example, you are not going to China as a Christian missionary, but as a tourist. This may also apply to you if you have a Christian educational background. It's not the smartest idea to include your four-year theological course from Jesus Loves the Whole Wide World Christian College!

WHILE ON THE MISSION FIELD

ACCOMMODATIONS

We can accommodate teams of seven and below for lodging fees less than a local hotel. However, if your team exceeds seven people, you will need to stay in a hotel. We have a small list of recommended hotels that you can choose from. Our preference is that you book all accommodations yourself online, since we don't handle any financial aspects of your trip.

If your stay includes a trip outside the city, we recommend keeping one room where all your luggage can be stored while you are away. The reason for this is that it is simply not practical to bring large pieces of luggage to remote areas and village trips.

SAFETY

This cannot be stressed enough when traveling to a foreign country: Stay safe. Just to remind you:

- Always watch your belongings.
- Be careful when crossing the streets. As a pedestrian, you do not have the right of way! The traffic rules you're used to may not apply where you're going.
- You may accept invitations to go eat with or meet people in their homes. But if you just met them, be very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. As the team leader, it is up to your discretion to determine whether to separate your team into smaller groups. It can be a great opportunity to share the gospel. (Note: When going to a restricted country like China, be VERY vague at first about your stay there and what you're doing. Plain clothes police are a real thing!)
- Street food is usually a BIG "no no" for people with sensitive stomachs, unless you love squatty potties and Chinese hospitals. On the other hand, we do encourage you to "eat what is set before you" if someone prepares it specifically for you.
- Do not talk about Within Reach Global staff and in-country contacts and what they do.
- Watch your surroundings when having discipleship outside, and be sensitive about using churchy words.
- If you doubt if something is safe, then don't do it. The Holy Spirit is a good guide, and sometimes gives an inner tug or random thought, even in most unexpected times, to protect you.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media nowadays make it much easier to communicate with people back home. However, please be aware that in restricted countries, a lot of websites are blocked, including Facebook. There are ways to work around this – such as setting up a VPN to make it possible for you to stay in touch with loved ones in your home country. If you need assistance, we'll help you set it up.

SCHEDULE

After selecting the trip option that best suits your team, we can prepare a schedule for you. But we will need to understand your general budget and length of stay as well as each individual's skill set. Please inform us of any problems with mobility or motion sickness. We walk and climb stairs a LOT! Also be flexible, everything can change in a moment's notice.

TRANSPORTATION

There are many means of public transportation in both Thailand and China from taxis, buses, subways and tuk-tuks. Each mode of transportation has different costs. We will be helping you get around and showing you the ropes.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

You and your team have a passion to serve and create an impact in the country you are going to. We encourage each member of your team to use their unique giftings to their highest potential. For example, if anyone on your team is gifted in prophecy, helps, teaching, evangelism, etc., we want to know about that.

We would love to hear about what you are passionate about and find out how we can make your talents and passions fit God's work on the harvest field.

As we've already mentioned, there are plenty of ways to contribute one way or another, but in this section, we give you a quick overview of what's already actively going on at Within Reach Global.

Note that most of the following ways to contribute are a part of an overall strategic process for bringing in the harvest. For example, our "Big Net" consists of the [English Corners](#) and [Bi-Annual Camps](#). This then leads to the "Small Net" of [Discipleship Dinners](#) and [Weekly Discipleships](#). Then finally, this accomplishes the ultimate goal of enabling them to become full-time Christian workers and missionaries themselves.

- *Note that our ministry has been active in China far longer than it has been in Thailand. Therefore, most of these are applicable to the Chinese ministry. In case you're praying about coming to Thailand, there's a great opportunity to help pioneer a ministry there.*

In either case, here are several ways you can contribute:

BI-ANNUAL ENGLISH CAMP

Twice a year, we have a three-day camp for young professionals and college students. This consists of group activities, games and small group discussions. The discussions focus on life, hope, love, which will eventually lead to hearing about the Gospel. These English camps are normally held on May and July. We have an average of 70-80 attendees during the May camps and 50-60 attendees during the July camps.

DISCIPLESHIP DINNERS

Every Saturday, we prepare a meal for a group of people, ranging from 20 to 30 people. If you know how to cook or bake or possess any skills in the kitchen, you can be a very big blessing to the cooking team. It's a very cultural thing to eat together, and out of that family feel, relationships are born through discipleship. This is a unique opportunity to pour your life into the future leaders of the next generation.

ENGLISH CORNERS

Brush up on your conversational skills and get your list of discussion questions ready. A lot of the locals really do have the desire to speak better English. While they're trying to practice their English by talking to you, you gain the opportunity to build a good and intimate relationship with them by getting to know them and talking about how good God has been to you. Just talk about yourself and the hope, love, grace and strength you found in the He Who brought you there.

You can also help us come up with new discussion questions and interesting/fun games.

Note: In case you're not sure what to do or how to start off a conversation with a local, we'll have guidelines and materials that can help give you a head start.

ETHNIC PEOPLE'S PARK TOUR

In order for you to gain clarity on the heart of Within Reach Global for unreached people groups, we recommend a tour to the Minorities Village, which is a replica park of the living conditions of ethnic groups throughout China. The park highlights the culture, history and lifestyle of 26 of China's 56 people groups – the smaller subgroups of whom are still considered unreached and unengaged.

A trip to this park will instill a prayerful heart for you and your team. It can serve as both a challenge and an inspiration to be an advocate for unreached people groups.

ORPHANAGE VISITS

We do regular visits to local orphanages. We teach them English songs, play games with them, do some crafts, and teach English lessons for about 1 ½ hours. If you love being surrounded with children, enjoy teaching, are fond of storytelling, or have some skills in arts and crafts, you are very welcome to be part of the children's ministry.

SATURDAY CHURCH SERVICE

We do "Saturday Church Service" instead of Sunday set in accordance to the students' availability. We do this an hour after the Discipleship Training. This is something like the Church service we all are accustomed to, but a little more informal as most of the people joining this fellowship are college students.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS WITH UNDERGROUND CHURCHES

We hope to provide you an opportunity to join underground meetings. Ask the leader if there is anything you can help with. Small group meetings are a great way to connect with the underground Church and help with evangelism. Although the underground setting may be new to you and your team, it is a way of life for the persecuted Church. We encourage you to be involved while being sensitive to our security protocols.

LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

When we host visiting partner pastors, we conduct leadership trainings among churches throughout the city. Topics may include everything from discipleship to church maintenance to cell group training. Because of the wide array of leaders and Christian workers attending, we often invite our missionaries to both attend and minister to leaders. This is a great way for you to connect with churches city-wide.

VILLAGE TRIPS

Our local leaders are travelling to the villages on a weekly basis, in line with our ministry's heart to reach the unreached. We go to some of the WRG centers and help in giving out new and used clothes, hold a whole day kid's camp, pray with the locals, speak to church members and leaders, and bless them financially.

Our heart for giving you this opportunity to travel to unreached villages is to inspire and encourage you and your team for long term involvement. Note, there may be "down time" when you're not

doing anything besides sitting with a local family or playing with the children. But do not underestimate the value of your presence and shared love. You bring the kingdom wherever you go!

Please be prepared to serve in whatever way possible. You may be expected to go from praying for the sick to cleaning or cutting nails, giving pedicures and haircuts. Also, the kids in the villages love balloons and toys, so be prepared to bring them some! It's a great way to connect with the community.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP

We conduct a weekly discipleship for those who have a heart to seek God more and desire to follow Him. You can help in either teaching a group or assisting the group leader. We also encourage each individual to find a time in a week where he/she can spend time with the students for much more personal discipleship. A perfect time to do this is during a shopping day when you tour the city and purchase gifts for families and friends back home. Bring a student from one of our outreach centers to act as a translator, and there will be ample opportunity for you to pour yourself and the gospel into their lives.

RAISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As a leader, you need to help inspire each member of your team to raise their individual support. This can be a daunting task, but we want to give you a few tools to help your team accomplish your target financial goal.

KINGDOM PRINCIPLE: YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

This may sound counter-intuitive, but the first thing you should consider doing is to *give*. As you begin asking for support, pick a missions organization (Within Reach Global, maybe? :D) whose mission and vision you support and give an amount the Holy Spirit leads you to give. It could just be about \$10-\$25/month or whatever. The point is to give, because the paradox of God's kingdom principles stays true here: Give that you may receive.

This is you sowing, so that you may reap the harvest later on.

BUILD YOUR TRIBE

While fundraising, each member of your team is in essence building their tribe. Their tribe consists of friends, mentors, leaders, pastors, family - people who care. Not only is this tribe important for this particular trip, but they are also valuable after the trip as each member becomes an advocate for unreached people groups.

Encourage your team to pray about who can be a part of their tribe. Instruct them to write down at least 5 people who can support them. Remind them that there's no harm in asking, so they shouldn't be afraid to ask.

Their tribe can help in giving them prayers, counsel and support, but they can also give to the team's financial need.

Note that a "tribe" isn't just limited to mentors or spiritual leaders. This is *anybody* willing to support you in your desire to "go". So... go!

BE CREATIVE

There are a lot of ways your team can raise funds for your trip. Feel free to go a little crazy with this. It may take some guts and might be an overall humbling experience for your team, but hey, we all need a dose of humility once in a while. So anyway, we've provided ideas in the [Helpful Links section](#) for [Raising Funds](#).

GENERAL DISCLAIMERS

TEAM BEHAVIOR

We don't change diapers on the mission field. We don't babysit short-term missionaries.

Sound harsh? Allow us to explain.

If, God forbid, there occurs an instance where one of your team members has a major spiritual, emotional or physical meltdown or just generally has a bad attitude, it is the team leader's responsibility to remedy the situation.

Please understand that we cannot be distracted from the overall vision God has given Within Reach Global. Our ministry has a strong vision for local long-term involvement, and short term missions is meant to serve that vision.

FINANCES

We would just like to reiterate that we do not handle any of your money upon your arrival here. This will be the job of your team leader or the appointed treasurer for petty cash.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

During your stay in China, the possibility of police involvement is a real concern for us. Should anything of this sort happen, we expect that you heed our experienced advice on how to act during such situations. Of course, we pray that nothing like this will happen, but it is wise to be prepared for occurrences like this.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In case of any emergency situation (i.e. physical injury, hospitalization, deportation, etc.), Within Reach Global will not be held liable.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN WE GET INVOLVED WITH WITHIN REACH GLOBAL BEFORE THE MISSION TRIP?

First and foremost, you need to get in on the conversation. Have each team member Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and sign up for our newsletter. This is so that they can begin to catch the heart of Within Reach Global for unreached people groups. Catching a vision for the unreached can have a more long-lasting impact than just a short-term immersion on the mission field.

HOW CAN WE GET INVOLVED WITH WITHIN REACH GLOBAL AFTER THE MISSION TRIP?

When you arrive, we will have orientation and debriefing meetings that can better explain how you can get involved with Within Reach Global. You will also be provided with materials and great ideas on how to be involved in either long-term missions or advocacy for the unreached.

WHAT IS THE MISSIONS FUND FOR?

We believe that all short-term mission trips require long-term commitment. Our hope is that your short-term mission trip experience will enhance our mission endeavors on the ground. Our focus is on how your team can help minister to the locals. If God uses the trip to minister to your team, then we praise Him for that. However, our heart is for your short-term trip to translate into a long-term vision for the unreached.

That's what the missions fund is for. The amount will go to funding the work being done by Within Reach Global missionaries that will far outlast the short-term trip experience.

WHAT SKILLS, GIFTS, EXPERIENCE, OR SPECIAL INTERESTS WOULD BE VALUABLE DURING THE TRIP?

Teaching, prophecy, children's ministry, counseling, musical ability, and any other giftings you feel will be valuable in your home church. If it's valuable to your local church, then it's most likely valuable to us. We even need people who can cook! If any of your team members have a specific ability or talent you feel God wants to use, please inform us so we can plan for them to use it well during their time here.

WHAT GENDER, AGE, OR MARITAL STATUS DO YOU PREFER TO WORK WITH?

As long as you are prepared for challenges, to be flexible in schedule, and not afraid to embrace cultural differences (such as using a squatty potty), we will take you! All ages, genders, and marital statuses can be used here to glorify the Lord.

It is both our general preference and more culturally acceptable for men-to-men and women-to-women personal ministry times.

WHAT WOULD THE PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRIP BE?

Be prepared for lots of walking, climbing stairs, altitude changes, air quality differences, and motion/travel sickness. If you have a weak stomach, please bring packaged snacks from home. We

aim to make all accommodations as comfortable as possible, but if going to rural areas, be prepared to rough it.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Once you select which trip you want, we will give you a baseline cost that does not include airfare, passport fees, visa fees, immunizations and taxes. Included in our baseline cost is an additional general missions fund fee, 100% of which goes directly to our local missionaries and outreach centers. (Please refer to the [Finances section](#) for the trip costs.)

CAN I USE MY PHONE ON THE MISSION FIELD?

Your phone will work only if it is unlocked for international usage, and includes a slot for a sim card. Your local plan will only work overseas in roaming setting, which will most likely have insanely expensive usage fees. If your phone is not unlocked, we recommend purchasing an inexpensive device once you arrive on the mission field.

HOW CAN OUR TEAM BE BEST PREPARED FOR THE MISSION FIELD?

Take a Missions Course. To better understand what God is doing in the nations, we suggest taking a course on Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, which focuses on missions history, missions theory, missions strategies, unreached people groups and cross-cultural effectiveness. Visit the [Helpful Links section](#) for more information.

Read About Missions. There are innumerable books for recommended reading, but here's a few that we suggest: *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, *Mountain Rain* by Eileen Crossman, *Revolution in World Missions* by K.P. Yohannan, and *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett.

You can also take a journey down the internet super highway and visit our [Helpful Links section](#) for recommended websites.

Learn to be Flexible. We wish we lived in a perfect world, but alas, we do not. Schedules will change. Misunderstandings will occur. Cultural differences will arise. Your head might feel like it's about to explode. Take a deep breath. Sit back. Relax. God's got it under control. Your flexibility will allow the Holy Spirit to use you in ways you never imagined.

IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN BRING YOU FROM OUR COUNTRY?

We always accept coffee, cooking spices, and candy with much excitement! We also have ongoing needs for current projects such as media, books, etc. We can let you know what our current needs are before you come. Thanks for being willing to bless us.

HELPFUL LINKS

GENERAL INFORMATION

For useful information on China, visit [Go Kunming](#).

For useful information on Thailand, visit [Chiang Mai News](#).

PREPARING FOR MISSIONS

For excellent missions training, visit [Perspectives on the World Christian Movement](#). (We highly recommend this curriculum. Note: There's a small fee for the online curriculum.)

For an endless supply of missions blogs and inspirational material on unreached people groups, visit [davidjoannes.com](#).

For information on the 10/40 Window and unreached people groups, visit [joshuaproject.net](#).

For answers to general missions questions, visit [askamissionary.com](#).

For more recommended reading, view a list of [85 Suggested Missions Books](#).

RAISING FUNDS

For ideas on how you can raise funds for your trip, view this great compilation of [Fundraising Tips by Teen Mania](#).