

Haiti Orientation Document

But God Ministries seeks to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through acts of compassion and to share the love of Christ through every aspect of the project as we develop sustainable communities.

Haiti was considered one of the most challenging environments prior to the earthquake. The 2012 disaster has magnified those challenges. Beyond the typical international challenges of language barriers and loose schedules, we are also dealing with corruption, very poor infrastructure, damaged communications, and the rapid evolution of services and programs. Patience is expected and required. Even with its challenges, we see the beauty of the Haitian people and we see great hope. There are many wonderful followers of Christ in Haiti, and we sincerely believe this is an amazing moment in the history of this nation.

But God Ministries expects all team participants to understand and share this compassion for Haitian people and our dedication to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through all we do there. Thus, each team participant serving in Haiti with But God Ministries will be expected to abide by the Team Member Covenant:

- Willing to follow the doctrinal beliefs of BGM (found at www.butgodministries.com)
- Willing to abide by the BGM dress code* (found in this document)
- Willing to refrain from use of tobacco products, alcohol or profanity while on the mission trip
- Willing to refrain from pairing off between members of the opposite sex during the mission trip
- Willing to perform any ministry related task assigned to you.

NOTE: BGM reserves the right to decline any application for team membership for any reason, including (but not limited to) theological differences or personal behavior deemed incompatible with its ministry and/or testimony.)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS RELEVANT TO BOTH GALETTE CHAMBON AND THOMAN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Immunizations (none required, but strongly recommended)

You should consult with your physician about these. The health department is the most cost efficient provider:

- DPT - Tetanus/diphtheria update (if over 5 years rather than the usual 10 due to the exposure risk)
- Hepatitis A and B
- Typhoid (oral or injection)
- Oral malaria prophylaxis – malarone is one that is highly recommended as it causes the least sun sensitivity

** The Hepatitis A and B immunization is given in a series of shots. For that reason, immunizations should be started at least six weeks before your departure date. Immunizations must be completed two weeks before departure in order for them to be effective.*

Food/Water: We will provide two meals a day. You are responsible for breakfast and snacks. Consider cereal, granola bars, protein bars/shakes, crackers, jerky, fruit snacks, pop-tarts, etc. #1 RULE: Check everything that goes into your mouth and wash your hands often! Only eat food prepared by your group, only drink bottled or filtered water, and only brush your teeth in filtered water.

Charity: Haitian people will often beg from others more fortunate than themselves. You will be asked to give often. Please follow these guidelines to promote healthy behavior throughout the community.

- Please do not give out money or pay any expenses for anyone.
- If someone asks you for something of yours, do not say “maybe.” “Maybe” often means “yes.” At the end of the trip you can arrange to leave things you want given away discreetly and appropriately.

Money: The most we recommend you take is \$50 - \$100 for airport meals, emergencies and possible souvenirs. Take nothing larger than \$20 bills. Most Haitians will take \$1 bills for anything you buy.

- Each person will need to be prepared with a \$10 bill to pay a tourist fee and \$2.00 per cart for luggage transport whenever the carts are acquired inside the airport in Port-au-Prince. Each cart will hold 3-4 pieces of luggage. The team members will also need to be prepared to pay the But God Ministries Haitian staff member that meets them \$2.00 per piece of luggage for every piece of luggage that is transported on the carts to the BGM vehicle.
- On Thursdays at the Galette Chambon Hope Center, a market will be available for Haitians in the area to sell their handmade items to team members. If you plan to buy items at the market, please have small bills with you. Change will not be available.

Cell Coverage: For AT&T customers, there is outstanding cell coverage where you will be staying and working. Check with your cell provider for texting, internet, and calling rates. Also, check for international plans that may be applicable. You can come home with a considerable cell phone bill if you are not careful.

Internet Service: There is no Wi-Fi service for team members in Haiti.

Haiti Team House Guidelines: We have electricity, bunk beds, toilets, showers, and a kitchen. This is remarkable in Haiti. You will be in tight quarters so be considerate of one another. Please follow these guidelines to ensure a peaceful and productive mission.

- We are on limited power. Please conserve as much as possible. FOR THOMAN, do not bring hair dryers. They drain the power quickly before the generator is ready. We recommend headbands, bandanas, and ponytails.
- Do not flush feminine products. Everything except human waste and toilet paper goes in the trash can. Do not put razors or aerosol cans in the trash can - bring them home with you for disposal.
- Everyone in your group will need to take a shower each day. Please limit your shower time.
- Space is limited. Please be clean, neat, and tidy – mindful of other people’s space.
- Please be mindful of others while they are trying to rest.
- DO NOT invite children to eat with the team at the Hope Center.

Personal Conduct

- Carry yourself in a way that honors Christ and offers a positive witness to the Haitian people.
- Be enthusiastic, positive, and supportive of group members and team leaders.

- Conduct yourself conservatively and respectfully. Dating is proactively forbidden, even for existing couples. Romantic entanglements complicate mission work and distract from building friendships.
- Use of alcohol and tobacco is never allowed.
- DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, phone number, or mailing address to Haitian friends.
- DO NOT LEAVE the Hope Center village area without approval from the missionary or team host.

Clothing (See Packing List for Specific List)

- **Regarding tops/shirts:** Wear only t-shirts with sleeves and modest necklines. Do not wear tank tops. If you wear a sleeveless shirt or shirt with low V or scoop neckline, you will be asked to change. If you do not have t-shirts with sleeves and modest necklines, you will need to purchase or borrow them.
- **Regarding shorts:** Do not wear Nike shorts or running shorts. Wear basketball or soccer length shorts. Shorts should be at least mid-thigh. If you wear inappropriate length shorts, you will be asked to change. If you do not have appropriate length shorts, you will need to purchase or borrow them.
- **We reserve the right to ask an individual to change any attire that is not appropriate.**
- **Shoes:** Wear one and bring a second pair of comfortable shoes. Consider bringing flip flops for the shower. Work boots will protect against incredible thorns.
- **Church:** Women – some sort of skirt; Men – long pants and golf shirt
- Don't bring anything you can't live without.
- It is hot, but the answer is not less clothing. Consider clothing hikers would choose. "Quick dry" clothes are not required but they are helpful.
- **Worksite:** Long pants and long sleeves will protect from the sun and the environment. Bring a hat with a wide brim or a protective flap for your ears and neck.
- Take enough clothes to wear the entire week. There will be no opportunity to wash clothes except in case of emergency.