



## American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware

### **Haiti Mission Trip January 21 -28, 2012**

#### **Passport:**

Prior to departing on an international trip, make a copy of the passport Identification Pages on the inside cover of your passport (these are the two pages that include your photograph and your detailed passport information). To help prevent your passport from being lost or stolen, carry your Passport in a security belt/pouch that you wear under your clothing. It is also a good idea, to carry 2 extra passport photos with you. Possessing a copy of the official information will not serve as a replacement for a passport lost while traveling abroad but will facilitate initiating a passport replacement request at a U.S. Embassy. If you send a copy of your Identification pages to the Pittsburgh office, we will also have it here should you need it.

#### **Travel Registration:**

US State Department provides a free travel registration service to US citizens traveling abroad. ABCOPAD can register the team. Registration allows a traveler to record information about a trip that the Department of State can use to assist in case of an emergency although the Embassy's ability to provide emergency services is limited.

**Medical Release Forms:** IM requires that each participant have their doctor verify that they are healthy enough to participate in the mission trip. Conditions in Haiti can be difficult. If you haven't turned your form in yet, please do so.

#### **Flights: January 21 – 28, 2012 (Saturday – Saturday) Pittsburgh to Port-au-Prince:**

##### **Delta Airlines:**

##### **Saturday, January 21, 2012**

Depart Pittsburgh Flight 3402: 6:29 a.m..... Arrive New York/JFK 8:15 a.m.  
Depart New York/JFK Flight 699: 9 a.m..... Arrive Port-au-Prince 12:56 p.m.

##### **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Depart Port-au-Prince Flight 692: 2:13 p.m..... Arrive New York/JFK 6:16 p.m  
Depart New York/JFK Flight 3409: 8:31 p.m.: ..... Arrive Pittsburgh 10:19 p.m.

- Flight Numbers May Change

#### **Luggage:**

The airline allows for 1 free checked bag (maximum 50 lbs and max 62 linear inches dimension – length + width + height) per person plus 1 carry with a maximum of 45 linear inches. A second bag costs \$75 (\$60 if checked in online). A bag weighing over 50 pounds-70 pounds costs \$75. A bag over 70 pounds will not be accepted. International Ministries recommends packing light. You might be able to coordinate with another team member about sharing supplies. Perhaps, 2 people could share a bottle of sun screen, insect repellent, sewing kit, etc.

## **Luggage Tag:**

Prior to the trip, we will mail each of you a piece of matching ribbon. Please tie it onto your checked bag so that it can help you to quickly identify not only your bag but the bags of the rest of the team as well.

## **Arrival Information:**

If possible, at the departure gate in the JFK airport - fill up your water bottle for the ride to Grand Goave.

On board the flight to Port-au-Prince, you are generally be given 2 forms: One is for Haitian immigration and the other is for Haitian customs. (Sometimes the immigration form is handed out upon arrival.) You will be asked to provide a local address. Please use Rue Boisrond Tonnerre #3 Grand Goave, Haiti, W.I. Telephone: 3812-7662. Fill out the entire side of the immigration form for non-Haitian visitor – this includes a departure portion. (If you have brought things to donate to the community, list items generically on your customs form; indicating that they are for use by the disaster relief team and that they are not for resale.) Once you have filled out your form, the immigration officer will tear it off and give it to you. ***Do not lose it. You must have this paper to leave the country.***

Once you get off the plane, you will take a bus to the immigration area. The line farthest from the door generally moves the quickest. It is also closest to the restroom. After passing through immigration, ideally a greeter from Conscience International will meet you. He will wear a white polo shirt with the Conscience International logo. He will also have an identification badge. If a representative is not there to meet you, don't worry. They are not always allowed into the terminal. You will then proceed to baggage claim. Once you have your bags (look for the ribbon), you will then head to customs. If the Conscience International rep, did not meet you at Immigration, he will try to meet you here. If he still can't get in, he will hire a porter. (The porter will have on a brown checkered shirt and have the Conscience International sign.) When you exit the terminal, you may be asked to present your luggage claim tickets. After doing so, you will exit through the iron gate at the end of the awning and turn right where you will walk a long way inside an area enclosed by a chain link fence. On the rare chance the Conscience International rep was not inside, nor could he hire a porter, he will be on the other side of the chain link fence.

**DO NOT LEAVE THIS PROTECTED AREA UNTIL YOU SEE OR TALK WITH A CBF/GRAND GOAVE REPRESENTATIVE.** The Driver from Grand Goave should have a sign that says CBF Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and ABC International Ministries.

- Stay together.
- **Do not** leave the airport with anyone else.
- **Do not** leave confined area till you see van driver.
- **Do not** let anyone help you. Be firm. Many will ask, but tell them you have someone to help you.
- **Do not flash money around at the airport.**

## **The Trip to Grand Goave:**

You will travel to Grand Goave in the back of a Mitsubishi Canter or a Nissan Frontier king cab pickup. Weather is unpredictable so it may rain or it may be very sunny. Hats/bandannas, rain gear, and sun screen should be easily accessible at the top of your bags. Face masks are available to keep you from swallowing bugs. The trip takes about 2 to 3 hours. The tarred roads that are basically good; however, there are some sections of the trip where there road is very rough. You will need to hold on tight! It is also a good idea to have some toilet paper, just in case. There is no good place to stop between the airport and Grand Goave.

## **Haitian Address and Contact Information:**

Rue Boisrond Tonnerre #3  
Grand Goave, Haiti, W.I.

Telephone: 011 (509) 3757 1444. If you are calling from a Haitian phone, omit 011509.

**Accommodations:** Meals and clean drinking water are provided. The team will sleep in the volunteer house. This rented concrete building is still being developed. Beds are a combination of air mattresses and sleeping pads on a concrete floor. The house is equipped with bed nets. It is secure and dry, but water still needs to be carried and a generator runs at night. Linens are provided. However, they still encourage teams to bring them so they can be changed during the week. The light weight sleeping bags are no longer necessary.

At night the temperature will drop to 50-60 degrees. (The days will be warm and humid. The good news they tend to get less rain in January.) You will also need to bring towel/wash cloth.

**Heat/Humidity:** Due to the heat and high humidity, dehydration is a real risk. You will have to drink plenty of water (check with your doctor about the possible need for salt tablets). If you get overheated or sick and you can't drink enough water, there's not a good place to take you for rehydration. Gatorade mix is another good thing to bring with you to reduce the risk of dehydration.

**Cholera:** Our host partners in Haiti will provide clean water and food for the team. The local residents will do the cooking. They have been trained in proper food preparation.

Cholera still affects those who do not have filtered water. However, there is virtually no risk for cholera for travelers and volunteers who do the following:

1. Drink only potable water – no ice unless you are certain it was made with clean water.
2. Consistently use personal hygiene - wash hands often and thoroughly, and keep them out of mouth. Use filtered water to brush your teeth.
3. Avoid consuming raw or partially cooked fish or shell fish (ie shrimp etc), and unwashed fruits and vegetables. Seafood needs to be WELL cooked.

**Allergies:** If you have any medical or food allergies, please be sure to let us know.

**Devotions:** There will be a time for devotions each evening. If you would like, team members are welcome to volunteer to lead devotions.

## **What to Bring:**

On the back of the Preparation document there was a list of "What to Bring." In addition to those recommendations: Please bring linens, towels/wash cloths, and church clothes. No shorts or t-shirts should be worn to church. Long pants, polo or short sleeve collared shirts for men and dresses for women are recommended. Please keep in mind, you should always dress modestly while in Haiti. The "What to Bring" list also says Power Bars are optional; but you might want to seriously consider bringing them with you, as well as the Gatorade mix.

## **Donations:**

We are all generous, well meaning people who want to give from our resources to those who have less than we do. Done correctly, this is helpful. Done badly, it creates dependency, teaches others to be beggars, and causes jealousy between those who get something and those who don't. So, **before giving any monetary or other gifts, check with the host pastor or missionary.** Because they will be able to distribute them to the most in need, allow the pastor or the missionary to be the one to give any gifts. This distribution usually occurs during a special occasion, after the team has gone home. If you want to bring something, Herb Rogers suggested we might consider VISUAL AIDS such as maps of North America, Western Hemisphere or the world, or charts showing nutrition or hygiene.

IM is encouraging people to donate funds instead of donating items to the community. The thought is that the funds can be used to purchase items within the community to stimulate the Haitian economy. IM is trying to move away from the "charity" model. Funds may be sent through your regular mission giving, with the notation Grand Goave Community or Rubble House Project.

**Byki Express:** Offers free software for about 70+ different languages, including Haitian Creole. The first link takes you to the main site:

[http://www.byki.com/fls/FLS\\_yanl.html?ctt\\_id=3955113&ctt\\_adnw=Yahoo&ctt\\_kw=byki&ctt\\_ch=ps&ctt\\_entity=tc&ctt\\_adid=548855522&ctt\\_nwtype=standard&ctt\\_cli=2^10384^49162^978983&OVRAW=byki&OVKEY=byki&OVMTTC=standard&OVADID=548855522&OVKWID=219207547522&OVCAMPID=17847522&OVADGRPID=82167410&OVNDID=ND2](http://www.byki.com/fls/FLS_yanl.html?ctt_id=3955113&ctt_adnw=Yahoo&ctt_kw=byki&ctt_ch=ps&ctt_entity=tc&ctt_adid=548855522&ctt_nwtype=standard&ctt_cli=2^10384^49162^978983&OVRAW=byki&OVKEY=byki&OVMTTC=standard&OVADID=548855522&OVKWID=219207547522&OVCAMPID=17847522&OVADGRPID=82167410&OVNDID=ND2)

The second link takes you directly to the Haitian Creole software.

[http://www.byki.com/download\\_FLS.plex?cod=7IwaC1](http://www.byki.com/download_FLS.plex?cod=7IwaC1)

## **Laundry:**

You can do your own, by hand, if you bring detergent. There are cloths lines both at the volunteer house and at the construction site. If you prefer, our host partners can make arrangements to have it done for you, by hand, at the cost per load of 400G (\$10 US) for a small load and 500G (\$12.50 US). 24-hour advance notice is required. It also takes at least 24-hours to dry.

## **Photos:**

ALL Haitians know that digital cameras show the photo that has just been taken – 99.9% of all Haitians want to see the photo that has just been taken - and the younger the Haitian, the more “enthusiastic” they are to see the photo. They can get quite insistent. They may grab and push to see the camera. While they mean no harm, it can get a bit overwhelming if you do not expect it! Just be firm. Hold onto the camera while you show the photos. There are very few mirrors, so they very rarely see their own face.

## **Rabies:**

There is not currently a rabies outbreak in Haiti. However, please do not pet the animals. Even if an animal doesn't appear to be ill, it might be carrying the disease.

## **Safety:**

For the sake of safety and security, **do not bring any visitors into your living space and do not venture from your group alone for any reason.**