

# Sharing The Vision

Dominican Republic, Hispaniola



## Short Term Missions Manual

**Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

**Romans 10:15** *As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those that preach the Good News.*

**Matthew 28:19** *Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**1 Corinthians 3:9** *For we are all fellow workers, laborers together, with and for God...*



# Sharing The Vision



## STV Team Manual

### WELCOME

We would like to thank you for your interest in this ministry and for requesting a team manual. STV has several ministry opportunities available as you will see in the list below. We have tried to provide you with all the information needed to make your trip successful and enjoyable.

This manual will provide you with necessary preparation tips, items you will need to bring, basic costs involved with your trip, flight arrangements guidelines, STV's responsibilities, and your responsibilities.

We want to help you plan your trip in the most effective way possible. This manual serves as a guideline and can help you avoid some situations that you could encounter, as circumstances can change in a third world country without advance notice. We will try to keep you updated on any changes that may occur that would affect your trip, concerning costs and preparations. To schedule a short term mission trip or for inquiries about a trip contact Teresa White, our STV Team Coordinator.

### MAILING ADDRESS IN THE D.R.

Jim & Teresa White  
c/o Agape Flights - STI 8750  
100 Airport Ave.  
Venice, FL 34285

E-MAIL: [sharingthevision@hotmail.com](mailto:sharingthevision@hotmail.com)

### MAILING ADDRESS STATESIDE

Sharing The Vision  
P.O. Box 110007  
Bradenton, FL 34211

STATESIDE: 1- 317-641-4140

### STV Background

The Whites began their missionary service for the Lord in the country of Haiti. In 1982, Jim was introduced to ministry in Haiti that his church supported, and his heart was touched by what he saw and heard. In 1989 Jim was able to make his first of several mission trips to Haiti. In October of 1995 he and Teresa received the call to go and minister to the Haitian people and they moved there in January of 1996. In July of 2000 they were led of the Lord to establish a mission which they call, "**Sharing The Vision.**" The vision is as the name indicates, "**Sharing The Vision**" of Jesus Christ as stated in **Luke 4:18-19**, and **Matthew 28:19**. STV helped to oversee five churches and three schools in Haiti, trained national church leaders to walk in a close, personal, and intimate love relationship with Jesus, and introduced the importance of one on one discipleship and teachings to equip in this area.

The Lord has been very faithful to the Whites and the STV ministry. The Whites have experienced many blessings and also some very difficult obstacles during their nearly 8 years in Haiti; but again and again the truth of **Romans 8:28** has been evident.

The Whites began ministry full time in the Dominican Republic in July of 2004. Jim has served as pastor of an International church in Santiago, which STV planted in 2010. Teresa leads worship in the main languages of the island: Spanish, English, and Creole. Our call is to equip believers in evangelism, intentional & relational discipleship, and to use the Word of God properly and effectively. STV owns 13 acres in the countryside foothills of Santiago where a Discipleship Training Center and a small missionary house are under construction. We are honored to work alongside several national ministries here with our teams: a children's home for orphans, a girl's shelter for those that have been rescued from sexual abuse, and prison ministry. STV has been hosting short term teams in Santiago since 2005 and will soon be opening the Discipleship Training Center for teaching and training for the ministry, missions and discipleship. **Compartiendo La Vision** and **International Christian Church** are both legally recognized non-profit religious organizations registered in the Dominican Republic.



### THE VISION

Our vision is as our name indicates, *Sharing The Vision* of our Lord Jesus, both stateside and abroad. We believe that all Christians are to go out into all the world as Christ's ambassadors to seek and save the lost and equip new believers to become strong, mature Christians who will be the Church.

STV MINISTRIES INCLUDE:

- \* Evangelism
- \* Discipleship
- \* Leadership Training
- \* Helps Ministry
- \* Short Term Team Ministry
- \* Street Outreach, Prison and Orphanage Ministries

# Ministry Opportunities

## Evangelism

- \* Preaching the Gospel
- \* Hut to Hut Visitation
- \* Vacation Bible School Activities
- \* Mime, Puppet Shows, Drama
- \* Street Outreaches, Prison Ministry



If you or your group has another ministry they would like to share with the Dominican people, we suggest that you contact the STV missionaries, Jim & Teresa White, and seek their direction in keeping with cultural sensitivity and relevance. Remember, our goal is winning souls for the Kingdom of God.

## Teaching

- \* Leadership Seminars
- \* Discipleship Classes
- \* Life Application Classes
- \* Trade / Career Skills Training



If you are a teacher it will be important to inform the STV administrator of your plans so that they can prepare everything ahead of time. We want your time to be used wisely and efficiently.

## Construction Projects

- \* Build a church
- \* Church/School benches
- \* Outdoor facilities
- \* Dry Wall Finishing
- \* Wiring
- \* Plumbing
- \* Concrete Floors
- \* Laying Block
- \* Build cabinets
- \* Maintenance



## Construction projects can be done in a variety of ways

1. A group coming to do a project raises funds for that project. If a group has funds and is looking for a project to do, they can contact the STV office and we will direct them to current projects. STV will also help determine detailed costs and the time frame for selected projects.

2. STV may have funds designated for a project and is looking for work teams to help in the completion of the project. Because costs are continually on the rise in in third world countries, we are asking that each member of every STV team donate \$125 toward the project they have come to work on. This would be included in the money each member would need to raise toward their trip.

3. Still another way to be involved in a construction project is through funding all or part of the project. If a group or individual feels directed of the Lord to help in this way you can contact the STV office and we will give you more information on the project and how to fund it.

*We may ask you to bring some items for the projects that you will be working on. An example of this would be carriage bolts, washers, and nuts for benches or bunk bed projects. You may be asked to bring food or other supplies for a project that requires spending one night or several nights in other parts of the Dominican Republic. On occasion we may ask teams to bring needed supplies for the missionaries or the mission house that are not available or that are too expensive to be purchased in-country.*

*After a project has been chosen you will be informed by the STV project coordinator or the field missionaries as to what supplies they would like you to bring for that project. When asked to bring construction supplies we will try to give you detailed information. If you are unsure about an item, contact the project coordinator for clarification.*

## Basic Costs

Below we have provided general mission trip costs. **Costs may vary** depending on what a team or individuals wants to do and size of the team. Once the trip has been confirmed we help you determine the best option for airfare to the Dominican Republic. Airfare can also vary according to high and low tourist season.

Several commercial airlines fly into the Santiago (STI) airport, and this is the airport we ask teams to use. The STV team coordinator will help you in choosing the best airline, itinerary and airfare for your trip. STV can help you make all the travel arrangements for your trip from your home destination to the Dominican Republic. The **2023 estimated BASE cost for a 10 day (9 nights) trip is:**

<b>EXAMPLE:</b>	<b>\$850 +/-</b>	<b>Airfare</b> (example: Roundtrip Indianapolis, IN to Santiago)
	<b>\$450</b>	<b>Lodging/Meals at STV Team house</b> (Per person)
	<b>\$100 +/-</b>	<b>Ministry Projects Fee</b> (3-4 ministry project outreaches)
	<b>\$125</b>	<b>Hacienda Esperanza Work Project Fee per person</b>
	<b>\$1,525 +/-</b>	<b>Basic trip cost for one person</b> (does not include costs below)

*The cost of getting from your city of departure to Santiago could vary as much as \$250 to \$450, which could be more or less than the example above.* Most airlines now charge for all checked baggage, although this can vary with international flights. There is no charge for your carry-on on most airlines. American Airlines, Jet-Blue, Copa, United or Delta are all possible airline options to Santiago, depending on your departure city.

## Additional Costs

- \* There is a **charge of \$50 for use of STV vehicles, per day per vehicle**, that we ask each team to cover when STV vehicles are used. Fuel prices are over \$5.00 per gallon. These fees are used toward fuel/maintenance. **Many times it is necessary to also rent a passenger van to accommodate the size of your team.** This cost is calculated during the planning stages of your trip and **added to the basic trip cost.**
- \* **Team transportation costs and the \$100 team registration fee should be divided by the number of team members and added to the “Total cost of trip per person” above.**
- \* **Note:** The above costs **do not include** recreational activities such as a trip to the beach, the Colonial Zone tour, or buying souvenirs. We estimate these costs per person to be: **Dinner on the beach - \$40, Day at the beach - \$20, Colonial Zone & Typical “Bandera” Lunch - \$50, Personal cash for Souvenirs and Church Offerings - \$10 to \$50, 27 Waterfalls - \$30, Zip Line/Monkey Jungle - \$85.** These costs cover: entry fees, tips, food and drinks, etc. When needed, arrangements can be made to change U.S. currency into pesos with the STV staff.
- \* We require team members to have health insurance coverage for overseas travel & emergency medical evacuation. We can help you purchase this inexpensive insurance for your trip. We recommend a company called IMG—short term plan is called: Outreach Travel Medical Insurance with Med-Evac add-on option. They can also provide coverage for your entire group. These policies usually cost around \$25 per person.
- \* **There are currently no “Covid” related requirements to enter or leave the Dominican Republic. Any requirements on the US side, and/or related costs are the responsibility of the team or team member.**
- \* Please contact us as soon as you have desired dates for your team and we will pencil in your request. The team leader will need to complete the Team Registration Form and send it with a **\$100 Registration Fee before your team’s dates will be confirmed.** Individual Team Member Applications and **\$100 deposit per person are due 90 days before your departure date.** Both the Team Registration Fee and the Team Deposits are non-refundable. **Final payment is due 15 business days before your departure,** along with your proof of overseas medical insurance coverage and notarized liability release forms.

**All prices are subject to change and have been quoted here at current prices at the time of revising this manual. When you decide to come on a mission trip with STV we will work with you, insuring that you are receiving the most economical trip possible. We desire that your missions trip be a memorable, life changing experience for you and those you encounter, ministry and service that will honor and glorify God.**

# Planning The Trip

Once your team has been selected, we recommend having at least eight weekly meetings prior to your trip. Below is a suggested team plan to follow. It begins eight weeks prior to your trip. These meetings will help team members to become better acquainted with one another. It will also allow the team leader to learn the strengths and weaknesses of each member and to plan team strategies. It will be important for each member to participate in the meetings and every heart to be open for what God wants to accomplish through them. As the meetings progress you should be learning more about one another's gifts, talents, and expectations. The best part is that you will be building eternal relationships!

Choose a team leader, if one has not already been chosen. The responsibilities of a team leader should be pray regularly for your team and trip, to collect funds, complete forms and send to STV, coordinate information between the team and the field missionaries, keep the team focused on God's will for them, and direct the team meetings. It will be of benefit to the team if the team leader will stay in contact with the STV team coordinator so he or she can give a short presentation about the work that Sharing The Vision is doing in the Dominican Republic.

Once your team is registered, **collect \$150 non-refundable deposit per person and completed individual Team Member Applications.** These forms and deposits should be sent to the STV office **90 days before your team's departure date.** Send all forms & payments to: **Sharing The Vision, P.O. Box 110007, Bradenton, FL 34211**

## **First Team Meeting** (Eight weeks before trip)

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Introduce the STV ministry, leaders, projects, and information about the missionaries.
2. Give general information about the trip: Costs, dates, types of ministries available, recreation options.
3. Passport information collected (passport applications are available at the post office; apply at least 3 months in advance)
4. Distribute Liability Release Forms that will need to be legally notarized and turned into team leader four weeks before your trip.
5. Discuss individual and group fund-raising ideas.
6. Prepare letters to send out for support (we have provided a sample support letter in this manual)
7. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

## **Second Team Meeting** (Seven weeks before the trip)

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Discuss project and individual assignments. If doing drama, mime, or singing, schedule practice times.
2. Discuss travel arrangements and how they will be handled. If you handle your own travel arrangements, in whole or part, please keep STV informed of your itinerary.
3. Make a list of questions for STV team coordinator and missionaries.
4. Make sure all passports have been applied for and others are up-to-date.
5. Present the trip to your church and invite them to be a part.
6. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

## **Third Team Meeting** (Six weeks before the trip)

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Share how individual support raising is coming and group fund-raising.
2. Go over the Guidelines in the Short Term Mission Manual and answer any questions.
3. Determine if any additional luggage weight will be required, above that allotted. If more weight is needed inform the STV team coordinator or air service if you are handling your own travel arrangements.
4. Collect money for airfare and send to STV office if we are handling your travel arrangements.
5. Work on meeting project needs. Organize and plan to meet those needs.
6. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

## **Fourth Team Meeting** (Five weeks before the trip)

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Discuss personal devotion time with team members, and how team devos on the field will be done.
2. Begin collecting supplies and donated items needed for VBS activities and outreaches.
3. Discuss project strategies and make a list of questions for the missionaries, if needed.
4. Put together a prayer team to support your short term mission team.
5. Select prayer partners among team members to pray for daily. If odd number, team leader takes two.
6. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

**Fifth Team Meeting** (Four weeks before trip)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Ask the STV team coordinator any questions you may have.
2. Remind everyone the balance of money for the trip will be due soon.
3. If you have not yet collected the NOTARIZED liability release forms, do so.
4. Discuss trip itinerary, which you have received from the field missionaries.
5. Finalize any project or assignment details.
6. Plan an outing for the team. This will be a good way to get to know one another better.
7. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

**Sixth Team Meeting** (Three weeks before trip)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Collect balance due for the trip and notarized liability release forms; send to the STV office.
2. Share testimonies of how you see the Lord working things out during this preparation period.
3. Follow up on support letters with a letter of thanks to those who have responded.
4. Make a list of things your prayer team can be praying about.
5. Discuss again the vision and direction of the team.
6. Collect begin to organize any supplies for STV that will be going with you.
7. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

**Seventh Team Meeting** (Two weeks before the trip)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Collect any money or forms that have not been turned in.
2. Discuss and finalize itinerary, project details, and any travel arrangements.
3. Make sure your family and/or friends have a copy of your schedule and in country phone numbers.
4. Discuss as a group how you see the Lord building the team.
5. Ask the church to commission you as a team and to pray over you before you leave.
6. Invite your prayer team to your next and last meeting.
7. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

**Eighth Team Meeting** (One week before the trip)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Wrap up any details that are pending among team members and the STV coordinator.
2. Make sure all forms and money have been sent to the STV office and make copies of passports.
3. Check each individual allotted weight limit of baggage and adjust if necessary.
4. Make sure all supplies for STV have been collected and packed.
5. Have your prayer team and church pray over you.
6. Thank God for this opportunity, and the privilege to serve Him and be used by Him.
7. Spend time in worship to the Lord together as a team and PRAY!

## Spanish Words You Can Learn

### Greetings

### Phrases

Buenos días	Good Morning	Me llamo _____	My name is...
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon	Que es eso	What is that?
Buenas noches	Good night	¿Hablas ingles?	Do you speak English?
Adiós	Goodbye	No hablo español	I don't speak Spanish
Hasta luego	Until next time	Hablo un poco de español	I speak a little Spanish
Cómo estás	How are you?	Si / No	Yes / No
Muy bien, gracias	Fine, thanks	¡Dios te bendiga!	God bless you!
¿Y usted?	And you?	Muchas gracias	Thank you very much
¿Qué tal?	How are things?	De nada	Your welcome

# Guidelines

## Travel

- A valid passport is required upon entry into the Dominican Republic. If you plan to travel within the country, we advise you to leave your passport at the STV mission house. However, it is required that you have a copy of your passport picture page, a valid U.S. driver's license on your person at all time.
- Never carry money or valuables in your luggage. Carry them on your person. STV can secure your valuables at the mission house while traveling in the country.
- 72 hours before arrival, each person must complete an e-ticket online at: <http://eticket.migraacion.gob.do>  
Your team leader can get directions for this form from Teresa. Some of the info needed is as follows:

**Province: Santiago de los Caballeros**

**Municipal: Baitoa**

**Sector: San Jose Adentro**

**Street Address: Calle Sharing The Palms, #4, Hacienda Esperanza**

- Occasionally, unforeseen delays may occur due to weather, etc. during travel. If this should happen, we ask that you contact the STV team coordinators so that they can accommodate for your new arrival time.

**D.R. numbers Teresa Cell 1-829-380-1985 Jim Cell 1-809-223-6612**

## Immunizations

- **We require** that your tetanus booster be up to date.
- Malaria prevention is recommended for Haiti, but not beneficial or deemed necessary in the D.R.
- Consult your doctor about these and other preventives that you or he feel may be necessary.

## Clothing (Men)

- Please dress modestly.
- Shorts are acceptable.
- We ask that shirts be worn on worksites. Tank tops are acceptable.
- Casual slacks and casual/dress shirt may be worn in church settings. Hats and flip flops are not acceptable in the Haitian church services. No shorts, tanks, flip flops are allowed in the men's prison visit.
- Earrings may not acceptable for men in some churches. You may be asked to take them out.
- Swim wear should be of a modest style.

## Clothing (Women)

- Please dress modestly.
- Women serving on work teams are permitted to wear pants (including jeans) and shorts.
- Please do not bring midriff tops, and other similar attire.
- A nice dress or skirt are acceptable in Haitian church. Pants with an appropriate top are fine for other church services. Nose rings and certain piercings are not acceptable in Haitian churches. We ask that women not wear shorts in any church services.
- **Swim wear should be of a modest style.**

## General

- Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs (unless prescribed by a doctor) are prohibited while serving with STV.
- If staying in the STV mission house but not serving under STV, the above mentioned is prohibited while on STV property. This includes in all STV vehicles.
- If serving on a work team you may be asked to bring hand tools or supplies.
- Certain music and games may be culturally unacceptable. Please check with us before bringing them.
- In most cases it is permissible to audio & video record church services and outreaches. Please check with the missionaries before taking photos.

# General Packing List

## Personal Hygiene Products

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream & razors
- Feminine products
- Shampoo and other hair products
- Anti-bacterial hand cleanser
- Sun block (*please choose an appropriate protection. The Caribbean sun is very intense!*)

## Personal Items

- Bible
- Camera & film (*make sure you bring enough film as it is very expensive overseas*)
- Video camera if desired
- Journal and pen
- Insect Repellent
- Personal medication (*all medicine entering the D.R. must have an expiration date and not be expired*)
- Anti-diarrhea medicine (*optional*)
- Multi-tool comes in very handy (*bring in checked-in luggage, not in your carry-on*)
- Shoes (*we suggest sandals, tennis shoes or boots to work in, water shoes for the beach, and church shoes*)
- Sunglasses and hat (*highly recommended*)
- Water bottle, Nalgene or canteen (*the mission house will provide safe drinking water*)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- We recommend jewelry be modest. (*excessive piercings not acceptable in Haitian church settings*)

## Snack Foods

- Dried fruits and nuts
- Jerky
- Breakfast bars and crackers
- Gum or candy...Chocolate will melt!

## Miscellaneous

- You may bring items to give to the poor and needy. An example of things to give away would be: Candy, small soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, clothes, small toys, crayons, notebook paper, pencils, pens, and vitamins.

*\*Note: If you feel that the Lord is leading you to give a monetary gift please check with the missionaries first as to how it should be given and when. Giving a donation to your translator is appreciated and acceptable.*

- Do not give your phone number to anyone. You may be receiving several collect calls or worse, a large phone bill with calls made to other places charged to your number.
- Do not promise your services to the nationals after your return to the U.S. If someone should ask you for a favor or service tell them it should run through the STV mission and direct them to the missionary.
- Do not give out gifts of any type without first checking with the missionary or team coordinator. It could result in an unpleasant situation for the missionary, your team members, and the nationals.
- Do not eat or drink anything outside the STV mission house without checking with the staff. The missionaries will tell you what is safe.
- Be prepared! You may be asked to share your testimony, your giftings, or pray. Be prepared to do the work of an evangelist as the Bible tells us:

**II Timothy 4:2** *Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching.*



# TEAM Registration For Short Term Mission Trip

(To be filled out by the Team Leader or responsible party)



## TEAM INFORMATION

Organization/Church/Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Travel Dates: Option 1 \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Option 2 \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Have you ever been on a mission trip with STV? \_\_Yes \_\_ No Estimated number of participants \_\_\_\_

Team's main focus (Evangelism, children's ministry, construction, teaching, other):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader's name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## CHURCH AFFILIATION

Home church name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor or Mission Director \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAVEL & COST INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_ We want STV to handle all team airfare from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We will handle our own team airfare from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(ie from Chicago to Santiago)

### STV Short Term Mission Trip Outline

1. Register your team. Fill out team registration form and send in \$100 team registration fee. All forms and payments should be sent to: **Sharing The Vision, P.O. Box 110007, Bradenton, FL 34211**
2. Recruit your team. Send in team member applications and \$100 deposit for each team member 90 days before your arrival date.
3. Book your flights after STV approval. Once you investigate your airfare options, communicate with STV about dates and time before purchasing.
4. Finalize payment. Send in balance due, Notarized Liability Release Waivers, and proof of insurance (overseas medical coverage) 15 business days before arrival date.

**I Corinthians 3:9 For we are all fellow workers, laborers together, with and for God...**

# Team Member Application

We are glad you have decided to be a part of the team coming to minister in the Dominican Republic with Sharing The Vision. We welcome the opportunity to help you minister to the people on the island of Hispaniola.

After you have completed this application, please return to it to your team leader or the STV office for processing. We want to help make your trip a blessed event, in every way possible, both for you and the Dominican people.

Name

\_\_\_\_\_ (Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Present Address

\_\_\_\_\_ (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Present Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Student? \_\_Yes \_\_No Level of Education \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's / Guardian's Signature of Consent \_\_\_\_\_  
(If under 18 years of age a signature of consent is required) (Date)

List all Health Problems, Restrictions, and Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please give name, address, phone, e-mail and relationship to you)

Have you been on a mission trip before? \_\_Yes \_\_No If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Born Again Christian? \_\_Yes \_\_No If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a short testimony \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church you are currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

What skills or talents do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any knowledge of the Spanish language? Number of years \_\_\_\_\_ Fluency \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that while serving on a short term mission trip with STV you represent our Lord Jesus. You coming to the D.R. to minister to its people in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads. We ask that you begin to pray and ask God what His will and purpose is for you while on the island. PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

It will be important that you maintain a humble attitude and a servant's heart. We have witnessed many times how people's lives have been transformed as a result of serving on a short term mission trip. We have also seen these transformed lives bring a fire and zeal for God into the lives of their own families, friends, and churches back home.

**II Corinthians 5:20** *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

# Sharing The Vision, Inc.

P.O. Box 110007  
Bradenton, FL 34211



## Liability Release Form

*(Please complete, sign with a certified notary, and send to the STV office with the proper signatures and dates)*

Mr. / Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ is applying with *Sharing The Vision, Inc.*, also known as STV, for participation in a short term missions trip to the country of \_\_\_\_\_ for a period of time from: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.

It is understood that Sharing The Vision, Inc. may be involved with such activities as literature distribution, public and home meetings, music and singing, medical ministries, travel, visits to historical and cultural sites, visitation to foreign communities/homes/churches, housekeeping, general manual labor duties, and other activities assigned by Sharing The Vision, Inc. leadership.

I recognize the political situation on the island of Hispaniola may be somewhat unsettled, and although Sharing The Vision, Inc. will monitor the situation in an effort to protect and keep safe all those participating in a short term mission trip, it may be impossible to predict a change in political conditions which could result in physical risk. It is also understood by all those participating in a short term missions trip, that the Dominican Republic is a foreign country which may have less stringent health and safety standards than are usually found in North America. It is impossible for Sharing The Vision, Inc. to provide health, accident, liability, or any other insurance to cover those serving on a short term missions team. Those participating, therefore, are responsible for obtaining privately, overseas travel, medical, and liability insurance. Sharing The Vision, Inc. strongly recommends that participants in a short term mission trip obtain the proper overseas insurance necessary.

In consideration of the benefits to be derived from such participation, I, the undersigned, do hereby release and forever discharge Sharing The Vision, Inc. and it's officers, agents, officials employees, and affiliated National Church organizations from any and all claims for injuries and/or damages I might incur while serving on a short term missions trip involving Sharing The Vision, Inc., including my travels to and from the said foreign country, as well as all travel within said foreign country, also to include the entire duration of my stay in said foreign country.

I further give Sharing The Vision, Inc. and/or their representative serving with me on this short term mission trip authority to request medical and/or hospital treatment for my benefit, which will be done at my expense, in the event of any injury or sickness sustained by me while traveling to and from said foreign country, also to include traveling, working, serving, ministering and living in the said foreign country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Participant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Guardian (If participant is under 18 years of age)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

State of \_\_\_\_\_ ss County of \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and official seal. \_\_\_\_\_ My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

# Spiritual Preparation

You have made the decision to go on a short term mission trip. Now you will begin your spiritual preparation for the trip. We have already given you some guidelines on how to prepare physically. We would now like to give you some guidelines on how to prepare spiritually.

It will be to your advantage to remember that the Dominican Republic and Haiti are not like the U.S. Normal tasks take longer and are not necessarily carried out according to American standards. Be flexible! Have patience! Learn this simple cultural realities and you will do fine.

Below are some scriptures that will enable you to be a humble servant for Jesus while you are ministering on the foreign mission field; these truths applied, individually, as a team, and for the team leader will cause your efforts to be more effective, bearing fruit that remains for the work of the harvest. Study these scriptures, meditate upon them, and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal their truths to your heart. His compassion working in You will ensure that your trip will be a blessing to God, to those you are going to serve, and to you. One of the great benefits of a short term mission trip is being freed from daily distractions of life and being able to focus solely on God and His purposes. We encourage you to take the time to work through this study guide, spend quality time in the presence of the Lord, and devote yourself to prayer.

## As an Individual

You need to be walking daily in a close, personal, and intimate love relationship with Jesus. It is this love relationship that Jesus desires more than anything else you can do for Him or you can be for Him. Love is the very essence of our relationship with Jesus and one another. Without love there is no possibility of having a relationship with anyone or gaining eternal life!

- **Matthew 22:37-39** *“The first and second great commandment!”*
- **John 15:13** *“No greater love than this!”*
- **I John 4 (Read the chapter)** *“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”*

Jesus wants a relationship with us, not religion. There is nothing we can do to be good enough or righteous enough to earn His love or grace. His love and grace are free gifts! We must be careful that we don't fall into works of religion and tradition. They will destroy our relationship with Him.

- **Ephesians 2:8, 9** *“It is the gift of God.”*
- **Matthew 23:1-33** *“The works of the Pharisees and world religion.”*
- **Mark 7:1-13** *“Men's tradition makes the Word of God of no effect.”*
- **Revelation 2:1-7** *The church in Ephesus seemed to be doing everything right. All the “works of God were being performed. Jesus even commended them for “their works.” But then He told them, “I have this one thing against you, you have lost your first love.” They had allowed their religious works to destroy their relationship with Him.*

During this short term mission trip you are acting as ambassadors for Jesus. The people that you will encounter need to see Jesus in you. Jesus said that He would draw all men unto Himself; but He is in Heaven, at the right hand of the Father. So, how will He do this? **By working through you!** This process is accomplished through you as they see your life of worship towards Him. Worship is not merely singing during a church service, but it is a lifestyle that needs to be lived out, practiced on a daily basis. You portray to a lost and dying world a life crucified and lifted up, made new by the power of His resurrection!

- **II Corinthians 5:14, 20** *“For the love of Christ compels us...” “For we are ambassadors for Christ...”*
- **I John 3:7** *“He who practices righteousness...”*
- **John 12:32** *“And I, if I be lifted up...”*
- **Philippians 3:8-11** *“That I may know the power of His resurrection...”*

Finally, it is imperative that you pray and fast concerning the work our Lord would have you do for Him on this mission trip. Remember that we are joining Him, and His Spirit is already at work, going before us. Seek Him and His will for your life. **Matthew 5:33** *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. HE IS WAITING ON YOU!*

**Proverbs 3:6** *In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

## As a Team

As a short term mission team you represent the church of Jesus Christ. In **Matthew 18: 20** *Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them."* This is the Church! Each member of the team has been selected by God to represent Him in the mission field.

- **Ephesians 1:7-14** *"...being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things..."*
- **Romans 8:27-30** *"...to those who are called according to His purpose."*

Walking together in unity as the Body of Christ will be very important. It will be what makes your trip a success. Jesus requires unity so that the world can see that we serve a Living God of Love and Peace.

- **Ephesians 4** (Read the chapter) *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope..."*
- **Ephesians 5:1-2** *"Therefore be imitators of God..."*
- **Galatians 6:2** *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*
- **Romans 15:5-6** *"...with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

We strongly suggest that you meet together, as a team, on a weekly basis beginning at least eight weeks before the scheduled trip. The most effective teams in ministry are those that have taken time to do this. Worship the Lord and pray together, that your hearts may be one as you stir one another up for one purpose.

- **Hebrews 10:24-24** *"...to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."*
- **Colossians 3:1-17** *"But above all things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."*
- **I Peter 4:7-11** *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another..."*

There may be trials and tribulations. Know that God is in control! He will work all things to good so that you can minister to the needs of the people. Satan does not want you to succeed. Because part of our ministry is to destroy the works of the devil we battle him constantly. But God is greater and He has never failed to make a way when there seemed to be no way. HE IS FAITHFUL to the faithful!

- **James 1:1-4** *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials..."*
- **I Peter 5:8** *"...the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*
- **I Peter 5:10** *"...after you have suffered awhile, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."*

As a body working together in unity, yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit, you will see the power of God working through you as a team and as individuals, which will enable you to accomplish the impossible. Let Jesus be your example and **walk as He walked, as a humble servant.**

## As a Team Leader

If you are accepting the position of team leader you need to realize that a greater responsibility has been placed on you. This is a position that should be taken with great seriousness and humility. We at STV feel that the team leader is the backbone of the team and therefore he or she should have taken much time in seeking the Lord about the trip, praying for the team members, and preparing for the work of the ministry.

You have taken on the role of a church leader. Remember, your team represents the church of Jesus Christ and as the team leader you represent the leadership of that church body which is being sent out by our Lord. As a church leader you must walk in the integrity of that position and the team members need to see these qualities in you. You need to be willing to lead by example and serve others humbly.

In your position as team leader you will be called upon for wise Godly counsel. We suggest that you study the book of **Proverbs** especially the chapters on **Wisdom**. Pray and ask God to give you the wisdom you will need to lead your team so that everyone involved will be blessed and pleasing to God.

- **I Timothy 3** (Read the chapter) *"If a man desires the position of a bishop (overseer)..."*
- **Proverbs 1-12** *"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth..."*
- **James 1:5-8** *"If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God..."*
- **Proverbs 11:3** *"The integrity of the upright will guide them..."*

Thank the Lord for the opportunity and the privilege to be the vessel He has chosen to lead this group of servants to represent Him in the country of the Dominican Republic. He has chosen you and equipped you to serve in this position. May we all bring Him honor and glory through our obedience to His call.

***OH! That I might know the exceeding riches of His Glory!***

## SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

(date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Greetings. I am thankful to the Lord for the privilege of serving Him and others on the foreign mission field. He has provided the opportunity for me to serve on a short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic from \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ and I would like to share this blessing with you.

I will be traveling with a team from my church, (*name of church*). The main focus of our trip will be to (*state mission project*). The missionaries that I will be working with are Jim and Teresa White, serving with Sharing The Vision, Inc. They have lived on the foreign mission field for 8 years in Haiti and are currently serving God in the Dominican Republic full time since 2004. I will have the opportunity to fellowship with my Dominican and Haitian brothers and sisters and share the love and hope of Jesus with the lost and needy.

Because I will be experiencing a new culture and living conditions that are unfamiliar to me (water, food, sanitation, poverty, etc.) I ask you to please partner with me in prayer. Please pray for our team as we prepare individually, and as a team for this trip. Our desire is that God will bind our hearts together in unity and that each of us will have the humble heart of a servant.

The total cost of the trip is \$\_\_\_\_\_ per person, which includes transportation, lodging, meals, and supplies for our project. I am hoping to raise these funds by \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. If God is leading you to support me in prayer and/or financially, please indicate below on the return slip.

For a tax-deductible donation receipt and proper credit, please make all checks payable to (*name of church or mission*). Please include the form slip below so this check will be credited toward my expenses. Thank you for your consideration and prayers. God bless you!

In Christ's love,

(Please cut along line and return to (name of church and address).)

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Yes, I will be praying for you. Please keep me informed.

I am enclosing a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help with your trip.

Your name, address, and contact information:

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