

Guidelines for Work Team Ministers

The HarvestCall Board of Directors and the Elders of the Apostolic Christian Church of America desire that in order to enhance our faith during work team projects, a minister of the church should accompany each work team. This not only assures that worship services will be according to our own doctrine and practices, but also provides an environment in which we can function without confusion.

Being asked by HarvestCall to accompany a work team is evidence of support of the minister as spiritual leader. We are living in a time of great confusion and deception concerning the basic tenets of our faith. The positive spiritual influence that the minister provides can benefit each individual on the work team as well as their outreach to others. Going on a work team can be a meaningful and rewarding experience.

The minister is to provide spiritual leadership and should ensure that all activities are in Godly order and are in alignment with our practice of separation from the world and other religious organizations. Most groups we work with have a deep faith of their own and HarvestCall has policy which directs how we should handle ourselves with worship services while on work teams. It is the responsibility of the minister to hold and conduct worship services and provide oversight for daily Bible devotions with the work team members.

The minister will work closely with the work team leader and “in country project coordinators” to establish the spiritual program for the work team. The minister shall have the authority to implement final plans for the following:

- Devotions
- Prayer
- Singing
- Formal Worship Services: Format and location

Devotions - We encourage each team to have devotions as a group at least once a day. This normally is before breakfast and/or after supper. We also encourage the team members to have personal devotions at other times.

We encourage the minister to plan the order of devotions before leaving on the trip. It is good to include some of the other brothers participating on the work team in the

devotions. Each team member might be assigned a time and topic. It is the minister's responsibility to decide the structure of the devotions. Some options are:

- have a topic or theme for the week and assign designated leaders a sub topic
- use one chapter for the week and assign each designated leader some verses to read and share
- let each designated leader choose topics and/or scriptures as they feel moved.

Prayer - Work teams may be in a strange land, on the Lord's work and exposed to unfamiliar physical and spiritual dangers. Please make a point of using prayer often. In addition to usual prayer times we encourage prayer:

- before any significant travel
- before each work day
- at the site of each project as the work begins
- with any special groups that the team visits such as a nursing home
- any time there is sense of a special need or appropriateness

Singing - We know that each group is different, but if at all possible we encourage teams to include singing throughout the trip. It is good to sing a song or two at devotions, meals, and in the evening. It is also appropriate to sing during services. Not all project sites and organizations are the same. Specific programs should be considered for the project and site for venue, song material available and resources for song leadership. Instructions should be provided to the minister for the unique aspects for the team.

Church Services - The church service will vary with the country and particular project the team is supporting. If in doubt, please check with the HarvestCall contact person who is coordinating the trip and the HarvestCall Coordinator at the site, if there is one. We encourage the minister to take the lead in spiritual activities and ask on the site coordinators to be there to assist in carrying out the activities. The minister has the final authority on the format and venue of worship services, however, the ministering brother should work closely with the on-site coordinator and team leader for recommendations.

There are times when our work teams are invited to attend services with the people whom we are helping. It is HarvestCall policy that we not attend these services except when we have full control of them. If the work team minister is asked to have the service, the local minister may make some preliminary announcements for his congregation and possibly announcements afterwards. The opening prayer, reading

and meditation should come from the work team minister and the closing prayer from one of our brothers.

To avoid confusion, the minister should plan the agenda for the service, with the local pastor in charge, prior to Sunday morning. Ministers should make a proactive effort for the work team to avoid forms of worship and music that are foreign to our practice. Ensure that everyone who lives or works in the area of your work project is welcome at the spiritual function.

Ministers should be advised that in some locations there may be a service in a language other than English. In some cases, the minister may be asked to have the service using a translator to the native language. If the service at the site is conducted by a church minister, but not given in English, and not translated, the minister is encouraged to have another service in the afternoon or evening for the work team and others who choose to attend.

Communication with Counseling Elder - It is recommended that each minister participating on a work team for the first time, consult with the counseling elder of the HarvestCall sponsoring committee prior to establishing the spiritual plan for the team and taking the trip.

Communication with Minister - A letter has been drafted to be sent to the minister prior to participating on the team. The work team leader is responsible for communicating the pertinent information to the ministering brother.

Minister not available - While it is the desire to have a minister participate on each work team, from time to time, this may not be possible due to timing, location and team size. Should a minister not be available to participate as a member of a work team, the work team leader should follow these recommendations:

- For work teams visiting a project location where an Apostolic Christian Church is present, the worship service will be conducted by the minister in residence. The work team leader should develop the devotion program and coordinate with the resident minister, but should not assume the resident minister will conduct or lead the devotion program for the work team.
- For work teams visiting a project location where an Apostolic Christian Church is not present, the work team leader and in country project coordinator will coordinate options for the team to access ministry from a church in the US via internet or phone lines. The work team leader should develop the devotion

program and coordinate with the counseling elder for the committee sponsoring the work team.

Definitions -

Sponsoring committee - the HarvestCall committee that is organizing the project and work team i.e. Caribbean, Mexico, USA, etc.

Work Team Coordinator - the brother on the sponsoring committee responsible for coordinating all work team activity for the committee.

Work Team Leader - the brother who will be providing day to day leadership for the work team.

In-country Project/Ministry Coordinator - the brother resident at the work site responsible for the planning and implementation of the project. (not available at all work project sites)