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**Planning for Your Trip: Part 2**

**This form is to be provided by the local trip coordinator to each participant at the second planning meeting.**

 **Planning for Your Trip: Part 2**

PLEASE READ THIS MEMO IN ITS ENTIRETY. EACH PARTICIPANT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION IN THIS MEMO.

1. Be prompt arriving at airport. If we do not get our luggage on the airplane first, our luggage may go to Haiti on a different flight, which could result in not having our luggage during our time in Haiti.
2. MAKE SURE YOU BRING YOUR PASSPORT AND SECOND FORM OF ID! You will get a card the size of a postcard when you go into Haiti. Put it with your passport and be sure you do not lose it. You will need it when you exit the country.
3. It is a good idea to buy a bottle of water once through security (in Miami or the last US city) to take into Haiti. Water is sometimes not available until reaching the compound. Another option is to bring an empty bottle with you, and fill it up in Miami from a drinking fountain.
4. Don’t bring anything to Haiti that you would be upset to lose. Remember to leave your plug-in hair care and shaving appliances at home.
5. Bring any personal medications in the original prescription bottle.
6. Do not tip anyone during the week. Your trip leaders will take care of that.
7. Church will last a couple hours, and you likely will sit up front where a choir would be (in the U.S.). You may be asked to introduce yourself to the church. Remember the dress code for church: modest dress or skirt/top for ladies (fingertip or longer, shoulders covered, nice shoes, dress pants and dress shirt for men, nice shoes).
8. If a beach trip is planned, there will be vendors selling souvenirs, so you may want to bring money with you to barter. You will want to bring small bills, as they often do not have proper change. There will usually be a variety of jewelry, paintings, and figurines. The vendors there usually speak English fairly well. There often is an opportunity to make souvenir purchases from a small store on the compound or other unexpected times. It is a good idea to always have some small bills with you in case the opportunity presents itself. *Our primary objective is to serve the people of Haiti in the name of Christ*. If you get an opportunity to purchase a souvenir, that is a bonus, but please do not expect that this will happen. We do not want to spend an excess of time nor money (to pay for a Haitian worker’s time or transportation cost) to procure a specific souvenir.
9. Sometimes the group will stay at a guesthouse in Port au Prince or near the hospital, depending upon availability. If this is the case, more details will be provided to you about what the accommodations will include. Most often, however, accommodations will be on the same compound as the hospital. For this option:
* Cots arranged in an open air dormitory style on the third floor of the complex. Men and women all sleep in the same area so T-shirts and shorts work great as PJ’s. Some people sleep in the scrubs that they will wear the next day. Some people like to use mosquito nets. Sheets, pillows and light blankets are provided. The night sounds can be annoying (donkeys braying, roosters crowing) or disconcerting (Voodoo drums and crowd sounds) so earplugs can help ensure a good nights sleep. There is “stall” for changing clothes or the restroom/shower is also a good place to change.
* The bathroom to the right is the Lady’s and to the left is the Men’s. Showers: There are separate toilet and shower areas for men and women. Water is scarce so we get wet- turn off the shower – soap up- and then turn the water back on to rinse. You won’t have any problem remembering not to stand under the shower, as the water is generally fairly cold. Bring toothbrush, toothpaste, cup, wash cloth, towel, soap and deodorant to the showers. You might want to keep these things in a one gallon plastic bag for organization purposes. Be sure to get some “drinking” water in your cup from the kitchen to brush your teeth – do not use the water that comes out of the faucet. Don’t forget to bring your clean clothes for after shower.
* When you use the toilet, “if it’s yellow let it mellow, if it’s brown flush it down.” Toilet paper is put in a trash can located beside the toilet, not flushed. If you need to flush, be sure that you turn on the water and fill the toilet tank for the next person, then turn the water off.
* The generator is only run until approximately 10 PM. If you need to go to the restroom at night, you will need to use a flashlight. Be sure to bring a flashlight and extra batteries as this is a necessity. You may be able to recharge your cell phone. Calls to the U.S. are generally very expensive; a few texts home may be more affordable. Dedicate your time to the mission in Haiti; try to limit texts to a couple for the week.
* Usually there will be a Haitian cook for evening meals. We share the duties of meal preparation for breakfast/lunch, and assist the Haitian cook for evening meals. There will be a list posted in the kitchen so you can know when you’re on KP (kitchen patrol). Food is available, but you will need to plan and prepare the meal. Lunches (PB & J) will need to be prepared and packed the night before on days when the group will be working/traveling off the compound. A suitcase will be designated as the lunch/snack bag. Breakfast is usually cereal and coffee or tea, so the biggest job is to get the coffee on the stove in time, and the powdered milk rehydrated for the cereal.
* You will have the opportunity to give Miss Phyllis an appreciation gift. She does numerous things to make our visit comfortable and successful.
* Don’t forget that you may want to buy lunch or dinner on your way to Haiti or on your way home. There are often beautiful pieces of art available for you to purchase as we travel through Haiti. Money in small denominations of $1 and $5 helps in the bartering system. The Haitians expect you to barter. You may wish to bring a credit card for use while you are in the United States.
1. Regardless of where the group stays, the following rules should be followed throughout the country:
* Put your toilet paper in the trash can, not the toilet.
* Use Culligan water to drink or brush teeth.
* Carry small bills with you (US is fine) for those unexpected souvenir opportunites.
* Dress for mixed company for sleeping (T-shirt and shorts is a good option).
* It is a good idea to keep a flashlight or cell phone flashlight handy during the night.
* You may choose to purchase an international texting plan for use while you are in Haiti.
1. You will need a travel alarm/cell phone so that you are sure to be up in time. Our day may start as early as 3:30 -4:00 AM. Remember that your cell phone may not automatically change to Haitian time. Haitian time is often on Eastern Time (as is the majority of Indiana), but there are times it uses Central Standard Time (an hour earlier).
2. Tattoos: Traditionally in Haitian protestant circles, tattoes were very much frowned upon. This is often still the case in very rural areas. In larger cities, the presence of tattoes is becoming more common, and are often seen on Haitians, too. When traveling outside of Port au Prince, if you have tattoes that are easily covered, you may want to cover them to avoid any distraction from the main purpose you have come to Haiti. If you have tattoes that you cannot cover, know that the main thing others will notice is your face of Christ, and don’t worry about the tattoes!
3. Re-read your DO’s and DON’T’s. Please remember to dress modestly and be Christ’s ambassador. Always travel in groups, let your leader know where you are. Never leave the compound without permission.
4. Try to learn at least a few phrases in Haitian creole. It is polite and appreciated if you greet Haitians in their language.