



Missions Team MEMBER Handbook

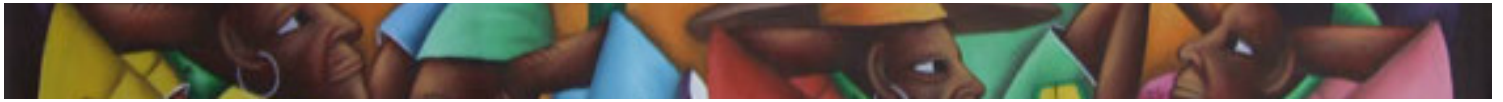


For nothing is impossible
with God.

Luke 1:37

CHRISTOPHER'S
H**PE**
MINISTRY

› JANUARY 2017 ›



So You're Going to Haiti... ARE YOU CRAZY?

Before we examine your level of sanity, let me first make some introductions. My name is Ron Trimmell. My wife Robin and I have been heavily involved in missions work for many years. We have both led multiple short-term mission teams that served in Haiti with Jan Thompson and her Christopher's Hope Ministry. We first became familiar with CHM and Jan shortly after she began working in Haiti. Through each of these trips we have seen and experienced more and more of the ministry first-hand. In addition, we have spent many hours in our home with Jan, and we have corresponded with her regularly. Through all of this, we have had a true look into her heart and have seen how she relies on God for His guidance in serving the people of Haiti. As a result, we have felt led to give our own time, effort, skills, prayers and support to CHM. We are also members of the support board for CHM.

Robin and I are blessed every day to be serving through this God-inspired ministry. Now, as you prepare for your missions trip to Haiti, we hope you become equally as blessed. On our Haiti trips, Robin and I have faced most of the highs and lows, "dos and don'ts," and "goods and bads" that a short-term team will experience there. Plus, with our intimate experience with Jan and the ministry, we are able to offer visiting teams a special perspective on CHM and its real needs. So, we have produced this handbook. We hope, in the following pages, you will find the answers to any questions you may have during your time of preparation... and learn some things you may not know about this island nation and CHM. While I have helped train many mission team leaders, it is still a privilege to help prepare you for your trip.

You Can Make a Difference.

By the way, it is exciting to know that God has placed Haiti on your heart. We trust that your decision to make this journey is a result of a clear sense that God is prompting you to move in the direction of service in Haiti. We know you may have some pre-departure expectations of what you will be doing and what your purpose will be. We caution you that those expectations may be different than what the Holy Spirit ultimately places before you during your time in Haiti. It is simply impossible for mere humans to comprehend the full breadth of ministry that is accomplished simply through our obedient presence in the place where we serve.

You may never know how much is accomplished through simple, subtle actions such as a kind word, an expression of interest, a smile, a gentle moment spent in prayer, and simply being present. So, yes, you can make a difference in Haiti. I tell you this from experience. I'm a "get-r-done" kind of guy who went to Haiti expecting to simply help get some work projects done. But God must have had different plans. In addition to pounding nails, I've ended up portraying Bible characters in skits, praying with orphans at bedtime, passing out plates of food at a feeding program, getting buried in the sand on a beach, and having my heart stolen by a bunch of kids at the #1 Hope Street orphanage. I did help complete some valuable work projects. But more importantly, I think I helped bring some love and joy into some people's lives.

This is very important!

During your trip preparation process, begin to make yourself available to the work and experience that God will have for you. Prepare your will to be open to recognizing and doing what is truly needed, rather than solely what you planned to do. There is no greater adventure than the one that comes from acting in obedience to the Lord's calling.



By the way, other people might think you are crazy to want to go to a place like Haiti.

We don't.

God is at work there. And when He is working somewhere, there's no better place to be.

**Blessings,
Ron and Robin Trimmell**



CHRISTOPHER'S HOPE MINISTRY: A little background

I find it very helpful to know as much as possible about the ministry where I'm serving, and the people working there. So, please take a minute to read this bio on Christopher's Hope Ministry (CHM).

CHM was founded by Jan Thompson in 2007. It received Not-For-Profit Organization status with the US and Haitian governments in 2017. Thompson established CHM in Gonaives, Haiti as she felt God sending her to this city known as the birthplace of rebellion in Haiti. She told us how many other missionaries were surprised she would want to set up shop in Gonaives due to the heavy spiritual darkness there. But Jan always tries to follow God's leading with this ministry.

The first family that Jan and her family ministered to was a single mom with four children. One of those children was a deaf, uneducated, mute 7-year old boy named Christopher, who became the recipient of much love and guidance. It is this Christopher that inspired the ministry's formal name. Since then, God has sent many more "Christophers" to CHM to provide with His love and care. And by the way, CHM has made a huge difference in the lives of that first Christopher and his family.



Currently, CHM has four facilities in Gonaives: the headquarters, which is also Jan's home; #1 Hope Street Orphanage; a school for younger grades, and a school that houses classes for older grades and deaf children. All of the facilities are located within walking distance of each other. #1 Hope Street gained its name from its actual address. When the name of the street was translated and Jan realized what the address was, she said she knew what God wanted this place named.

#1 Hope Street is home to about 50 orphaned children. Jan likes to call them, "Hopesters," because, despite their brokenness, they still have hope in Jesus. #1 Hope Street is also home for some full-time staff members. It is a two-story structure with lots of bedrooms, a large dining room and a meeting room. Thanks to many hours of labor and support from missions-minded people like you, #1 Hope Street has running water, a generator for when power goes down, working restrooms, and spaces appropriate for raising many Haitian children.



The vision of CHM is to continue adding children's home facilities to our network. The addition of the school for the deaf is an example of this vision coming to fruition. The possibility also remains for adding a medical clinic, feeding center and a church building. Simply put, CHM tries to sense what God wants to do here ... then be obedient to His leading.

It is a priority to create a "family atmosphere" at #1 Hope Street for the Hopesters. The staff serves as surrogate "Mommies" and "Papas." The plan for the children is to raise them to adulthood, keeping them together as one big family unit. Thus, #1 Hope Street is not licensed for adoptions of its children. Because we are a family, we also do not have sponsorships for one particular child. Of course your gifts, love and support are greatly appreciated, and we try to distribute it evenly to all of the Hopesters.

For more information about CHM, visit our website: christophershopenministry.com



Meet Jan Thompson

Jan, a former teacher from El Dorado, Kansas, said she first sensed God calling her to be a missionary as a young girl. Now, she realizes that God had to give her a mixed bag of life experiences before sending her to the missions field.

In addition to her education background, Jan also has deep experience with abandonment. After 18 years of marriage, she and her husband decided to adopt three young children. But during the adoption process, her husband filed for divorce. Though she was suddenly alone, she sensed God telling her to go ahead with the adoption as a single mother. At the time, she never imagined how much this experience would prepare her for operating a children's home in Haiti.

After eight years of being together in Kansas, Jan and her adopted family decided... together, to go into the missions field... together. While receiving missionary training in Haiti, the family sensed they were to stay and serve there as well. So, in 2007, Jan and her adopted family packed two bags apiece and left to serve God in Haiti.

Though her three children, now adults, have returned to the US, Jan relies heavily on the lessons learned from rearing, educating and loving three abandoned, wounded and scarred children. Obviously, her many years as an educator also provide valuable experience in operating a children's home.



Statement of Faith

At Christopher's Hope Ministry:

We believe in One God, Creator and sustainer, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 and Ephesians 4:4-6

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His atoning death through His shed blood, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for His people, and in His personal return in power and glory. He made a sacrifice for the sin of the world and by His bodily resurrection gained victory over death and the powers of evil.

John 1:1-4; Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 1:11; Acts 2:22-24; I Corinthians 15:3-4

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit whose indwelling enables the Christian to live a godly life. The work and gifts of the Holy Spirit enable the believer to live a holy life, to witness effectively to the Gospel, and to serve responsibly in the world.

Galatians 5:16-18; Romans 8:9

We believe the Bible, composed of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, is the Word of God. It is the infallible and trustworthy authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

II Timothy 3:15-17

We believe in Christ's Commission and that the ministry of evangelism is a responsibility of both the church and each individual Christian.

Romans 10:9-15; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; I Peter 3:15

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and that all true believers are members of His body, the Church. God gives gifts to the members of His Church for tending the flock and equipping the saints for ministry.

Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:12; I Corinthians 12:27

We believe that, for the salvation of lost and sinful man, repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 24:46-47; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Acts 4:12





HAITI: The Pearl of the Caribbean

Before you go on a mission trip, it never hurts to learn as much as you can about the country, its culture, and its people. Here's a brief look at some of the country's most significant historical events.

Haiti is a nation that occupies the western half of an island that lies southeast of Cuba. Its geographic size is about the same as the state of Maryland. The island was originally named Hispaniola after being discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492. The Spanish people who settled Hispaniola largely occupied the eastern half of the island, which is now the Dominican Republic. The western half became a base for French and English buccaneers. Gradually, French colonists settled there, and began establishing sugar plantations that were operated with slaves imported from Africa. Spain ceded the western half of the island – then called Saint Dominique – to France. Haiti became France's most prosperous colony in the Americas and one of the world's chief coffee and sugar producers. It was known as, "The Pearl of the Caribbean."



Early Haiti was populated by a blend of different cultures. Its society consisted of Frenchmen, Creoles (descendants of Europeans and Africans), freed blacks, black slaves and mulattoes (descendants of mixed heritage). The native inhabitants – Taino Amerindians – were virtually annihilated by Spanish settlers within 25 years of Columbus' arrival.



During colonial times, Haiti's nearly half-million slaves revolted. Led by a former slave – Toussaint L'Ouverture – the revolt overthrew the French-installed government. L'Ouverture abolished slavery and proclaimed himself as governor-general of the new government. Haitians were granted independence in 1804. Since then, Haiti has suffered from constant political and cultural conflict, as well as environmental degradation.

Recent history has seen François "Papa Doc" Duvalier elected as the Haitian president in 1957. He proclaimed himself president for life in 1964. Duvalier created a secret police force that suppressed opposition to him. Upon his death in 1971, he was succeeded by his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. After 15 years of corruption and repression, he was forced to flee the country. A later elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was also forced to flee the country. He then returned to be re-elected, but was then finally forced into exile after a term filled with an attempted coup, threats to opposition politicians and journalists, and an armed uprising in 2004. An interim government took over under the auspices of the United Nations. After continued violence and technical delays, a democratically elected president and parliament finally took office in 2006.

Armed gangs, corruption in the government, terrorism, power outages and other strife still remain a significant problem. As a result, UN peacekeeping forces remain based in Haiti. Pollution and poor environmental practices also continue to plague Haiti. It suffers from extensive deforestation and soil erosion, as land is cleared for agriculture and the wood used for cooking fuel. Because the Hispaniola Island lies in the hurricane belt, it has constantly suffered from Hurricanes, tropical storms and widespread flooding. A massive earthquake in 2010 led to untold deaths, suffering and refugees, as well as an influx of aid and aid workers from other countries. Some refugee camps established after the earthquake remained for years.





Haiti Facts

Haiti has a total population of about 11 million. Most of that population lives in and around its capital city, Port-au-Prince, which is sometimes referred to as PAP.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of the population living under the poverty line. The average income is just \$480 per year. Half of the population earns just \$60/per year. Approximately 80% of the population is considered unemployed. Most of the labor force is unskilled.

The average life expectancy is just 45 years. More than 10% of all children in Haiti die by age 5.

Two different languages are considered official languages in Haiti: French and Creole. Creole is a blend of French and African tribal languages.

Only about 53% of the adult population can read and write. Only about 25% of Haitian children attend school. Only about 10% of all Haitian children enrolled in elementary school go on to a high school.

Religions include Voodoo and various forms of Christianity. Approximately 65% of the population practices Voodoo, which was declared the national religion by the Haitian government.

Haitians love to gamble. Its popularity is a result of the Haitian belief that so much depends on the fancy of the gods. During voodoo ceremonies, Haitians implore the gods to reveal winning lottery numbers.

Women in Haiti have an average of about five children. Due to the extreme poverty, many of these children are often abandoned, given to other family members, or sold into slavery. Child abuse rates are extremely high.

Because of both violence and AIDS, Haiti has the highest percentage of orphans of any country in the Western Hemisphere. Before the 2010 earthquake, the United Nations estimated there were 430,000 orphans.

The climate in Haiti is tropical, with some variation depending on altitude. The average temperature highs will range from 88°F (23°C) in January to 95°F (35°C) in July. The rainy seasons are from April–June, and October–November.

Gourds were so important to the Haitian people that in 1807, President Henri Christophe (1761-1820) made them the base of national currency and declared all gourds the property of the state. Today, the Haitian currency is called “gourdes.”

One of Haiti’s islands, Tortuga Island (Île de la Tortue in French), was a pirate stronghold in the seventeenth century.

In Haiti, there is one hospital bed for every 10,000 inhabitants. There are only about eight doctors and 10 nurses for every 100,000 inhabitants.





A Taste of What You Will Experience in Haiti

Needless to say, life in Haiti is vastly different than the United States. I've personally traveled to many other countries on mission trips, and I have to warn you ... Haiti is one of the most extreme places I've been. Hopefully, the following will help you prepare yourself for all the differences. One important thing to keep in mind is that just because something is different, it is not necessarily wrong. Your way of life is very strange and different to any Haitian.

Living Conditions

Most Haitians live below the poverty level. Thus, most live in very small, crude structures. Most do not have running water. While some may have electricity, it is very unreliable and prone to blackouts that can be as short as an hour, or as long as a week. When I'm there, I don't count on electricity being available, and I consider it a blessing when I can plug in and run power tools.

Traffic

Like in the U.S., Haitian traffic drives on the right side of the road. That is where the similarity stops. There are few traffic signals, and many speed bumps. The largest vehicles have the right away, and smaller vehicles simply must get out of the way. Directional signage is minimal. There is constant honking, as horns are used to tell you to move out of the way. Roads tend to be very crude and pitted. Driving and/or riding in Haiti can be a challenging experience for many Americans. I think driving in Haiti is like a road-race video game. Except it's real. Driving there is definitely not for the faint of heart. Therefore we have designated staff members do the driving.



Currency

The money system in Haiti is very confusing. The Haitian government started printing currency called Gourdes (rhymes with moods). But, because of high inflation, they introduced Haitian Dollars. Most merchants will give you a price in Haitian Dollars. To figure the price in Gourdes, multiply by 5. To figure the price in American Dollars, divide by 12. If you want to exchange some money, CHM can assist you with this upon arrival. If you see something you want to buy, my suggestion is tell one of the Haitians that works for CHM and let them make the purchase for you. You'll probably get a better deal that way, too.

Culture

About 95% of the population is black. The other 5% is mulatto or white. A majority of the wealth in Haiti is controlled by mulattos or white people. Thus, a great rift exists between the ethnic groups. It is common for black Haitians to refer to white people as Blancs (sounds like Blahs). You may hear this spoken in less than friendly tones.

As a result of their history of poverty and oppression, poor Haitians tend to want anything valuable you can give them such as money, food, clothing, etc. Many have an expectation that if you have something they don't have, you should give it to them. This leads to many confrontations and negative feelings. It is a common Haitian belief that all Americans are wealthy and have much more than they need, so they tend to resent all whites, even if they do receive something from you.

There is much depression, despair, anger, hurt, corruption, violence, abuse and depravity. So, you can imagine why Haitians might resent happy, well-fed, well-clothed Americans. You will not see a lot of joy on the faces of Haitians.

Voodoo

While many Americans have come to believe Voodoo is just something unreal used to spice up movie scripts, be assured that it is a very real and dark religion. Essentially Voodoo is a form of Satan worship. Its followers believe in a distant and unknowable creator god, but they worship and cultivate relationships with different spirits that influence different aspects of life. Most

people who practice Voodoo believe Jesus was killed on the cross but was never resurrected. On the day we celebrate Good Friday, Voodooists celebrate the death of Jesus with elaborate, chaotic and dark festivities. They perform many rituals to put curses on other people, calling on the evil spirits to do their bidding.

In Haiti, it has been my experience that you will suffer a higher degree of spiritual attacks than at any other time in your life. So if problems persist and seem overwhelming, remember, Satan doesn't want you to have a positive experience.

Families

Though men and women often marry, sexual promiscuity is rampant. It is common for women to use their bodies to get clothing, food and other things they want. Men are commonly abusive to their wives and children. Children tend to be thought of as property, burdens or simply another body to perform chores. Family life in Haiti is typically far different than in most American homes.

What kind of team does CHM need helping them?

As you probably know, missions teams come in all types and sizes. I wanted to give you an idea of what some of the most valuable services have been for Christopher's Hope Ministry.

Work Projects

The facilities at CHM need constant maintenance and improvements made. Like what? Digging septic tank pits, running plumbing lines, building window screens, installing new electricity wiring, outfitting bathrooms with showers, toilets and sinks, repairing cracks in concrete roofs, building more bunk beds, tables and furniture, and on and on and on. In addition, the equipment the ministry relies on also needs maintenance and repairs. There are vehicles, washing machines, refrigerators, generators, A/V equipment, computers, lighting, fans, furniture and on and on and on. Of course, to know what projects need to be tackled, it is essential to have early contact with CHM to find out what needs to be built, repaired or maintained. This early planning also enables teams to find out what tools and materials are available in Haiti, and what will need to be brought in with the team. Prior to one of my work camp trips, Jan informed us that most of their tools had "walked off" since I had been there last. So, I put the word out to the men in our church that we needed a long list of tools and supplies. One man who owns a pawn shop allowed us to come get anything on our list we could find at his shop... free of charge. It was a great blessing and allowed him and others to share in the mission as "Senders."

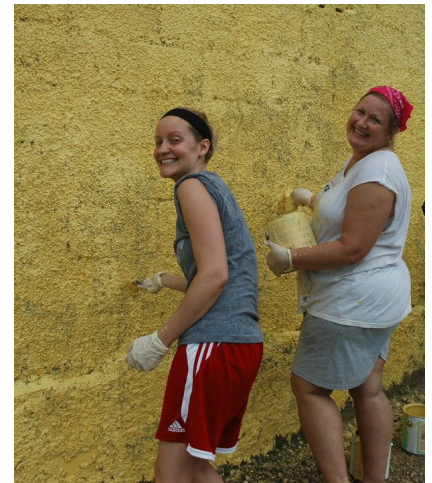
Transporting of Supplies

During those early communications with Jan and the CHM staff, other needs may be mentioned. Many teams have served as "mules," carrying supplies with them that are hard to get in Haiti. Everything from plumbing supplies to over-the-counter medicines, canned foods to children's clothing, toys and games to Bibles and school supplies. Supplies like these can fill vital needs for the ministry. On every trip my wife and I have taken to Haiti we have filled as many plastic tubs as the airlines will allow with 50 lbs. of supplies. Opening them in Jan's living room reminds me of Christmas morning.

Encouragement

Believe it or not, one of the biggest services you can provide is encouragement. Jan lives and works in Haiti. That in itself is a very difficult thing to have to endure every day. Plus, she is doing the Lord's work in Haiti. This attracts Satan's constant attention and leads to spiritual attack after attack. She and her staff get beaten down constantly. So, for a team to come in and offer her encouragement is a very big deal. It can fill up their "fuel tanks" and keep them running. There are lots of ways to be an encouragement. Women can "mother" on Jan. They can provide companionship. They can be good listeners. They can provide a haircut, a pedicure and a massage. They can cook big, tasty meals that bring a little taste of home. They can cook so much that leftovers can be frozen and heated up months later. Be creative, ask yourself, what would make you happy if you lived in Haiti. Men can take a fatherly approach and look for little things that might need fixed up. They can listen from a man's perspective. They can laugh and tell great stories. They can think about CHM's big needs and look for ways to get their entire church into answering those needs. They can offer companionship to the men on staff.

Keep this in mind. If Jan and her staff have to work harder because your team is there, you're not doing all you can. If your team leaves behind a staff that is exhausted instead of charged up, you're not doing all you can. While you are preparing to go, during the trip and after you return home, ask yourself every day, "how can I be a blessing to CHM today?"





Trip Preparations

A missions trip to Haiti is not a casual experience. Some consider Haiti one of the most difficult countries in the world in which to serve. For this reason, it is critical that you are fully prepared before coming to serve at Christopher's Hope Ministry.

Prepare Yourself Spiritually

Our adversary has a strong grip on the nation of Haiti. The evidence can be seen in the actions of the people and many other spiritual events. He also doesn't like having you and your team invading his territory. He may be working overtime to find ways to negatively affect you and your team. The teams my wife and I have led to Haiti have experienced many spiritual attacks. So be certain to prepare yourself spiritually before embarking on your trip.

Prayer is one of your mightiest weapons, and should be one of your first steps of preparation.

- Pray that you will be teachable, submissive to authority and eager to serve.
- Pray for your team leader and the other members of your team.
- Pray that you will demonstrate love toward the people you meet.
- Pray that you will be able to view others as if seeing them through Jesus' eyes.
- Pray for the people you will be serving.
- Pray for humility, and that you will be sensitive to the spirit of the people of Haiti.
- Pray you will be a good team member, humble, sacrificing, and open to having your heart broken by what saddens Jesus.
- Pray for safe travels and that Satan's followers be kept at bay.

Prayer should be regular and specific for your upcoming trip. In addition, regular meetings as a team to pray, study and do devotions together is also very powerful. Read, ponder and pray over Philippians 2:3-11.

We highly recommend each team read and discuss one of the following resources:

“Foreign to Familiar” by Sarah A. Larrier

“Before You Pack Your Bag Prepare Your Heart” by Cindy Judge

Prepare to be part of a Team

A mission trip is often a life-changing event for its participants. As you encounter and overcome challenges together, lifelong relationships are often formed. It is a clear demonstration of God's intention that we go out into the world to minister in teams. Most people who come to serve with Christopher's Hope Ministry are part of a team. Some are comprised entirely of people from one church. Others may be people from different areas but with a common interest. Whatever the case, it is important each member of your team commit to being a “team player,” and being active and helpful.

You are uniquely made and have been given special gifts from God. It is important to know your spiritual gifts, your skills and talents, and your personal tendencies when working within a team. This is especially important under the stress and strain of a mission trip. You will need to provide your team leader with information about you and your gifts, especially if you are not personally acquainted.

We ask that all visiting teams assign leadership roles to team members such as worship leader, security chief, nurse, kitchen leader, photographer/videographer, work project leader, and so on. Communicating ahead of time with your team leader about your gifts and skills will help in assigning these roles.

Through team building exercises and other time spent together praying, studying, discussing, dining, etc., you will learn about yourself and the others on your team. These are invaluable times, and we encourage you to participate in these times fully.

The following are some attributes we have found key to being a successful team member:

- Flexibility is important for all team members. Situations encountered in the field will cause stress and can severely affect the effective workings of the team. The ability to deal with situations with humor and grace will insure a productive team and a rich experience.
- Arrive in Haiti with a servant's heart. Decide to serve with CHM out of selflessness, and not look for individual accolades or praise. A team works best when all members of the team have a focus on serving and being as helpful as possible.
- Be a good communicator. Each team member should communicate with the team's leader before, during and after the trip. Be open to sharing thoughts and concerns in a positive way. Also, commit to listening to and acting on the direction and information provided by your team leader and the CHM leaders.

It's a privilege and a challenge to be part of a missions team serving with CHM. Go... prepared to have a great team experience.



Trip Preparations (cont.)

Prepare your Personal Testimony

As He often does, God may choose your time in Haiti to be when He wants you to share your personal testimony. Haitians can be greatly impacted by Americans willing to tell how they have struggled and overcome with God's mercy, grace and guidance.

Here are some helpful tips for preparing and giving YOUR testimony:

- Maintain a conversational tone
- Use informal language. Don't talk in "Christianese."
- Share rather than preach. Leave that to the pastors on Sundays.
- Focus on what Christ has done in your life.

Prepare Yourself Mentally

Coming to Haiti can be a full-on assault on all of your senses. You will be seeing and experiencing all kinds of unusual, incredible, heartbreaking, heartwarming, and fatiguing things. So, it helps to be mentally prepared. Read some books about Haiti, its people, its culture and life here. Talk to people who have been here before. Their experiences can be invaluable to your preparation... plus, you can ask them questions. Talk openly with other members of your team. Share any concerns or unique insights.

Prepare Yourself Medically

Before you come to Haiti, we highly recommend you visit your personal physician for a complete check up. Be certain to tell them you plan to travel to Haiti and the dates of the trip. Also consult with them about what immunizations they recommend.

The following immunizations are common for Americans traveling to Gonaives, Haiti. Some may need to be administered in stages, so be certain to schedule an appointment with your physician as soon as possible. Also, keep a current record of your vaccinations in case you decide to return to Haiti:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Yellow Fever
- Hepatitis B
- Polio
- Rabies
- It is also recommended to take a prescription medicine for preventing Malaria.

Be certain your routine vaccines are also up to date:

- MMR
- Tetanus-diphtheria
- Chicken Pox

Start a Journal

One thing both my wife and I have found incredibly helpful on our many missions trips is keeping a journal of all the things we encounter. This is an excellent way to reflect and often see what God is trying to show you. But don't limit your journaling to just the time of the trip. Start journaling 10 days before you leave... you may be amazed at how much God is showing you then, and how he is also working to prepare you and protect you from spiritual attacks. Keep journaling for a week after the trip. Often, after you've been home a while and had time to "decompress," God's message to you becomes more clear.



Get Your Passport

This is a fairly easy process, but be certain to give yourself at least 6-8 weeks before your departure to have enough time for the process. For those making last minute decisions to go, the passport process can be rushed, but this will require additional fees. The total cost for obtaining a passport and the passport photos will be approximately \$150. Complete information can be found online at www.travel.state.gov, or at any US Post Office.

Trip Preparations (cont.)

One last thing to consider as you prepare

Serving in Haiti is not for everyone.

If you are not physically fit and spiritually prepared, your presence can be more burden than help. My wife and I have both witnessed people who are not prepared for the cultural differences and spiritual attacks have damaged relationships for CHM.

Because it is so important, CHM requires all visiting missions team members meet the following requirements:

- You must be physically fit.

- You must be of a mature age. This is not a ministry opportunity for youth.

- You must have a servant's heart. Selflessness is essential.

- You must not be racially sensitive.

- You should be able to handle dirt, rats, stressful situations, dirty kids and goats.

- You must be able to withstand heat with no air conditioning.

- You must be able to handle long hours of hard work without complaint.

- You must be spiritually mature... We cannot risk giving Satan any easy access to our ministry.

- You must be willing to work within a team structure.

And most importantly, you need to be able to follow the directions of CHM officials without question. We live here. CHM staff people understand the cultural dos and don'ts. And we can't afford to risk our standing in the community.

If this describes you... we think you'll be of great service here!





What to Expect Once You Get Here

At the Airport

You will be flying into the Port-Au-Prince International Airport. This can be an intimidating place. An Airport agent will charge you a \$10 fee for entering the country, so have \$10 cash ready. After you exit the aircraft you will need to proceed to the Customs area. On the plane, you should have been given a Customs form. Be certain it is filled out fully and accurately before getting to the Customs window. You will be asked for your Passport, the Customs form and you might be asked a few questions. Answer any questions with as few words as possible. The Customs agent will also put a green form in your passport. Do not lose this form, as you will be required to present it when leaving the country. I recommend you put some large paper clips in your passport before leaving home for securing this document in place.

After you pass through the Customs area, you will enter the chaotic baggage claim area. A staff member of CHM should be meeting you here. They'll be wearing a CHM t-shirt for easy identification. Your team should gather with this person and retrieve your luggage. Many people may try to offer you help. Politely, but firmly, tell them, "No, Thank You." If you have brought a lot of supplies, you may need to rent a small pushcart. This will cost about \$2 per cart, and the agent accepts US currency. Bring some \$1 bills to pay for this because there is no place to get change. You can usually get about three suit cases per cart.

Customs agents commonly like to inspect tubs of supplies being transported by white people. They typically ask if you have any medicines. Simply tell them you only have supplies for the ministry you are serving and no medicines. This typically satisfies them and any further searching of luggage.

Everyone who needs to should use the restroom before exiting the aircraft or leaving the airport. Once all of your luggage and all of your team members have been accounted for, the CHM staffer will lead your team to the CHM vehicle. Once you exit the airport terminal, more people will aggressively approach you wanting to help with your luggage. They expect payment if they simply pick up your bag. Some may be very aggressive. You should present a confident temperament and tell them "NO" repeatedly. If they persist, firmly tell them "PA TOUCHE," (pronounced pa too-shay) which means, "Don't Touch!"

All team members should keep an eye on each other while transporting luggage to the CHM vehicle. Once you arrive at the vehicle, load luggage and team members in the vehicle as quickly as possible, remaining watchful as you do.

Drive to Gonaïves

This drive takes approximately three hours. Construction detours, which are common, can easily add another hour. On this drive, you will see a great deal of the chaos and poverty that is Haiti. You will pass by small villages and towns, peddlers' carts and beggars, a beautiful coastline and deforested lands. There may be time for one restroom/fuel stop on this trip. It is not unusual for the Haitian police to set up checkpoints along this highway. Should this happen, please remain calm and quiet as the CHM staffer talks with the police. It is also very helpful to pray for God's intervention at these times.



Accommodations

We can accommodate teams as large as 10. Sleeping arrangements depend on the size and gender of the team, and should be discussed during the trip planning process. Options include renting rooms at the hotel directly behind CHM headquarters. CHM has multiple bathrooms and showers. Because of the warm year-round temperatures, very little bedding is needed. CHM provides pillows, sheets and blankets as needed. Should you need them, laundry services can be provided for an extra charge.

Water

Purified drinking water is supplied in the CHM kitchen from a water dispenser. DO NOT drink water from the sinks or showers. While this water is safe to bathe in, we do not recommend drinking it. Be certain to use purified water when brushing your teeth, and do not allow water to enter your mouth while showering. By the way, we do not have hot water, so you will be taking cold showers. Don't worry, they feel good after a hot day of work. Depending on the size of your team and the length of your stay, we may ask one of your team members to help us get more drinking water at a nearby purification center.

Dehydration

Speaking of water, it's very easy to get dehydrated in Haiti. You'll sweat a lot, and the climate here often has very low humidity. So you may not realize how much you are sweating. Be certain to drink lots of water while you are here, and keep a bottle of water with you at all times.



What to Expect Once You Get Here (cont.)

CHM Staff

While in Haiti, Jan Thompson will be your host. CHM also employs a full-time director of the orphanage, and a team of people who do cooking and laundry there. We also employ a few part-time translators who help lead Bible studies and children's events. Keep in mind that these people work from sun up to sundown. They are generally very busy with their own tasks and may not have time to assist you. When needed, a translator and guide will be assigned to assist your team.

Make Yourself at Home

Jan goes to great lengths to make you feel welcome at CHM. Consider it your home in Haiti. Of course, that means you're expected to help with the cleaning, too. Typically, a cleaning schedule is provided upon your team's arrival.

Meals

CHM does not have cooks at the headquarters. Thus, each visiting team is required to plan and cook meals for themselves. When my wife and I have led teams, we have brought nearly all of our own food from the US, including meats that have been pre-cooked and frozen. This way, teams are eating foods to which they are accustomed.

There are two small refrigerators in the kitchen in which to store perishables. There is a 6-burner stove and oven on which to cook and some Crock Pots. There is a large dining area in the headquarters, where tables are put together so that entire teams can eat together. Guests are often invited to join teams for these meals. It's a chance to meet wonderful people, learn more about Haiti, and share. So bring extra food.

By the way, you may see food vendors selling local cuisine. My recommendation is, "Don't eat it unless you know who prepared it." American digestive systems are not typically built up to fend off bacteria that may be present in locally prepared food. If CHM takes you to "eat out" it will be at a place where it is safe for you to eat.

Snacks

It's always a good idea to bring some favorite snack foods with you. There is not a lot of opportunity to buy such items in Gonaives. Protein bars are a good way to keep your energy up. Just remember, Jan and her staff like snacks too, and rarely get such treats. So if you bring one for you, bring some for them, too!

GI Tract Issues

It is not uncommon to experience GI symptoms related to changes in food and water when traveling internationally. Consult your physician on the best ways to prevent or treat nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. I recommend bringing an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal. If you experience diarrhea, consuming a "BRAT" diet (Bananas, rice, applesauce, toast) can help provide nourishment and curb the symptoms.

Electricity

Yes, there is electricity... sometimes. The Haiti electrical grid is prone to brown- and black-outs that can last for hours or days. The electrical outlets here are the same as what you're used to in the U.S. But, we recommend you leave all electric-powered devices at home that you can live without.

Communications

Feel free to bring your own cell phone or satellite phone. Cell phones with international service typically work fine in Gonaives. Internet access is available, but only on a limited basis. WiFi is available at the CHM headquarters, but, like the electricity, it is unreliable. We recommend you limit any communications to the US. I've found it more fulfilling to live in Haiti and not yearn for America while on the trip.

Dress Code While in Haiti

Ladies: The one rule is, be modest. No shirts that show cleavage. No shorts shorter than mid-thigh. Haitian young men are starved for love and can be easily stimulated by American women. For church, ladies should wear a dress or skirt that falls below the knee, and a sleeved top.

Men: For work duty, men can wear jeans, shorts, whatever is appropriate to the work. For church, men should wear slacks and a polo-type shirt. Wear shoes, not sandals to church.



What to Expect Once You Get Here (cont.)

Fees

To pay for things like food, drinking water, propane, electricity, toilet paper and other incidentals, CHM charges each individual member a \$50/day fee for each day you are serving with CHM in Haiti. If your team supplies most of your own food, this fee is reduced. There is also a vehicle/fuel fee of \$300-\$1,000 per team, depending on the length of your stay, number of vehicles needed, and the amount of fuel used. Working with CHM, your team leader will determine the per-person cost to help you plan for your fundraising.

Team Safety

Though there is no way to 100% guarantee your safety, CHM has made safety of the visiting teams a high priority. All of our facilities are secured with tall security fences topped with razor wire. Our dogs make excellent “warning systems.” And we are vigilant in restricting unsafe activities and behaviors by our visitors. We receive updates directly from the US Embassy on any violence going on in the country. We have developed relationships with the police in Gonaives, as well as with officers at the United Nations Peacekeepers base located nearby in Gonaives.

However, Haiti is a nation with unstable infrastructure, and dangerous situations can arise quickly. If there is any question that a team could be coming into a dangerous situation, CHM will not hesitate to recommend canceling the trip, or moving the team to a safe location if necessary.

To help keep you safe, CHM has some simple rules we require all teams to follow:

- No one will leave the compound alone.
- No one will go outside the security fence without notifying a CHM staff member.
- No one will ride in a vehicle in an unsafe manner.
- No one will drive a vehicle anywhere not planned and approved by CHM.
- No one will give away money, food or any other items without CHM approval.

With all this said, Christopher’s Hope Ministry cannot and does not guarantee your safety or health. We are serving in an under-developed country in unpredictable conditions. Just as Jan and her staff do, you will be trusting God as provider and protector.

Be Prepared to Be Shocked

As you travel around Haiti, you may see some shocking things. Public nudity, particularly at a bathing area in a river, is common. Strangers cursing you is not unusual. You may also be subjected to some shocking smells. There are open sewers, trash and stagnant water everywhere. Speaking of smells, there are many goats, dogs, cats, cattle and horses seemingly wandering about freely. Many of these are extremely starved. The poverty can be extreme and leave you with an overwhelming feeling of, “Where do we even begin?” When you see all of this it is important to remember, God created and loves the Haitians just as He loves you.

The Hopesters will attach themselves to you.

It doesn’t matter if you’re a warm, comforting motherly type, or an old, grizzled hard-working manly type... the children at the #1 Hope Street seem to really love the visiting teams. Don’t be surprised if you find one on your lap and one on your shoulders. They don’t seem to care that you can’t speak Creole, they are good at finding ways to communicate despite the language difference. The boys like to help with the work projects and learn from you. The girls like to put hair pretties in your hair... even if you’re a man! I thought I’d just go to Haiti and focus on the work projects. Put that notion out of your head. These kids will steal your heart right away.





What to Expect Once You Get Here (cont.)

What ministry looks like in Haiti

Ministry takes on a lot of forms in Haiti. It can be as simple as helping one of our littlest Hopesters getting dressed. It might be mixing cement by hand in a wheelbarrow to help pour a new floor. It might be digging a trench for a septic field. It might be cooking a meal or washing dishes. It might be changing the oil in a vehicle. It might be prayer walking through an impoverished area. It might be helping pass out food at a public feeding event. It might be teaching one of our Hopesters a new skill. It might be providing medical services at #1 Hope Street. It might be painting a wall. It might be leading a Bible study. It might be leading praise and worship in our Circle of Hope. It might be simply having a cup of coffee and a laugh with one of our staff members.

Every day there are opportunities to both give and receive. Even the smallest act of kindness can be like a cool drink for the thirsty. Every day you can learn more about this country and its people... and in the process, learn more about yourself.



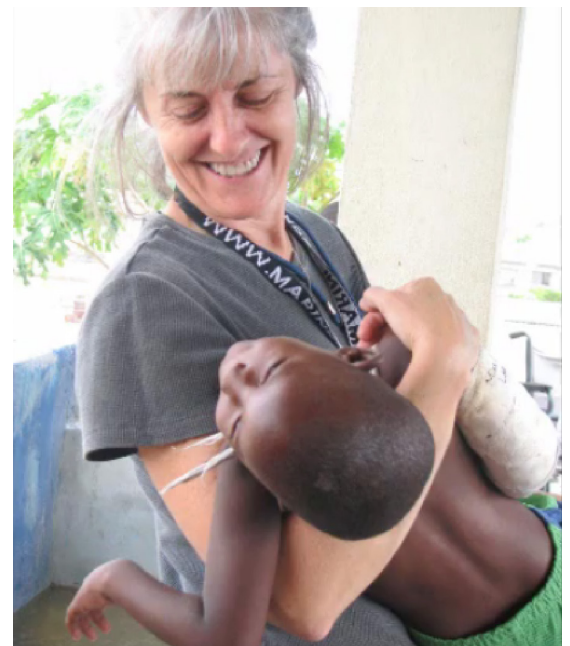
Circle of Hope

One of the best parts of serving with CHM is the Circle of Hope. After all the daily work is done and the evening meal has been eaten and put away, Jan likes to gather teams together to discuss things such as, "Where did you see God show up today?" "What was the most impactful thing you experienced today?" "What broke your heart today?" Sometimes she asks people to share their personal testimony. Sometimes teams sing praises. And of course, there is prayer. Daily prayer coverage in Haiti is of vital importance. This is also when Jan will discuss the next day's schedule. The Circle of Hope is not just for your team's benefit, but it is also an encouraging time for Jan and her staff.

Of course, we also encourage teams to rise early each morning for some personal quiet time to pray, read Bibles, do devotions, and simply reflect on what they have experienced.

Share Your Photos and Video

There have been some amazing photos and video shot at various CHM activities. These photos can help Jan tell the story of CHM to others. So be certain to always share your photos and video by creating a shared folder on Dropbox, and sending Jan an invitation to join the shared folder. (jansclan@gmail.com)





Safety and Health Tips While in Haiti

- Always stay with your team or a Christopher's Hope Ministry staff person.
 - Be aware that any jewelry can make you a target for theft.
 - Wearing a backpack in public places can make you a target for theft.
 - Bringing out a camera in public places can make you a target for theft.
 - When in a public place, be aware of people near you. If you become distracted, you can become a target for theft.
 - It is a good idea to wear clothing that has snaps, buttons, zippers or Velcro fasteners on pockets. This helps deter pickpocketing and from accidental loss of items.
 - Do not approach or antagonize animals or insects. Rabies is widespread in Haiti.
-
- Drink ONLY bottled water that has been sealed, or purified water that your CHM host provides.
 - Drink lots of water. You'll need at least twice as much as you do at home. If you are not drinking enough water you may notice symptoms such as concentrated urine, constipation, dizziness and inability to tolerate the heat, among others.
 - Use bottled water for washing your face and brushing your teeth. Do not use tap water.
 - Don't buy food from street vendors. Your CHM host will only take you places that practice proper hygiene practices in their food preparation.
 - Do not wade in standing or stagnant water. Waterborne parasites can enter your body through the skin.
 - Wash your hands often. Always wash them before you eat. Be sure to wash under your fingernails. Also apply anti-bacterial gel often and before every meal. Good hand washing is one of the main defenses against intestinal distress.
 - Carry a small bottle of anti-bacterial gel with you at all times, including during travel.
 - Anti-bacterial soap for your daily shower is a good idea.
 - Do not go barefoot outside.
 - Use sunscreen. Apply it often.
 - Use insect repellent that contains DEET. This does a good job of repelling mosquitos that can transmit malaria.
 - Bathing with peppermint soap can also be a good deterrent for mosquitos and flying insects.
 - While traveling in Haiti, or away from CHM facilities, it is a good idea to bring along your own toilet paper.

By the way, every time I've been to Haiti, we've worked very, very hard. Long days and short sleep in strange surroundings can run your health down pretty quickly. Be certain to take every possible precaution to keep your strength up.





What to Pack

As a rule of thumb, travel light. I recommend you keep a change of clothes, personal meds and a few essentials in a carry-on bag or backpack for the trip to Haiti. Most airlines allow two carry-ons, so take advantage of this.

The following is a list of items you must bring:

- Passport and drivers license
- Photo copy of passport and drivers license (keep these separated from actual passport and DL)
- Writing pens
- CHM address: 1 ere Villa Gardere #18, Gonaives, Haiti
- CHM phone #: 011 509 3823 0573
- Cash to pay for your lodging/transportation fees
- Extra cash for souvenirs and emergencies
- Bible
- Water/Drink container (like Nalgene)
- Sunscreen
- Aloe Vera lotion
- Insect Repellent with DEET
- Sunglasses
- Ball cap or other hat
- Personal toiletries (bring unscented items to keep you from attracting bugs)
- Hand sanitizer in pocket-size containers
- Lip balm with sun block
- Antibiotic ointment, bandages, or basic First Aid kit
- Ibuprofen, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids, Benedryl, sleep aids and other personal medicines
- Anti-Malaria medicine (keep all medicines in your carry-on bag)
- Comfortable clothes appropriate to the type of work you will be doing and hot weather.
- Clothes for church if you will be here on a Sunday
- Shoes you could hike or work in, and sandals such as Tevas
- Ministry tools
- Ministry supplies

The following are items that aren't vital, but are fairly small and can come in useful in Haiti:

- Flash light
- Ear plugs
- Bandana
- Power bars/Food bars and other nutritious snack items
- Powdered drink mixes
- Camera/video camera
- Battery-powered fans and batteries
- Journal
- Time piece
- Pajamas
- Modest swimming suit
- A few plastic bags for dirty clothes

Don't Bring:

- Hair dryers, curling irons and other electrical devices
- Games, books and other distractions
- Jewelry , or anything you can't afford to lose
- Electronics



What will be Expected of You

Basically, you will be expected to participate enthusiastically in whatever project your team is performing, as well as in the nightly Circle of Hope devotions ... all with a positive attitude and servant's heart.

You will be expected to coordinate with Jan prior to your trip about the ways you will be serving. Some teams desire to provide services with which they are especially adept. However, sometimes those services may not match well with CHM's goals and limitations. Thus, trying to coordinate extra events like this can be difficult and cause extra work for CHM. It is much more effective for teams to ask Jan what is needed and what she'd like to see accomplished, rather than insisting on providing other services. It's okay to offer options, just don't be upset if your unique skills are not called upon.

You will be expected to be a self-starter, and need little supervision. Trying to get people up and moving in the mornings can cause team issues.

CHM does not have a maid service, cleaning people, cooks or dishwashers for your team. So all teams are expected to take care of themselves and clean up after themselves.

You will be expected to respect the culture of Haiti. Many aspects of this culture may seem odd to you, but you are a guest in their country. Asking questions about the cultural differences is natural and welcomed. But please ask questions respectfully. Criticizing the differences will not create a positive atmosphere and can cause damage to the ministry.

Taking pictures of Haitians is a delicate situation. Many Haitians believe Americans take photos to make money with them, so they want paid. Taking photos can also make Haitians feel uncomfortable. So, to prevent damage to the relationships Jan has developed, you are expected to ask Jan or another CHM staffer before shooting photos or video. However, taking photos of Hopesters and CHM staff is encouraged. Feel free to post them on Facebook, and tag Jan.

Americans like to fix things. In some cases, that's great. But, many people come to Haiti from America and see lots of problems they believe they can solve. They like to tell Jan how to solve these problems. But please remember... there is a good chance that Jan is fully aware of the problem and has already considered several solutions. It's also good to remember, American solutions sometimes enlarge the problem in Haiti. CHM staffers understand the cultural issues that can trigger bigger problems when American ingenuity starts rolling full-steam. So, it's okay to offer suggestions, but also understand if the response is, "that might not work in Haiti because...."

You will be seeing a great deal of poverty and need amongst the Haitian people. You might be approached by beggars asking for food or money. You are expected not to give any hand outs or make any distributions to people without getting CHM approval first. Giving away things in Haiti can lead to catastrophic situations. Riots have started by well-meaning people simply wanting to help by giving away food or clothing. This can endanger the safety of your team, and cause relational issues for CHM.

You will be expected to always try to represent Christ-like behavior... with other team members, with Jan and her staff, and with Haitians.





Helpful Creole Phrases

When you attempt to communicate using the Creole language, it can help demonstrate to Haitians that you respect them and their culture. The following are some easily learned Creole phrases that can enrich your time in Haiti.

Bonjou!	Good morning!
Bonswa!	Good afternoon!/Evening!
Komon ou ye?	How are you?
N'ap boule!	(common greeting and response) Good!
Wi	Yes
Yo	They or them
Non	No
Mesi	Thanks
Non, Mesi	No, thanks.
Anmwe!	Help!
Souple	Please
Merite	You're welcome
Oke	Okay
Eskize mwen	Excuse me
Mwen regret sa	I'm sorry
Mwen pa genyen	I don't have any
Isit	Here
La	There
Anyen	Nothing
Atansyon!	Attention!
Preske	Almost
Prese prese	Hurry!
Retel	Stop
Nou ap Chache	We are looking for...
Mwen grangou	I'm hungry
Mwen swaf anpil	I'm very thirsty
Eske ou ka ede nou, souple?	Can you help us, please?
Ki moun isit ki pale angle?	Who speaks English here?
Kote nou ye?	Where are we?
Ou knprann?	You understand?
Kisa ou vle?	What do you want?



To protect the ministry...

Part of our goal with this handbook is to give you a complete look at what you can expect by serving in Haiti with Christopher's Hope Ministry. To ensure you understand the requirements and expectations, and so that CHM is a good steward of what God has entrusted to it, you are required to read, sign and date the following Waiver of Liability Release and Photo Release forms. After completing these forms, please provide them to your team leader for delivery to CHM prior to your trip.



Christopher's Hope Ministry Waiver of Liability Release

I, _____ (Print Full Name), the undersigned, desire to travel to Haiti under the auspices of Christopher's Hope Ministry (hereinafter CHM). I understand that such travel may be hazardous and involve risk of injury, sickness and possibly death, as well as damage to property, when traveling to and from and/or within Haiti. I understand that I may need to travel and live in very primitive areas, risk violence from crime, war, terrorism, political unrest and other dangers, and may be exposed to food and water-borne disease and to disease from other carriers or while at the CHM facilities. I understand that some diseases may not produce symptoms during the actual trip, but may occur after the trip. I understand also that medical facilities in Haiti may not be of the quality of medical facilities in the United States. I understand that I may be injured if involved in a construction project, or infected, while serving at a CHM children's home.

I understand that there may be delays and sudden change of schedules and/or cancellation of schedules. While reasonable care will be taken in selecting transportation, I understand that breakdowns and delays may occur. I understand that circumstances may arise such that I might be asked not to go on this mission or to return early, and that only those monies refunded to CHM or still in the possession of CHM will be refunded to me.

I acknowledge that I am in good physical condition. I understand also that the journey may involve strenuous physical activity, including, but not limited to, long walks and hiking in hills and or/mountainous areas.

I understand and acknowledge that while CHM may take reasonable steps to insure my safety during travel and while participating in CHM sponsored activities while in Haiti, that these precautions are merely made in good faith and do not warrant acceptance of liability, nor guarantee that actions undertaken will demonstrate and/or constitute non-negligent performance therein by the organization, its agents or assignees.

I voluntarily and personally assume the risk of any and all consequences of my travel with CHM and those partnering ministries and organizations selected by CHM to provide travel. I expressly waive my right and the right of any of my heirs, legal representatives and assigns to sue or otherwise collect damages of any kind from CHM, its officers, personnel or volunteers, or from my church, its officers, personnel or volunteers, resulting from any cause whatsoever including but not limited to sickness, personal injury, property damage, delay, and change of schedule, wrongful death, theft or loss of property.

In the event any term or provision of this WAIVER OF LIABILITY is found to be unenforceable or void, in whole or part, then the offending term shall be construed as valid and enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the balance with this WAIVER OF LIABILITY shall remain in full force and effect. This WAIVER OF LIABILITY shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas.

I, the undersigned, have voluntarily and without duress signed this WAIVER OF LIABILITY form. I assert that I have read and fully understand the above WAIVER OF LIABILITY, and that I agree to accept the terms of this WAIVER OF LIABILITY in full.

Signature or Signature of Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

Date

Christopher's Hope Ministry
PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby grant permission to Christopher's Hope Ministry (hereinafter CHM), its agents, or employees to use any and all photographs or video taken of me, with or without using my name and affiliation, resulting from my participation on this mission. I understand and acknowledge that the photographs or video may be used in CHM publications, both printed and electronic, and may be published in any manner, including advertising media, periodicals, gift cards, calendars, postcards, Web site, newsletter, social media, or as deemed appropriate by CHM.

I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or printed or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive the right to any royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the photograph or video material.

I hereby agree to release, defend and hold harmless CHM, it's President/Director, Board of Directors, Officers, Agents, or Employees, including any firm publishing and/or distributing the finished product in whole or in part, whether on paper or electronic media, from and against any claims, damages, or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs/video, including but not limited to any misuse, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise that may occur or be produced in taking, processing, reduction, or production of the finished product, its publication, or distribution. It is the discretion of CHM to decide whether to use any images.

I am 18 years of age or older and I am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions regarding this release by submitting those questions in writing prior to signing, and I agree that my failure to do so will be interpreted as a free and knowledgeable acceptance of the terms of this release.

This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Kansas. I understand and acknowledge that this release shall have no expiration date.

Team Name: _____

Tentative Trip Dates: _____

Tentative Trip Location: _____

Full Name: (print) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code, Country _____

Signature or Signature of Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

Date



After Your Trip

You're home again. Your life has probably changed. Now what?

Bringing in short-term missions teams to Haiti is a significant part of the purpose of Christopher's Hope Ministry. Jan relies heavily on your service to help the ministry survive and grow, and it is an honor to provide an opportunity for God to work through you and speak to you in a clear and impactful way. What God develops in the hearts and lives of our visiting team members during the months and years after returning from Haiti is encouraging and fruitful for CHM.

Now that you are home, you may be looking at your old life from a different perspective. It is very common to return from Haiti with a sense that many aspects of your life are wasteful and unimportant. You may see your priorities as out of skew with God's Kingdom. You may view others' lifestyles with a similar perspective. And you may feel a burning need to take the "next step" in serving in God's Kingdom.

All of these feelings are common. But, what you do with your new perspective and feelings is a matter of obedience. This is a good point to thoroughly examine what God may be pointing you toward. There are several things you can do to flesh out what you are sensing. Ask yourself some questions:

- What were your fears before you left on the trip?
- What happened to those fears on the trip?
- Did God do anything you didn't expect on the trip? If yes, what?
- How has your relationship with God grown or changed with this trip?
- What was the most difficult part of the trip? Why?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What did you learn about God's purpose for your life?
- How are you different now?
- What surprised you most on your trip to Haiti?
- Would you go back? Why or why not?

Another big first step is to share with others and get their response to what you experienced on your trip and since returning. Here are some ways you can do that:


- Participate in a post-trip "Download Session" with the rest of your missions team. Find out what others discovered and are feeling. You may gain insight into your own feelings.
- Provide your Email address to CHM so you can receive news about the ministry, and become one of our prayer partners.
- Write an article about your experiences and insights for your church newsletter or community newspaper.
- Offer to speak to Sunday School classes, small groups, local Christian schools or community organizations about your trip.
- Set a short- and long-term goal that are next steps for you as a "World Christian." Share them with your accountability partners, prayer partners and spiritual mentors. Ask for prayer that God will lead you and enable you to fulfill these goals.
- Write an article about your experiences. Include excerpts from your trip journal. Give people a glimpse into the amazing parts of your trip. Then share it with the CHM board. We like to use stories like this in our communications.

It is the hope of us serving with CHM that we can establish long-term productive partnerships with people like you who have been part of our visiting teams, as well as with your home church and other circles of influence, in order to build awareness of our mission and activities, and accomplish the goals God lays before us.

The following are some ways you could partner with us:

- Become an ambassador for CHM, representing our organization with your church, locally or regionally. CHM's Board can help you with that.
- Think and pray about what you experienced and learned on your trip. Consider if there is a project you can help raise funds for or put together a team to answer the need.
- Suggest your church getting behind a project such as drilling a water well, building a school, funding the salary for a teacher, translator or other staff member.
- Come back as a member of a future missions team!





You'll soon be an active part of Jesus' Great Commission!

“... Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mathew 28:19-20

The way we look at it, Jesus had three very clear directives for us. Love the Lord. Love others. And GO and tell everyone you can about Jesus so they can become disciples of His, too. By participating in your mission trip to Haiti, you are doing all three.

And you know what, of all the mission trips we've participated in, the times we've journeyed down to Haiti have been some of the most meaningful for us. We've seen God move and work in some awesome and powerful ways in Haiti. There's a good chance you'll have the same kind of experience there.

We hope this handbook has been useful and that it helps make your trip to Haiti an incredible experience that you will remember for the rest of your life.

Blessings,
Ron and Robin Trimmell
(Oh, and tell Jan Hi from us!)

CHM US Board:

Glen and Rachel Collinge
Seth and Katie Greenwood
Kathy Martin
Ron and Robin Trimmell
Stuart and Melissa Woodie