

## What Mission Trip Is Best For You?

COG is serious about missions and cross-cultural ministry. We see this as an obedience discipleship opportunity for all involved. Our desire is that you will have a positive, rewarding, spiritually productive experience. There are many factors that go into making this a reality. A key element is the ministry level of the particular trip being planned. The following information is edited and expanded from *Adventure in Missions* a short-term missions sending organization with whom we have participated as a church. The ministry level is based upon the ministry experience required as well as the nature of the cross-cultural experience and challenging conditions that the leader/participant will encounter. No trip fits any category perfectly and Cross of Glory only lists these levels to help individuals decide where they may best fit. Trips we plan will be assigned a level that we feel best fits the overall experience.

### Level of ministry information:

#### Level 0.5

**Summary:** This level is for participants who aren't sure about their relationship with Christ. They are still trying to determine if they want to invest their life in Christ. It will mostly target the needs of the group rather than the needs of those that they will be ministering to.

**Length:** 4-7 days

**Ministry:** Prayer Walks, Construction, and opportunities to wrestle with your commitment to Christ in the context of service to others and with others. Participants who have a relationship with Christ will have opportunities to share their faith with others on the trip and possibly in testimony times during services/outreach events. No one will be made to share – only encouraged and given the opportunity.

**Housing:** Semi-comfortable housing. You may be asked to bring air mattresses to sleep on floors in certain locations; however, beds or bunk beds may be more typical. Warm showers possible every other day. Limited availability for use of hair dryers, curling irons, cell phones, MP3 or CD players, or video games etc.

**Requirements:** Participants are not required to have a personal relationship with Christ. You should be searching and willing to submit to leadership. All leaders should be prepared to share the gospel and lead participants into meaningful discussions about having a personal relationship with Christ. Attendance at pre-trip training expected!

**Leaders:** Leaders who have not led a COG trip are expected to apply as a leader and to attend one of the Missions Leadership Classes and the pre-trip training for participants.

#### Level 1

**Summary:** This level is for participants who have little or no mission experience and is intended to introduce you to the world of missions and enhance your spiritual growth.

**Length:** 4-10 days

**Ministry:** Introduction during pre-trip training to AIM's<sup>1</sup> Five Mission Project Objectives (Listening Prayer (including Ask the Lord & Covering Prayer), Sharing Your Faith, Building Meaningful Relationships, Meeting Felt Needs, & Debrief and Respond.) Trip may include Door-to-Door Invitation & Evangelism, Listening Prayer - Prayer Walks, Sports Evangelism, Vacation Bible School and Construction.

**Housing:** Semi-comfortable housing. You may be asked to bring air mattresses to sleep on floors in certain locations; however, beds or bunk beds may be more typical. Warm showers possible every other day. Limited use if even available - hair dryers, curling irons, cell phones, MP3 or CD players, or video games etc.

**Requirements:** Each participant, including leaders, must have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. All participants and leaders must be able and willing to verbalize their testimony and share a simple Gospel message. Attendance at pre-trip training expected!

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<sup>1</sup> © 2008 Adventures In Missions 6000 Wellspring Trail -- Gainesville, GA 30506 Toll free: 1-800-881-2461 or from GA: 770-983-1060

**Leaders:** Leaders who have not led a COG trip are expected to apply as a leader and to attend one of the Missions Leadership classes. Leaders who have led a COG trip will be expected to lead or help lead in the Missions Leadership Training and the pre-trip training for participants.

## Level 2

**Summary:** This level is for participants with some mission experience. The focus of a trip at this level is prayer and sharing Christ through relationships with the local people. A Level 2 trip may be a seven-to-fourteen day trip in a mid-intensity ministry site in a less comfortable living environment.

**Trip Length:** 7 – 14 days

**Ministry:** Knowledge and practice of AIM's Five Mission Project Objectives (Listening Prayer (including Ask the Lord & Covering Prayer), Sharing Your Faith, Building Meaningful Relationships, Meeting Felt Needs, Debrief and Response.) Door-to-Door Evangelism, Prayer Walks, Sports Evangelism, Vacation Bible School, Evening Outreaches, Mime and Drama Ministry opportunities in many locations. In some locations you may participate in Orphanage and Prison Ministry. Little Construction.

**Housing:** Possibly rustic Housing. May need to bring air mattresses. Some locations will have only cold showers. Probably no availability for hair dryers, curling irons, cell phones, MP3 or CD players, or video games etc.

**Requirements:** Each participant and leader must understand and commit to AIM's Five Objectives and COG's vision for short-term ministry. All participants must have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Participants must have experience in and be willing and comfortable sharing their testimonies and a Gospel message. Attendance at pre-trip training expected!

**Leaders:** Leaders who have not led a COG trip are expected to apply as a leader and to attend one of the Missions Leadership classes. Leaders who have led a COG trip will be expected to lead or help lead in the Missions Leadership Training and the pre-trip training for participants.

## Level 3

**Summary:** This level is for leaders and participants with significant mission experience who can radically serve, and, in the process be spiritually transformed. A level 3 trip is a ten-to-fourteen day trip in a very high intensity ministry site where participants engage in relational evangelistic ministry almost the entire time and live in less than comfortable living conditions. These trips will offer little to no pre-trip information about the detail of the trip schedule itself.

**Trip Length:** 10 – 14 days

**Ministry:** You will be connected with a host pastor/ministry and a place where we know God is working. However, the specifics of the ministry will be up to you on the field and how God directs your team in listening to him and the needs of the community or host.

**Housing:** Primitive. In many cases, you will be sleeping on the floor and have bucket showers or no showers. No hair dryers, curling irons, cell phones, MP3 or CD players, or video games.

**Requirements:** Each participant and leader must understand and commit to AIM's Five Objectives and COG's vision for short-term ministry. The 5 objectives will not be taught they will be practiced in all aspects of the trip. All participants must have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Participants must have experience in missions as well as experience in and be willing and comfortable following the Lord's guidance in ministering to others. Must give evidence of following the Lord "radically" at home in daily life and may need references and have identified accountability/prayer partner(s). Attendance at pre-trip training required!

**Leaders:** You must have led at least one prior COG mission trip to be considered for participation in these trips.