

Trip participants must conduct themselves as Christ's ambassadors and representatives of Golden Hills Community Church.

While this statement should serve as the chief directive for all behavior, these guidelines are given for the purpose of clarification and are by no means exhaustive. The Team or National Leader must be consulted on matters which may arise that are not covered in this document.

A Willing and Flexible Attitude

- You must be willing to submit to those in leadership including host church leaders and those in authority.
- You must be flexible and able to accept changes to plans and schedules.

Work & General Participation

- You must be willing to joyfully accept instruction and diligently work to complete tasks assigned to you by your Team Leader.
- You must inform leadership about any physical limitations that may hinder yourself or others around you from safely performing their assigned task.
- Team members are expected to attend all group meetings such as daily times of group worship and prayer. Exceptions may be given due to poor health or other extenuating circumstances.

Respect and Cooperation

- You must respect and cooperate with others.
- You must have an attitude of willingness to serve the needs of others before yourself.

Group Attitude

- Team members must go with a view to “die to self”.
- The following key attitudes contribute to a positive trip experience for the entire team:

love (1Peter 4:8)	faithfulness (Mat 25:21)	flexibility (James 4:13-5)
thankfulness (Heb 12:28)	holiness (Heb 12:14)	compassion (Mark 6:34)
teachability/humility (1Peter 5:5-7)	patience (Eph 4:2)	brokenness (Psalm 126:6)

Cultural Sensitivity

- You must show cultural sensitivity regarding dress, speech and actions.
- Tops or dresses that show your undergarments and muscle shirts are not appropriate. Men should keep their shirts on at all times. You represent the Christian foreign world, and while you may not personally agree with the standards set by the National Church, they should be respected while there.
- You must abstain from any alcohol or tobacco for the duration of the trip including travel to and from the host country.

Photography

- Sensitivity and discretion must be exercised when taking photos. Please respect the culture and circumstances of the host community. If in doubt ask your leader before taking photographs of people or scenes of a sensitive nature.
- Always ask the permission of the one being photographed before taking a photo. Adults in particular may be very conscious of their physical appearance and condition of their attire. Children generally don't care at all, and some may even pursue you to take their photo.
- Never pay for taking a photo. Some may be offended by the prospect of taking their photo. Don't take this personally!

Sex/Gender Issues

Golden Hills Community Church realizes that the sexual issues and temptations faced while traveling can be alluring, even to the strongest of Christian leaders. We recognize that prostitution and pornography are accessible throughout the world. We also recognize that the boundaries of accountability related to physical relationships are also weakened when we vary from our normal routine or are going through experiences which leave us feeling vulnerable and insecure. We wish to insulate one another from unnecessary temptations and so have established guidelines concerning gender issues.

- No Golden Hills Community Church trip participant may be alone with any member of the opposite sex on a mission trip, including with team members, with other missionaries, or with locals. By alone, we mean out of the sight or hearing of another member of the team. (Of course, married couples are an exception.)
- If the group is staying in a home, males must sleep in one room and females in another. If avoidable, no member of the mission team should room alone. Whenever possible each person should share a room with at least one other person of the same gender, unless married to the person they are sharing with.
- The focus of the trip is serving others. All team members should treat those of the opposite gender as brothers and sisters in Christ. They should avoid any romantic relationships with the nationals and also with fellow team members. Even if there is an existing romantic attachment between team members, they should be sensitive to other team members as well as the culture they are visiting. In the interests of the greater cause, couples are therefore asked to abstain from what may be considered normal courtship back home, including time alone and physical displays of affection.

During the course of preparation and on-field ministry team members will develop a deep sense of bonding and understanding of each other. We must not be naïve to the possibility of affections developing with other team members of the opposite sex whether married or otherwise. Team members must be acutely aware of subtle indicators and set in place personal boundaries and safeguards such as;

- not confiding or talking about significant personal issues with a person of the opposite sex
- not deliberately choosing to do an activity because this places you in close proximity to the person you enjoy being with
- not developing private jokes
- not becoming over encouraging
- avoiding physical contact / touch etc. etc.

At the end of the day, you know when your feelings and expressions are being affected by a person of the opposite sex and with the Lord's help, you need to take control of them. If you find yourself struggling in this area you must share this with your leader.

If your Team leader has concerns in this area they will privately and lovingly address them with the individual/s involved. If we are focused on Christ and the ministry to which we are called, the possibility of this happening is extremely slim, neither the less should your leader mention anything to you, do not be offended. Very often or not we do not realize how innocent actions can be perceived by others and we are mortified when we realize this. It must also be appreciated that the intervention of a leader is a natural consequence of their pastoral role and the responsibility which they carry on behalf of GHCC.

Remember, we don't always fall into sin, we slide into it. In this respect, we are our brother's keeper.

Safety

- Be conscious of what is going on around you and follow the instructions given to you as you enter, leave and travel around the country. Know what to do if you become separated from your group.
- Medical resources may be inaccessible. Be safety conscious!
- Always take prescribed medications, especially anti-malarials.
- Always take a partner and inform your leader if you intend to go off site.
- Keep contact details with you in case of need.

Responding to need

Lifeline, a Christian mission in Haiti writes:

"We have a policy to not pass out candy when we are in the village. We do sometimes give treats at organized events, but hardly ever to a select few, as it causes jealousy and greed. We have spent a concentrated effort to stop the begging from the children for money and candy in the village. It is a long process, but we have made great strides. We have established contacts and ways of discreetly passing out clothing and supplies as we receive them, BUT never in a public fashion."

What is the appropriate way to give?

In our eagerness to bless we may be innocently perpetuating a cycle of dependency and expectation which perverts the cause of the Gospel and creates resentment among nationals. GHCC has observed the first hand impact of this in many areas of the world. With this in mind attention is drawn to the need to respect the following guidelines so that generosity may be channeled in a wise and appropriate manner.

- Teams should pray and discuss appropriate responses to need and seek the approval and advice of the GHCC Global Outreach Pastor prior to departure.
- No matter how well meaning the intention individuals and teams should not spontaneously respond to a situation. In such cases the Team leader should seek the advice from the National Leader in order that the form and method of response is done in a culturally appropriate manner.
- The giving of surplus material goods (clothing, tools etc.) should be coordinated by the National Leader who will distribute in the most effective way.
- Do not make promises. Those on the field and/or subsequent teams are the ones who will be picking up the pieces if you or your team fails to follow through.
- The distribution of money, gifts and personal items must be done following the advice and guidance given by the National Leader.
- During your visit you will inevitably develop friendships with nationals who you may wish to bless with a parting gift. Please be aware that your friends have probably come into regular contact with many visitors like you and will have already been recipients of multiple gifts. Remember the adage, "Give a man a fish and he eats for today, teach a man to fish and he will eat for life." Please ask your Team Leader to consult the National leader so that you may know how best to bless your friends as you leave.

Conduct Agreement

In order to insure the safety and effectiveness of this mission, as well as to promote a positive atmosphere conducive to evangelism and discipleship, I _____ will act according to Christian principles and follow the guidelines in this code of conduct laid out by Golden Hills Community Church and its leaders.

Participant's Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Please sign next sheet to submit to GO Office, and keep this copy for your records.

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Global Outreach Signature Page Copy

All areas are completely written out in the original Code of Conduct document I have maintained for my records.

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