

Medical Mission Trips

Overview of Medical Mission Trips

Before going on a trip like this, we want your church to understand the goal of a medical mission trip as well as our heart behind a trip like this. We want this trip to be a great, fruitful experience for your team, but more importantly we want this trip to help our ministry partners advance the gospel in their local context through the efforts of your team.

We've identified four primary benefits of medical mission trips:

1. They provide opportunities for teams to **show the love of Christ** as we minister to people and care for their physical needs.
2. They provide opportunities for teams to **share the love of Christ** by pointing people to the good news of the gospel.
3. They help establish the church and local ministry as a **light in the community**, a place where people are loved and cared for.
4. They create **follow-up opportunities** for the church and local ministry to reach out to those who visited the clinic.

In order for this to happen, our clinics are designed in such a way to allow your team to have opportunities to share the gospel, to ask about people's spiritual needs, to invite them to attend the local church, and so much more. This means that our goal is not to treat as many patients as possible, but to develop a system where we can see many patients cared for in a God-honoring manner.

Each medical clinic will have a "system," though it may look different from place to place. In some contexts there may be opportunities for spiritual conversations at every phase of the clinic: in the waiting area, at intake, with the doctor, and again at the pharmacy. In other contexts, we may wait until the end so the locals don't feel like they have to say "yes" to us or accept the gospel in order to receive treatment; we don't want to push anyone in to a decision. This means we need your team to trust the wisdom and insight from our local mission partners. When your team comes in with a humble attitude and great eagerness to serve, we can see incredible things happen as God is glorified and the love of Christ is on full display!

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be part of this as an individual, or do I need to be part of a group?

We are looking for groups of Christian medical professionals, whether that is from a single church or a medical practice or other grouping. We need to be able to communicate trip details clearly with a single group leader who can work with the rest of your team.

How big does our medical team need to be?

A typical medical team can vary in size. We ask for each team to have at least one doctor in addition to a few other licensed medical professions (such as nurses, additional doctors, or those who practice dentistry, P.T., etc.). It is also helpful to have a pharmacist to help with distribution of medicine. There are generally also roles for non-medical people helping at the clinics. Or, you could have a group of non-medical people doing ministry elsewhere while the clinics are happening. All that to say, there is some fluidity with group size. Your team could be as small as 5-6 people or much larger. Contact us and let us know what you're thinking about your group, and we can let you know if we have a partner who could use a team like yours!

Are these clinics safe and legal? What kind of treatment are we doing?

Yes, these clinics are often authorized by a local doctor, which establishes them as legal in their context. Clinics are very safe, as we are helping treat minor issues, and anyone with more significant issues might receive consultation, but would ultimately be referred to an in-country doctor (such as the one who authorized the clinics). We can provide solutions for common medical problems and often times help educate people, but we aren't providing surgeries or anything significant!

Will we be able to prescribe medicine?

Yes, each clinic will have medicine available to be prescribed, and your team will be responsible for the cost of this medicine. In some countries, it makes more sense to purchase the medicine in-country; in other locations, it is difficult (or expensive) to get good medicine in-country, in which case you might be bringing it with you along with an authorized form to allow you to bring the medicine through customs. This will be explained in more information on each individual trip page.

Will there be a process for patient registration, waiting, treatment, etc.?

Yes, each location will have a process to help this go as smooth as possible, although at the end of the day there will inevitably be people waiting to be treated (many people come prepared to sit there all day in order to receive free treatment). The local church or missionary will be responsible for advertising for the clinic and recruiting patients, and your team will be responsible for treating them and ministering to them.

To what degree are we sharing the gospel or ministering to patients?

The heart behind these trips is not merely providing medical aid, but to show and share the love of Christ, including sharing the gospel when the opportunity arises. On most trips, you will have the freedom to do this as freely as you are able to do so. In other cases, it might make more sense for the doctors to be the ones *showing* the love of Christ and having other team members the ones *sharing* the love of Christ. It can look different from trip to trip, but the goal is for your team as a whole to be showing the love of Christ as you care for people, and the goal is for each person to hear the gospel before they leave the clinic.

Where are we staying? How are we doing meals? What about transportation?

Each of these things are included in your trip cost! Teams primarily stay in hotels, with typically 2 people to a room (often in twin beds). Meals will either be provided at the hotel or at ministry sites, and will be safe and filling for American team members. Your transportation will be taken care of all week, from the moment you arrive in-country, to each of your ministry sites, and back to the airport. We take care of those details so you can focus on ministry!

Can you help with our airfare?

Yes! We work with a travel agent and can often get humanitarian rates with free baggage.

Are we protected in case anything happens while we are there?

Included in the trip cost is an international traveler's insurance policy that will both protect you medically as well cover you in the event that you need an emergency evacuation.

What if I've never been out of the country before?

That's ok! What better reason to leave the country than a mission trip like this? We'd love to have you, and our team will take care of you and make sure it's a great experience!