



New Life Croydon: Short-Term Missions Policy

Over the years short-term mission trips have proved to be a great blessing and benefit both to those going on trips and those receiving teams on short-term missions. It is our intention to go on providing short-term missions opportunities to those at New Life who have a heart for missions and meet our selection criteria.

General comments

- Our short-term mission opportunities (usually 1-2 weeks) are arranged at the invitation of local churches in various overseas countries and the United Kingdom.
- Where appropriate there may also be opportunities for individuals or smaller teams to accompany New Life elders and Missions Committee members on UK and overseas ministry trips.
- The organisation of all mission trips is at the discretion of the Missions Committee and New Life cannot guarantee that there will always be short-term mission opportunities.
- Our short-term mission trips are not exclusively for young people. On some trips we particularly need older people with relevant skills (e.g. teaching, medical, building).
- Although most short-term mission trips will be self-financing, New Life may on occasions be able to provide some financial support to individuals needing help. This support will come from designated gifts from New Life members, specific collections or sums agreed by the Missions Committee. The allocation of any support will be closely administered by the Committee.
- New Life may on occasions provide financial help for the local churches and ministries receiving our missions team (e.g. sponsorship for local young people or pastors to attend camps and conferences, purchase of equipment needed for the mission programme).
- Guidelines on behaviour and conduct will be given by the leaders of each trip and need to be followed by all team members.

Suitability

- All those wishing to go on an organised short-term mission from New Life will need to formally apply. Those applying would usually be committed members of New Life who are already involved in some area of serving the church. On occasions there may be opportunities for people from other churches to join New Life short-term mission trips.
- Depending on the type of mission other restrictions may apply (e.g. age, size of team, skills required).
- The Missions Committee will decide on the composition of each short-term mission trip.
- Those going on trips should expect to attend training sessions before the start of the mission.

Finances

- Those going on short-term missions will usually be expected to finance the full cost of their trip including additional costs such as vaccination and travel insurance.
- It is possible to provide financial help to those who are unable to cover the full cost of the trip and are doing all they can to seek to raise the necessary finances. Any financial help given will be done at the discretion of the Missions Committee. Details of how to apply for financial help can be obtained from those organising specific trips.
- Air tickets will not usually be purchased for those going on trips until full payment for the ticket has been made. Alternatively, individuals may be asked to purchase their own tickets independently of New Life.
- New Life does not encourage individuals to solicit funds from New Life members. Guidance must be sought from the Missions Committee on any proposed fundraising initiative involving New Life or those attending New Life.

- The full cost of any trip will need to be paid at a designated time before the commencement of the trip.
- New Life will not usually finance short-term mission or training opportunities organised by other churches or organisations.
- All those going on short-term missions trips are asked to provide a short report of the trip, on their return, to the Missions Committee.

Missions Committee