

## **Laymen Ministries Student Missionary Mission Statement and Guidelines:**

**Mission Statement:** “Your Mission (here or abroad) has eternal significance! It will impact the destiny of other people, so it is more important than any other job, achievement, or goal you will have during your life on Earth. Nothing in this life matters as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God.”

You will be living and working with people who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior and are not familiar with “Christian Culture.” The natives will watch you closely and they will mimic your lifestyle. If you read and study your Bible, they will also. If you are untidy, unpunctual or are lukewarm about your spiritual life, they will follow your leading.

After having sent several Student Missionaries to the Philippines, it was suggested that we lay down some guidelines so there will be no surprises for those choosing to, or thinking about, working with *Laymen Ministries* as a Missionary. Remember, missionaries are just that and not tourists! Here are the guidelines:

- 1) Teaching to Teach:** You will be living in a remote village with a married Filipino couple. This couple and their children will be your first opportunity to be an “ambassador for Christ”. In many cases, this couple is very self-sacrificing, but limited in Christian knowledge and experience. While there you will be heavily involved with teaching students in our school. We are very serious about education, and your influence is vital. You will be teaching basic English language, math, science, and Bible. More than “teaching” classes, you will be involved with “friendship” ministry, winning the confidence of the village people, stimulating them to think for themselves and getting the older kids involved with teaching the younger kids. You must look for ways to motivate and be creative. *Laymen Ministries* believes in educating people on an incentive basis. This means we are not there to simply give free handouts to everyone, but to “teach to teach” and to give incentives based on their cooperation and achievements. We must never take advantage of any of the villagers. (See Matt. 7:12)
- 2) Town Time:** Most of the time you will be in your village for approximately 8 to 12 weeks at a time (give or take depending on the weather) before you will have a long weekend at our home base in Mamburao.
- 3) Teamwork and Accountability:** It is important to remember that, as a missionary, working with an organization such as *Laymen Ministries* or another organization, there is the necessity of teamwork and accountability. If plans are made by a Missionary to make improvements in the village, which requires significant means, it is required to talk to the *Laymen Ministries* Coordinator regarding the idea to get approval. After such approval, fund raising can then take place, with funds being run through the main office of *Laymen Ministries*, unless other arrangements are agreed upon. Thus receipts can be issued; checks

and balances are in place and teamwork established. At times, well meaning projects end up creating problems and undermine the incentive programs we have established in the villages.

- 4) **Manila Time:** You will, during your 9-month stay (during the school year) be in Manila 2 times: 1) when you arrive, and 2) when leaving. Going to Manila, or any other place in the Philippines, takes a lot of time, as travel is slow and difficult. We really want the Missionaries to be teaching in their villages so school is not interrupted. It is important that SMs never take an unsupervised trip anywhere. If a trip is planned, *Laymen Ministries* Coordinator must grant permission. Adults, or a group, when traveling to other locations in the Philippines must accompany SMs. This is a must for security and safety reasons.
- 5) **Standards of Conduct:** Life in the villages is very simple. The native girls often dress with skirts and swim in their clothes (as they do not have bathing suits!) Remember that your life is a letter, read and known among all people, so a big part of teaching, or being a "Missionary" is the influence we bear. Thus your personal hygiene is very important, as well as your behavior. You must keep yourself and your area clean and orderly. Your dress needs to be appropriate for the occasion; 1-piece bathing suits for swimming; no tight pants or blouses; no hip rider pants or belly-button shirts; as well as no spaghetti strap blouses. Please do not wear jewelry or makeup.

**If you are excited about your relationship with Jesus**, others will notice and their door will be open for you to witness of your love for Him.

Your team at *Laymen Ministries*