

# Michael M. Smith Ministries

## Mission Trip Personal Conduct Agreement

The guidelines listed below are required for those participating in this journey organized by **Michael M. Smith Ministries (MMSM)**. It is important to remember that we are not traveling as mere tourists, but as guests of another country. Our destination is considered a less developed country and does not have the same conveniences you are used to at home. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of our hosts.

Please write your name on the line below. Then, please initial on the line at the end of each guideline, acknowledging your understanding of the 11 guidelines and your agreement to comply.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby recognize and accept the following guidelines which will further the effectiveness and safety of our short-term mission. I agree to:

1. Carry myself as a servant and disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip. I will demonstrate a Christ-like Spirit. My attitude will be like that expressed in Phil. 2:3-8. I will show love to those with whom I work and those around me throughout the trip. I will not allow another's property or personality to be abused. I will refrain from meddling, complaining, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize my responsibility to model Christianity and will not treat that responsibility lightly. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go, knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective, and knowing that my way is not necessarily the best. I will avoid offending or causing embarrassment for those I encounter on this mission trip. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions. I will regard the different styles of worship and different religions with respect. Where I see the opportunity, I will witness my faith, but without a superior, colonial attitude. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including but not limited to such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult, and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements are made and approved by MMSM. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Attend all team meetings possible during this mission trip. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Avoid any actions which might be perceived as amorous attentions toward indigenous people I meet or anyone on this trip that is not my own spouse.\_\_\_\_\_
8. Carry my government issued passport with me at all times when traveling beyond the lodging facility.\_\_\_\_\_
9. Remember that we are “the new Christians from another part of the world” and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example. I will refrain from using alcoholic beverages while in the host country. Abuse of alcohol is a serious problem across Europe and Africa. According to our hosts, the concept of social drinking, as some view it in the United States, is nonexistent. I will also abstain from any illegal drugs or illegal, prohibited activity while on this trip.\_\_\_\_\_
10. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, etc. unless authorized by MMSM. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result after we leave can cause problems for our hosts such as jealousy, bitterness, or unrealistic expectations among those who do not receive such gifts on this trip. (This does not apply to gratuity gifts for our hosts, drivers or lodging staff.)\_\_\_\_\_
11. Accept and respect the leadership and authority of MMSM and abide by their decisions concerning this mission trip, understanding that they have a great responsibility in keeping me safe.\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the mission trip guidelines listed above and agree to follow these while I am participating in this mission trip.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Parental Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian signature required for any participant under age 18.*