

Fellowship of Huntsville Church

Short Term Mission Trip Policy

Each year we have people from FOHC do short-term missions' work. We have had people from youths to adults labor with churches ministering to the poor in the USA, as well as do evangelistic / training outreaches in England, parts of Africa, Russia, and South America. These trips have truly been life changing for many individuals. The leadership at FOHC has enthusiastically supported short-term missions in the past, and we plan to continue to do so. However, in the best interests of being good stewards with our funds we plan to do a bit more scrutinizing of such missions' trips in the future. If you are thinking about a short-term mission trip and want to have financial help from FOHC, we would ask you to carefully consider the following:

*You need to attend church regularly. This means you attend Sunday School, and are involved in church educational opportunities (whether College Bible Study, Small Group, Youth Group, AWANA worker, etc.). Note, the reason for a wide range of adult Bible classes is to prepare you for ministering to people—we don't want to send unprepared people to minister to others.

*You need a good recommendation by one of the staff or elder board, which is based on character and previous / current ministry. We don't want to send people to minister abroad who are dealing with their own issues while not even ministering in their own back yards.

*You need to have specific goals for your trip that the elder board is in agreement with. We want your trip to have worthwhile objectives and not just an interesting / fun trip.

*You need to have a steppingstone approach to missions. By that we mean you begin by doing local work (at FOHC, Gospel Lakes, Good Shepherd, Forest Glen, Children's Bible Club, etc). This would be followed by state / national work, before finally taking trips far beyond our American borders (overseas). We want to follow a practical and biblical pattern to ministry and avoid high cost trips with low returns. Please feel free to contact the church office for any possible opportunities in these three specific places of ministry.

*The limit for an *oversea* mission trip is one trip per person. Any exception must be approved by the elder board.

See Acts 1:8 . . . and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

*You need to let the elder board / staff know as far in advance as possible when the desired trip will occur and demonstrate an ability to raise your own funds to a good degree. The church will indeed pay a portion of the trip if all these requirements are met. Our goal is so be responsible with the funds the Lord has entrusted to us.