

Student Missionary Guidelines

January 2010

Dear Student Missionary:

Mission Statement: “Your Mission 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 reach 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 are excited about your relationship with Jesus, it will show in your everyday life. If you read and study your Bible and live a joyful life, they will want what you have. If you are untidy, unpunctual or are lukewarm about your spiritual life, they will follow your leading.

After having had several Student Missionaries in the Philippines, it was suggested that we put in place 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!

Guidelines

Teaching to Teach: You will be living in a remote village with a married Filipino couple and single Filipino teachers/missionaries. The married couple will be your team leader and guide. Your co-workers and their children will be your first opportunity to be an “ambassador for Christ.” While here, you will be fully involved with teaching students in our school every day during established school hours. Yet your influences goes way beyond the class room!

We are very serious about education, and your attitude and influence are vital. You will be teaching English language, math, science, and Bible, in a formal classroom setting. More than “teaching” classes, you will be involved with “friendship” ministry, winning the confidence of the village people, stimulating them to think for themselves, as well as getting the older students involved with teaching the younger students. 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 here 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. (Matt. 7:12)

Town Time: Most of the time you will be in your village for approximately 12 weeks at a time (give or take depending on the weather) before you will have a weekend at our home base in Mamburao.

Manila Time: You will, during your 11-month stay (during the school year) be in Manila 2 times: 1) when you arrive, and 2) when you leave. 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 unsupervised trips anywhere. If a trip is planned, *Laymen Ministries'* Coordinator must grant permission. When and if you travel to other locations in the Philippines, you must be accompanied by adults or be in a group. This is a must for security and safety reasons.

Teamwork and Accountability: It is important to remember that, as a Missionary, working with an organization such as *Laymen Ministries*, there is necessary teamwork and accountability. You are expected to fully co-operate with your village team and LM Coordinators in every area of ministry. You will actively participate in team meetings and planning school and village activities and in the execution of the same. You are expected to take initiative in suggesting and implementing policies and actions to benefit every area of the work.

If you make plans to improve something in the village, which requires significant means, it is required to talk with the LM Coordinator regarding the idea to get approval. After such approval, fund raising can then take place, with funds being directed 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 to benefit the villagers.

Standards of Conduct: Life in the villages is very simple. We ask that modesty and simplicity be considered. The native girls often swim in their clothes (as they do not have bathing suits!) Remember that your life is a letter read and interpreted by the people you will be working with and for. So a huge part of teaching, or being a "Missionary," is the influence we bear. Thus taking good care of your personal hygiene is very important, as well as your conduct. You must keep yourself and your living area clean and orderly. Your dress needs to be appropriate for the occasion; 1-piece bathing suits for swimming; no tight pants or tight blouses; no low hip rider pants or belly-button shirts; as well as no spaghetti strap blouses. You may not wear jewelry or makeup.

Please note that the minority people have had little exposure to most things in city life. We do not want worldly movies, or other bad influences brought into the villages to be shown on laptop computers etc. Some videos can be learning tools, yet they also can be detrimental as well.

Relationships: LM Staff fully understand the desires of youth to find a mate, as well as their hormones influencing their feelings. You must remember that you are here for 11-months of service to Christ and mission work, and that you are not here to find a boy friend or a girl friend. Student missionaries will not be allowed to have these types of relationships with other missionaries or the nationals as it has proven to distract from their mission focus and often leads toward a bad example to the nationals to whom they are missionaries.

Cell Phone Use: Cell phones can now be used in most villages, and are a blessing as you can keep in touch with the Mission Coordinator, other missionaries and even your family back home. *We expect all co-workers to not text or talk during school hours or worship services.*

Limited solar/battery power is available in most villages, but must be used very sparingly. Please limit the electronic equipment you bring with you.

Please consider the following quotes and search your heart to see if God is speaking with you.

“We know as much of God as we are willing to put into practice – and no more... It is not enough for us Christians to have the truth; the truth must have us. Until this happens and we develop under Christ the sanctified life, the cause will languish. The naked fact is that we must earn the attention of men before they will hear us, truth or no truth, message or no message. What the world is really wanting to know is not what we have done for Christ, but rather what Christ has done for us.” —Kenneth Holland, *Signs*, July 1984.

“Christ method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed his sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’

“There is need in coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, and the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.” — *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143

“God does not waste power. He gives it to those who have tackled something so big, so overwhelming, that their own resources are quite insufficient. Such a tackling of a task too big for human power is the opening of the door through which there comes the rushing of a mighty wind of the Spirit. Such a task is character building, and this alone makes us able to witness effectively for Christ.” ... One of these days someone is

going to take the Bible, read it, and act upon it, and then we all will be embarrassed.”
— Kenneth Holland, *Signs*, July 1984

Let us be that person!