

MISSIONS TRIP INFO

ConnectNYC Ministries

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MISSIONS TRIP OVERVIEW

Objectives

The overall objective for this trip is that we are able to grow spiritually closer to the Lord, closer to our group of participants, and have a hands on experience in accomplishing a part of the great commission. This can be performed in a number of different ways. However, simply stated, we will willingly and cheerfully lend our abilities and resources in God for the use of an urban church plant there in New York City.

Goals

- To have each participant draw closer to the Lord in their spiritual walk.
- To have each participant gain a deeper appreciation for urban church planting.
- To use the abilities of others from other churches in and on the mission field.

Involvement Overview

There are numerous ways that your group can be an active part in the ministries here in NYC. Below is a list of current areas that your group could be useful in helping with at our churches:

singing groups *canvassing *youth events

subway ministry *vacation bible school construction projects

children's ministry * drama's / skits clerical work

* indicate something that can be done in the park

Cost

It is important to know up front that we do not set a price for your missions trip. There are many things to consider in the cost of a missions trip. Unfortunately, each group comes from different places and have different wants and needs. Also, you will want to place within your missions budget the flexibility to cover some accidental and unforeseen costs that may incur. Below are some considerations that we believe should be in every budget. For exact costs on some things such as site seeing, you will need to do your own research to accommodate the needs of your group. Here are a few helpful websites - www.NYC.gov , www.hopstop.com, and www.mta.com.

BUDGET ITEMS

Travel:

Airplane - quick way to get to the field, can be very expensive, if you fly we recommend (ask) that you fly into JFK or LGA. Though you may find cheaper tickets into Newark or an airport upstate if you choose to fly into those airports you will be responsible for your own travel arrangements into the city. Because of time and money for tolls you will find that it overall is cheaper to fly into our recommendations. When you land at JFK and/or LGA we will meet you at the airport and assist your group to their accommodations.

Church bus - great way to get to the city depending upon the travel time. With a church bus we will be able as a group stay together more effectively when ministering in the neighborhood. However, often times it can be a full time job keeping up with a van / bus in NYC. There are a number of traffic laws that are different in NY and the job of finding appropriate parking can be cumbersome. There is also that of the occasional break-in that can and has occurred. Overall though having your own transportation is a wonderful thing and can save a little money on your overall trip expense.

Tolls and tickets - this only applies to the team that will be driving. Make sure that your budget covers the expense of gas, tolls, and maybe a ticket. Tolls vary depending on which bridges or tunnels you will be using to get in and out of the five boroughs. You can plan on paying those tolls at least twice but some times as much as everyday. You can check the price of these tolls online. Parking Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$125.00 depending on the fine. It is a rare occasion when a group comes that they don't violate some law here in the city. On average the fine is \$100.00.

Subways and buses - www.mta.info

Travel trailers - if your group brings a small travel trailer to put their luggage in here are a few things you need to know. You will receive a ticket for dropping the trailer on the street. Please let us know in advance that you are bringing the trailer so we can find a secure place to leave it throughout the week. Also, you will need a security system of some sort to prevent your trailer from being stolen. We will not be responsible for lost or

stolen items inside or outside of the trailer. Nor can we be responsible for any possible damages that could be acquired in the parking, storing, or use of the trailer.

Food:

Special food - NYC is famous for its restaurants. You will probably want to look online at any restaurant you would like to eat at before you get here to NY. Some of the prices for the restaurant you may have seen on the travel network or food network will be more expensive than you may have estimated. Research is the key here in knowing how much per plate you will charge the group as a whole if you choose to venture out and dine. Keep in mind that tourist spots will be where most of these restaurants are located and tourism is large generator of revenue for this city.

Daily food - for those groups that choose to stay in the church accommodations we provide there can be a kitchen available for your use. We recommend that you take the time before you come to organize a menu and buy all of the non-perishable items that you can in your home town and bring them with you. This will not only save you some money but can be a whole lot more convenience for whoever you place in charge of shopping. There are no super Wal-mart stores with gigantic parking lots where you can have your one stop shopping. However, we do have stores that we can point you to that will help you find the right grocery items you need.

Accommodations:

Church - most groups choose to stay in a church. In one of our churches there is a kitchen, bathrooms, and the space to cater to a larger or smaller group of individuals. Obviously, the greatest benefit is that it's more cost effective for your overall budget and easier for your people to stay together as a group in one of the churches. You will need to provide your own sleeping arrangements such as: air mattress, bedding, pillows, fans, and anything else that you would normally use in a camp out setting minus the tent. For your information, if you are fortunate enough to stay in our church in queens there is only **one shower** that will be available to your group so keep this in mind as you plan your trip. Many groups that stay there have chosen to make shower schedules for their groups to maximize their hot water use. We would also ask that you would pray about what God would lead you to give the churches as a *love gift* for stay to cover the cost of water, electricity, etc...

Because of schedule conflicts the church is not always available so make sure that you ask soon to reserve a spot here.

Urban Nations - Over the years we have had the privilege of making friends in ministry here in NYC that have a mutual benefit. Urban Nations is a church planting ministry that has a facility we have been privileged to use from time to time. The accommodations have segregated bunk bed living quarters at a very low cost. Like the church because of ministry opportunities this facility gets booked up very quickly... especially in the summer time. However, at the moment this is in our opinion the best option for saving

your group money and keeping you close to work in one of our churches in Rockaway Beach.

Hotel - there are many different hotels to stay in around the areas of both churches. We suggest that you find a hotel that would be close enough to the church so your time is not consumed with travel on the subway instead of ministering. Keep in mind that hotels are very expensive here in NYC and can be deceptive on the phone and/or Internet. Also, keep in mind that although you may see a hotel that is affordable only five miles away that most likely that five miles will take you a lot longer to travel than it does in your home town. This difference may be in hours and not minutes. Here are a few websites to some of the hotels that we recommend:

[*Comfort Inn & Suites JFK Airport Best Western - Jamacia Inn*](#)

Supplies:

Tracts - we appreciate any help we can receive in the distribution of tracts to the community. However, if it is in your budget it would be a blessing to have your team buy the necessary tracts it will take for your group to distribute.

Printed materials - we appreciate any help we can receive in the distribution of any printed materials that promote God's work to the community. However, if it is in your budget it would be a blessing to have your team buy the necessary printed materials it will take for your group to distribute.

Tour Guide / Love Offering:

We do ask that if one of our teammates is going to give his / her day to your group in site seeing that your group would pay for the expense in seeing the sites, metro card, and buy his / her lunch that day. As I'm sure you understand if our team payed for there own sightseeing tour every week it could get very expensive. Plus it is the cheapest sightseeing tour guide you can take to the city with you!

We also ask that your church as a group would give a love offering to off set any costs involved in housing, electricity, water, literature, travel, (etc.) if you stay in one of our church facilities. Your group love offering helps us be able to afford to have you here and let you participate in the ministry.

We can not stress enough how expensive it is to minister here in NYC. Any additional costs for us by your presents here will be detrimental to the way we are able to minister in the future. We know that it is not the intent of any missions group to be a burden to us as missionaries on the field. *In order to help you not be a burden we are making this request of a love offering.* A love offering is above and beyond any work that you may do here on the field. It is a monetary offering that would be given to our missionary or the church... again cover the cost of your "footprint".

Your "footprint" that is left behind without a love offering will most likely have to be paid for out of the ministries pocket. This is because our works (church plants) do not have an excess budget to pay for extra help. If we did have that budget we would not need your assistance on the mission field.

Many ask if it is that necessary for a love offering how much should we give? The answer: we would like to leave up to the Lord's leading and the kindness of your heart. We do not want to charge people a fee. However, we cannot go into debt with the expense of multiple groups throughout the year. If you have additional questions about how much your church should give as a love gift please feel free ask questions with our coordinator.

Site seeing:

We would love to take one or more of the days that your group is here and go site seeing. Let this be a day where you take in everything the city has to offer. We recommend that in a group meeting that you find out what things everyone would like to see while they are here and we will do our best to make that a reality. Make sure everyone coming is able to be on their feet for long periods of time and has the endurance to walk several miles. You could also choose an alternative to us showing you around: www.greylinebustours.com. However, this is a great time for us to get to know one another well.

Souvenirs:

Travel Insurance: - many groups have chosen to use in addition to their own insurance a group travel insurance policy. It's purpose is to protect your church in the case of an unlikely accident along the way. These insurance companies can be found all over the Internet. Make sure you read the fine print before signing. Some will not cover loss that incurs in NYC.

What should I bring

Bible, toiletries, seasonal clothing, supplies, non perishable food items, and anything else that will better equip you to serve and not distract here on the mission field.

Cell phones are a great way of communication but have been the source of frustration with some group leaders in the past with teens in particular. We encourage the appropriate use of cell phones here. For instance, in the case of someone getting separated from the group or during activities such as canvassing. However, if your group is teenage based you may want to consider that it can be a distraction with Face book, Instagram, and Twitter. There are times when teenagers find it emotionally draining to be here on the field and will call home to give a report of their tired state. Unfortunately, for the group leader this gives the parent a false impression of how the overall missions trip may be going.

If you are able to attend one of our churches services while you are here we hope that your group can get involved in that service. However, you will need to bring whatever instruments, music, materials, and equipment you need to perform whatever task you are doing. Our churches are equipped with the appropriate audio and visually capabilities you will need to do most anything.

Dress code will be left up to the same standards that you would have in your own church for recreation and ministry.