

# Global Impact Team Handbook



Three Strands  
*Care with Compassion*

*Dearest Team Member,*

---

You are about to embark on a journey of a lifetime. Global Impact Teams have the capacity to be one of the strongest catalysts in your life. I was 13 years old when the Lord called me to my first “mission trip” to Guatemala. The sights, sounds, smells, and deep friendships from that trip will remain with me for a lifetime.

I also believe that mission trips can be such a dichotomy. On the one hand, these trips are NOT FOR YOU. We send teams to be the poorest countries in the world TO SERVE OTHERS.

100% of our operations are run by Central African and Haitian staff. This has been the key to our success in creating and maintaining a sustainable ministry. These trips are long, require hard work, and are meant to be stretching in every sense of the word. But on the other hand... this trip WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE! You'll find out quickly that your life is the one that is impacted. Our hope is that this week-long experience will motivate you to live a Compassionate, Competent, and Christ-Centered life as you go forward.

We look forward to you joining us with an open mind, open heart, and hands ready to serve. Let's go serve the poor and needy as Jesus Christ asked us to!

This handbook is designed to help you prepare for this journey mentally, physically and spiritually.

Thank you for your service,



Jordan Damon, CEO  
Three Strands

“Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Colossians 3:12

# Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Serving God's People.....                 | 1  |
| Trip Planning.....                        | 2  |
| Training.....                             | 4  |
| Dos and Don'ts of Global Impact Team..... | 6  |
| Fundraising For Your Trip.....            | 7  |
| Pre-Departure Team Meetings.....          | 9  |
| Key Contacts.....                         | 12 |

“Again, I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed - and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors - and they have no comforter. And I declared that the dead, who has already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. But better than both is the one who has never been born, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun. And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Fools fold their hands and ruining themselves. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. Again, I saw something meaningless under the sun: there was a man all alone, he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. ‘For whom am I toiling,’ he asked, ‘and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?’ This too is meaningless - a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cors of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:1-12

# Serving God's People

Jesus Christ called on us to love and serve the poor, needy, and the sick. At Three Strands, our vision, mission, and core values were established to respond to Christ's command. Affordable healthcare is our tool to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ! As people come with their ailments to our facilities, our team cares for the physically and spiritually.

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."  
Psalm 107:8-9

## Vision

- To provide affordable healthcare to the developing world - bringing physical healing to open the doors for spiritual healing.
- Bring the love of Jesus Christ to the developing world by providing physical healing and education through affordable healthcare.

## Mission

- We exist to provide compassionate, competent, and Christ-centered medical care focused on underserved people in the developing world. We accomplish this by establishing and maintaining healthcare facilities in these regions that are committed to health education and the treatment and prevention of disease. The Three Strands brand will be known throughout these regions as a standard of quality and compassion.

## Core Values (Our "3" Strands)

- **Compassion:** Everything we do is rooted in this one word. Compassion is the driving force that pushes us to action, to care for those that cannot care for themselves.
- **Competence:** The level of care one receives at any of our Three Strands facilities will be one of Competence! We strive to bring the best quality of care in all that we do. We are a living representation of Christ. This must be shown through our words and actions.
- **Christ Focused:** Our prayer is to see multitudes come to Christ as a direct result of the Compassionate and Competent care they have received. Our staff and teams must understand that this is the true calling of why we exist. Satan is alive and well in the regions in which we minister. Come prepared to proclaim the name of Jesus!

# Trip Planning

Every trip has an on-ramping process. Below is a synopsis of that process. Please educate yourself with all content below and fill out all appropriate forms. For specific instructions pertaining to your trip please refer questions to your team leader.

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Matthew 9:35-38

## Interest Form

- Complete this form if you would like to learn more about our trips or you would like to get scheduled for a future trip.



## Volunteer Agreement

- This form should be completed once you know which country you'll be traveling to and you have confirmed dates.



## Trip Checklist

- This checklist will help ensure you have all your documents, immunizations, and personal items ready for your trip.



## Anticipated Cost for Haiti and the Central African Republic (CAR)

### *Haiti*

Total = \$1,500 - \$1,700 on average depending on flights

In country expenses = \$900

Flights \$500 - \$700 (on average)

Mission Trip Insurance = \$35 (required - purchase through faithventure.com before your trip)

Customs Fee \$10

### *CAR*

Total = \$3,000 on average depending on flights

In country expenses = \$500

Flights = \$2,200 - \$2,500

Visa = \$300 - \$400

Mission Trip Insurance = \$35 (required - purchase through faithventure.com before your trip)

## Payment Process and Deadlines

- In-country expenses must be paid to Three Strands 1 week prior to your trip. Three Strands will provide all the details of where and when to fly. Tickets are purchased by you or your team leader.

## Vaccines, Visas, Medicine, and Immunizations

- In your training meetings there will be up to date and detailed information on required and recommended shots, medicines, and the appropriate documentation to have before entering whichever country you'll be traveling to. CDC vaccination and immunization information can be reviewed at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/)

## Passport and Visa

- You must have a valid passport to travel to Haiti or the CAR. Currently there is a requirement for visa's to enter into the CAR. For these details refer to your team leader. You can apply for or renew your passport, and review current travel notices at [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html)

“So they set out and went  
from village to village,  
proclaiming the good news  
and healing people  
everywhere.”

Luke 9:6

# Training

## Online Training

Three Strands has a series of 3 training videos that will help prepare you for your Global Impact Trip.

“and he sent them out to  
proclaim the kingdom of  
God and to heal the sick.”  
Luke 9:2

- **Vision / Mission Statements** - You will be representing Three Strands on this trip. It is vital that you understand why we exist.
- **Cross Cultural Knowledge** - This video is designed to better educate you about the culture you will be stepping into in order to make your experience that much better.
- **What to Expect** - There will be a clear focus and agenda for your time with us. We do not want you arriving and having no idea what your role will be. This video will equip you with the tools you need to be the best addition to our team.

## Assessments, Processing, and Journaling

All team members must feel confident in their decision to join a cross cultural missions journey. Keeping that in mind, everyone must come ready with a student's attitude towards our objectives.

Process/debrief time will happen every evening on your Global Impact Trip. These times are designed for self reflection, to better understand the call that God has put on your life, and to be intentional about finding practical applications for your daily interactions. This habit will be encouraged after your Global Impact Trip is over as well.

Bring a journal with you as it will help you process times but will also allow you to saturate the experience for years to come. Keep your journal with you throughout the day. Use it to connect with God, write down questions that you have from the things you've seen, and reflect on your day.

## Team Culture

**Safety** - "I will put the safety of myself and others above all else."

**Honor** - "I will honor leaders, fellow team members, and those I am there to serve."

**Faith** - "I choose to believe for the impossible to happen."

**Fun** - "I will pursue experiences for my team that are both impacting and fun."

**Unity** - "I will do my best to bring unity, love, and comradery to my team."

"Do not conform to the  
pattern of this world, but be  
transformed by the renewing  
of your mind. Then you will be  
able to test and approve what  
God's will is - his good, pleasing  
and perfect will."

Romans 12:2



# Dos and Don'ts of Global Impact Teams

As a messenger of Christ and ambassador of Three Strands, we expect stellar behavior at all times. The tips below are to guide you through how your presence will be perceived in either of our locations. Are we sending a positive message to a world in need?

## What To Do

- Pray all the time; before, during, and after your trip.
- Encourage the cross cultural workers and the local medical team throughout your days.
- Come to learn about the area (city/region/country) and the people to build relationships.
- Come ready to work hard, but also know that you will need time to process and relax.
- Seek out how you can continue the work once you are home, work with the ministry to help become an ambassador for the ministry!

## What Not To Do

- Don't take pictures of just anyone. Meet them, learn their names, and ask if they want their pictures taken.
- Don't forget that having Global Impact Teams is hard work for our national team. Be courteous of their time and resources.
- Don't give out money and "stuff" to our locals. If you want to bless someone, check with your team leader first. They will help you decide the best course of action.
- Don't promise something you can't give.
- Don't criticize out loud even if you think people cannot understand. Take your thoughts and questions privately to our national team, your trip leader, or even better, to God.

"Stretch out your hand to heal  
and perform signs and wonders  
through the name of your holy  
servant Jesus."

Acts 4:30

## Standards of Conduct

Three Strands has a standard of conduct that it expects from all its Team members on a Global Impact Trip. When you agree to go on any Three Strands Team you are agreeing to these guidelines.

# Fundraising For Your Trip

Fundraising can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding. Below are some tips to help you along the way.

## Individual and Team Support

Checks must be made out to Three Strands with the destination country and participant name in the memo line. All donations received are applied to the participants' cost. Any surplus funds sent in will be deposited into our Good Samaritan fund to cover unexpected costs. Support letters must include the following statement: "All Checks must be payable to Three Strands." Donations are tax-deductible and will be placed on a year-end giving. All mission trip donations are non-refundable.

## Fundraiser Ideas

Envelope Fundraiser: Take 70 envelopes and number them #1-70. Let people know when they take an envelope they need to commit to give whatever the amount on the envelope reads. For example, if they take enveloped #12, they need to put \$12 into the envelope. If they take #49 they need to put \$49 in the envelope.

You need at least 70 people to be involved. Let them know you will be collecting all the envelopes on a specific date. If you can have all 70 envelopes taken and paid for, you just raised \$2,485!

Be strategic. Plan things like this with plenty of lead time before your deadlines as it could take time to distribute and collect all envelopes.

Potential earnings from this fundraiser is:

31 = \$500  
44 = \$1,00  
54 = \$1,500  
64 = \$2,100  
70 = \$2,500

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

Luke 10:34

## Schedule a One Day Fundraiser

Whether its an 80's party, an ugly Christmas sweater party, or a local concert, get creative and HAVE FUN! Make your event something that YOU would like to attend.

People will more motivated to attend and give if they're having fun. Create a video to get people excited for the event. Locations are very important if you are doing something like a car wash or bake sale. Look for key locations with a lot of traffic.

## Write a Support Letter

This is one of the easiest ways to get the word out about your trip. You'll want to get this done as early as possible because it will take time to write, print, mail and hear back from your supporters. Send it to as many people as possible, even if they can't support you financially. Remember you're also building prayer support!

Here are some tips to writing a great support letter:

- Personal Life Update: Where are you now? What is God doing in your life?
- Trip Location: Where are you going? Why there?
- Purpose of Trip: What will you be doing there? Why do you feel God is calling you?
- Share your passion!
- How Can They Support Your Trip?
- Prayer: This is a powerful and easy way for anyone to be able to support your trip
- Include the cost of the trip in your deadline and how they can donate to your trip.

“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”

Isaiah 40:11

# Pre-Departure Team Meetings

Team meetings are essential for clarity in purpose of the trip, logistics of travel, and team comradery. We try to hold at least two team meetings before our trip. If teams are composed of people from many locations, the meetings will be held virtually. If the entire team is from one location we will work hard to meet in person at a centralized location. The meetings are about an hour and a half, and everyone joining the team or those interested in learning more must attend. Below is a general timeline of these team meetings.

## Team Meeting #1 (4-6 Months Prior)

A Three Strands staff member will be present at the first meeting cover financial requirements, health and immunization, missions, passport, and visa information.

All documents will be sent out to be filled out by all team members.

Main purpose of this meeting is to meet our team and finalize our roster.

## Team Meeting #2 (2 Months Prior)

ALL documents must be filled out and turned in.

Discuss fundraising updates, trip planning logistics, cross-cultural training.

Discuss trip logistics, team schedule, purpose, and mission of the trip.

Begin collecting meds/supplies needed for the trip. (Amazon Wishlist! Get your friends engaged).

“But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.”

2 Corinthians 9:3

## Team Meeting #3 (2-3 Weeks Prior)

100% trip balance due

Ensure that all team members have a valid passport. (Make two color copies of team member passports. One should be given to a Team Leader, the other you should keep with you throughout the trip.)

Packing party if all team members are local.

# Being a Good Shepherd

Some things you can do to protect your team includes:

Be alert to your environment in any setting - especially when everyone else is minisitering/serving.

When moving in and out of customs and airports, designate a front man while you bring up the rear at each checkpoint (or vise-versa).

As a leader, there will be opportunities to support on the team spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally. There are many ways you can do this. A few examples include:

## Spiritually

- Allow Scripture to be read/shared, and encourage testimonies of God's goodness to be proclaimed.
- Get to know people's individual lives during the week. Ask questions about why they wanted to come on this trip. Process the things you see and encounter.
- Encourage, stretch, pull out, challenge, pray together, share your heart, etc. Challenge to live on mission daily (it's a lifestyle, not a one-time event!).

## Physically

- Lead by example, and take care of yourself. Stay hydrated. Eat healthy. Work hard.
- Instruct and remind each other about hygiene, and cultural do's and don'ts. Ask the local staff questions about the ministry here.
- Encourage open and honest communication.

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."  
3 John 1:2

## Mentally

- Are folks engaged in the daily tasks and mission at hand? Are they asking questions? Are they engaged in team time?
- Where are the team's attitudes? This is as much about their heart as their head, or more so, but sometimes their mental state leads to a deeper conversation about the heart.

## Emotionally

- Tears are normal, common, and a good sign of spiritual work happening!
- Ask questions to get to the heart of the matter. Shepherd each other's hearts and pray together.

“Then he said to her,  
‘Daughter, your faith has  
healed you. Go in peace.’”  
Luke 8:48

# Key Contacts

## **Jordan Damon - CEO (Stateside)**

614-506-3643

[jordan@three-strands.org](mailto:jordan@three-strands.org)

## **Mike Taylor - Founder (Stateside)**

574-527-9958

[mike@three-strands.org](mailto:mike@three-strands.org)

[three-strands.org](http://three-strands.org)

PO Box 753

Winona Lake, IN 46590

[info@three-strands.org](mailto:info@three-strands.org)