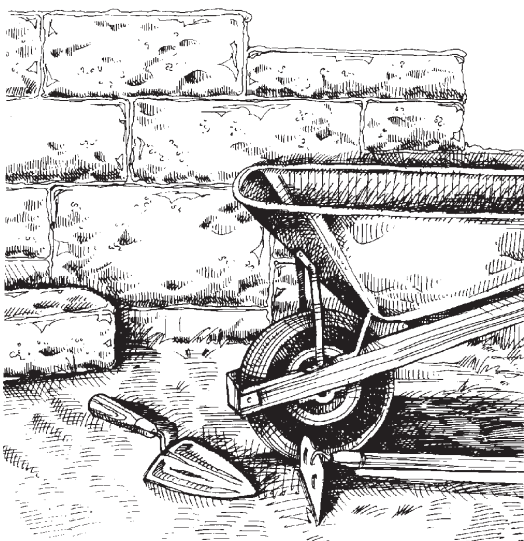


Guidelines for Work Teams

For Participants in Work Projects



**And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord, and not unto men.**

COLOSSIANS 3:23



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief



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Purpose and objectives

The goal of Apostolic Christian World Relief is to provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world. World Relief projects provide blessed opportunities to serve our Lord by sharing our resources and abilities to benefit both the soul and body of those in need.

After reviewing material from many work teams and consulting brethren throughout our fellowship, we have compiled this booklet. The purpose is to provide guidelines and suggestions to assure that work projects are a blessing to all involved. The intent is that each project is a spiritually and physically safe channel for volunteers to work and is consistent with Scriptural doctrine and Apostolic Christian practices.

Organization and accountability

Membership of the national World Relief Committee consists of 12 brothers chosen by geographic location. Four counseling elders provide oversight to this committee. Chairmanship of the committee is vested in the counseling elders who along with other members of the World Relief Committee, serve eight year terms.

The committee is responsible to the Elder Body of the Apostolic Christian Church, with communications being the responsibility of the four counseling elders. All boards, projects, and work teams are accountable to the national World Relief Committee.

It is important that every work team member accepts their individual accountability in the spirit of brotherly love. We are each responsible for our actions and how they affect one another. As we work in another area of the country or in another culture, we need to be sensitive to their customs and respect them. It is our desire that the recommendations and guidelines in this booklet assist us in working together in peace and unity for the glory of God.

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:10

Thoughts to consider

Most of us live in an environment where the basic human needs of food, clothing, and shelter are taken for granted. Many of us think of these things as our rights. But the truth is, that throughout the world this is not so. Many people live in conditions where “our rights” are luxuries enjoyed by only a few. It is important that we see others as God sees them, without respect of persons, and seek to learn from them important lessons of faith.

*Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith,
and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them
that love him?* JAMES 2:5



While we are making a sincere effort to help those in need, it is often difficult to measure the results of our work. But we don't really need to, because all glory goes to God. Possibly the most long lasting benefit will be your opportunity to leave an impression on a single soul of a Godly people humbly serving in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto
one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*

MATTHEW 25:40

Guidelines provide blessings

We trust you have given your decision to participate in a work project sincere prayer and consideration. Possibly you asked others how they felt about your interest in this work. What they told you may have given you the courage to proceed to this point. As you look forward to this new opportunity, please consider the following scripture.

*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,
do all to the glory of God.* I CORINTHIANS 10:31

On the following pages are some thoughts and concerns that should be considered before you participate on a work team. Whatever role you have, someone has been there before you, and has made experiences that can help you. They have learned things that work well, and things that don't.

In this booklet, we want to share some of these experiences with you. We want to ensure that what you give to others can be done to the honor and glory of God and be a blessing for all.

Responsibilities of Volunteers

Since its beginning, World Relief has ministered to human needs with humanitarian aid. In recent years, the program has been expanded to include work team projects. This has opened the door for participation by many brothers, sisters, and friends of our church and involves helping those in the USA, as well as in foreign lands.

When volunteers go to help others they are ambassadors for Jesus Christ and are also representing the Apostolic Christian Church. It is important that our work team volunteers reflect their love for God and the church by their actions and appearance. In this way we will communicate the gospel message, our faith, doctrine and customs which have great value.

Guidelines for attire and appearance

Our attire should be a witness to others of the Scriptural admonition not to be conformed to this world and should promote safety on the job. Work and leisure clothes should be modest and also heavy enough to protect from injury.

Males

Attire: Shirts with long or short sleeves, depending upon the climate, to be worn and buttoned at all times. Modest jeans or work pants. Protective shoes.

Not acceptable: Tank tops. T-shirts displaying products, drugs, rock groups, obscene or suggestive language. Shorts.

For worship services: Dress shirt and slacks. Tie optional.

Brother's appearance: Clean shaven with hair neatly trimmed.

Females

Attire: Modest skirts or dresses. Culottes if required by type of work that otherwise would result in immodest exposure. Protective shoes.

Not acceptable: Mini-skirts. Strapless or sun dresses. Tight-fitting, sensual or sleeveless garments. Tank tops. Shorts, pants or jeans.

For worship services: Dress or skirt and blouse. Sisters please wear head covering.

Sister's appearance: Hair modestly arranged without decoration.

These guidelines should be observed from the time you leave home until you return. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated!

Our conduct at work and recreation

Work activities associated with the project should occupy the majority of the time. Recreational activities should be only those which are spiritually wholesome. A good test is, “Does it edify? Does it glorify God? Will it offend my brother?”

Our conduct should be a good example to others, on and off the job. If your team leader points out something that needs some adjustment in any area, please respect their request as well as their accountability. Because adequate rest is important to be able to give your best to the Lord’s work, curfews established by the team leaders must be respected.

*Let your moderation be known unto all men.
The Lord is at hand.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:5

Our appearance should be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

1 Peter 3:4



For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

GALATIANS 5:13

PLEASE NOTE:

Accompanying this booklet is a sheet which addresses the legal issues of your work team participation. Volunteers are required to sign this sheet which also includes a statement that the volunteer has read, accepts and will support the guidelines outlined in this booklet. If the volunteer is under 18 years of age, parents must also sign. Please send this signed form to your work team coordinator prior to your trip.

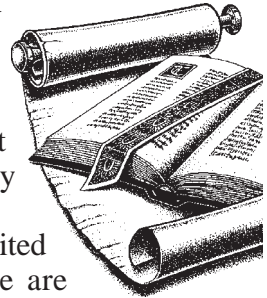
Minister for Work Team

Our Elder Body agrees that in order to enhance our faith during work team projects, a minister of the church should accompany each work team. This not only assures that worship services will be according to our own doctrine and practices, but also provides an environment in which we can function without confusion.

Being asked by World Relief to accompany a work team is evidence of their support of you as a spiritual leader. We are living in a time of great confusion and deception concerning the basic tenets of our faith. The positive spiritual influence that you have can benefit each individual on the work team as well as their outreach to others. Going on a work team can be a meaningful and rewarding experience.

Some guidelines and suggestions to consider

As you provide spiritual leadership, please ensure that all activities are in Godly order and are in alignment with our practice of separation from the world and other religious organizations. Most groups we work with have a deep faith of their own and World Relief has policy which directs how we should handle ourselves with worship services while we are on work teams. It is the responsibility of the minister to hold and conduct worship services and provide oversight for daily Bible devotions with the work team members.



There are times when our work teams are invited to attend services with the people whom we are helping. It is our policy that we not attend these services except when we have full control of them. If the work team minister is asked to have the service, the local pastor may make some preliminary announcements for his congregation and possibly an announcement afterwards. The opening prayer, reading and meditation should come from the work team minister, and the closing prayer from one of our brothers. This has been accepted and appreciated with groups we worked with in the past.

To avoid confusion the minister should plan the agenda for the service, with the local pastor in charge, prior to Sunday morning. Ministers should make a proactive effort for the work team to avoid forms of worship or music that are foreign to our practice. Ensure that everyone who lives or works in the area of your work project is welcome at any spiritual function.

Work Team Coordinators

The brethren appreciate and are supportive of your efforts as a work team coordinator. You will be responsible for the welfare and overall direction of the work team and also to advise them about specific guidelines for their trip. World Relief policy requires that you provide each participant with a copy of this booklet. The attached liability form must be signed by each volunteer and returned to you before they are approved for the work team.

Team Leaders

Your responsibility is to provide vision and leadership for the team and help each member channel their enthusiasm towards constructive and wholesome activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage team members to serve the Lord by meeting the needs of others. Team leaders are given a portfolio of material to help inform the team of what is expected of them.

A unique privilege and serious responsibility

As you provide guidance for the work team it will be your responsibility to encourage Godly order and discipline that is consistent with Biblical and Apostolic Christian standards. You will appreciate experienced team members and older adults who are along and can utilize their assistance when needed. It is also important that you learn the customs and culture of the groups that you are serving and encourage your work team to respect and be sensitive to any differences.

In order to maintain proper dress for each job, team leaders should assign work conducive to recommended dress for males and females respectively. It is our desire that duties can be arranged so that dress standards can be observed without compromising Biblical standards of modesty.

Your opportunities and responsibility are great! We surely need God's help and direction for each decision we make. Pray sincerely and ask others to pray for the Lord's blessing and protection upon your work and each member of your team. *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."* COLOSSIANS 3:23

May God richly bless every effort as we seek to work in unity to serve others by meeting human needs and thereby communicate the love of God through His son, Jesus Christ.