

Serve the Children



Our mission is to offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

GO LEARN RESPOND

**Zambia Mission Team Book
2024**

**Serve the Children
6314 19th Street West, Unit 18
Fircrest, WA 98466**

253-590-4279

www.servethechildren.com

We Give Children Hope and a Future

Table of Contents

Introduction	page 3
What Will I Do There?	page 4
Maps	page 5-7
Zambia Facts	page 8-10
Pure Nard Ministries	page 11
Planning Your Trip	
Timeline	page 12
Required Team Meetings	page 13
Immunizations, Passport, Visa	page 14-15
What Should I Take?	page 16-18
Travel Tips	page 19-20
Trip Logistics	page 21
Cultural Entry	page 22
Spiritual Matters	page 23
Communications	page 24
Why Raise Support?	page 25
After Your Trip	
Re-Entry	page 26-27
Continuing Your Mission	page 28-30
Forms	
Team Covenant	page 31
Application	page 32-33
Emergency Release	page 34
Child Protection Policy	page 35
Sample Fundraising Letter	page 36
Prayer Covenant	page 37
History of Serve the Children	page 38-40

INTRODUCTION

The first question you have to be asking is “Why am I going on this mission trip?” There are two common misconceptions about these types of trips. First, there is a problem with attendees who emphasize the adventure of visiting a new place. This is more a form of tourism than service. The other common misconception is the over-emphasis of our own roles in the local arena. All too often, Americans travel to underserved populations to “fix” the problems and help “those poor people.” The attitude and thinking can closely resemble a *Savior Complex*. It is essential that every participant take the time to pray and reflect on their reasons for attending the trip. We plan to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and deeds to the people of Zambia.

Some of you might be asking, “*What can I do in Zambia?*” We ask you the question, “*What do you want to do in Zambia?*” Your very presence makes an impact on the children and adults whom we serve. Education teams, medical and dental teams, recreation, hygiene skills, singing, skits, pastor and teacher workshops; share with us what you are interested in doing and we will try to find a place to match your skills and desires.

Our short-term trips make an impact by meeting direct needs and communicating our care and support. But the long-term needs of the children in our schools are met by local people who commit their service to children day-in and day-out. It is the dedicated people here in the U.S. working throughout the year to raise funds, network with other agencies, and pass along the vision of our work in Zambia, that support local efforts and the on-site work of the ministry. It is our hope that the impact of your trip will continue long after you return as you tell the story of your own journey. Team members give hope to Zambians.

Pray. If God leads you, come with us to Zambia. Come prepared for an experience that will change your life if you let it. All we ask of you is a willing heart and a servant’s hands.

WHAT WILL I DO THERE?

Many times, people think that they have no skills that can be used on a mission trip. However, your skill level is not what makes a difference on a mission trip. It is simply your presence that makes a difference. On the top of the front page of this mission team book are three important words- **GO, LEARN, RESPOND**.

Go- It sounds simple but for many people this is a major hurdle to get over. Everyone has issues to work through. Finances, work, family, and school can all complicate planning a trip. It is sometimes a very complex decision-making process to go on a mission trip. What we need to do is look through the issues that seem to prevent us from going and see a solution. Is God calling you to go? I guarantee that He has a great solution for any challenge you face. Before you say no, let's talk.

Learn- You will learn so much about yourself, your teammates and your relationship with God. It will amaze you at how different you will be after the trip "appears" to be over. I tell people that Americans know a lot about faith. We can purchase and read many books on this topic and hear many sermons - online and in person. When I go on a mission trip, I learn about faith from people who actually depend on it every day for meeting their most basic needs.

Respond- Do not expect your mission trip to end when you arrive back in the United States. When you return is when your mission trip begins. This is not a "check this off my list of things to do" trip. This is a life changing experience. What will you do with it now? Get involved with Serve the Children, find sponsors for the kids you have grown to love, get more active in your church, keep up your prayer life and maintain your devotions.

We have three goals we want mission team members to have-

1. What can you do to impact your relationship with God? How is your daily prayer life and what do you do for daily devotions? Set goals to pray daily and read your Bible daily.
2. What can you do to make an impact on your team members? Pray for them daily, engage in discussions with them, help them when they get sick, get involved in their lives.
3. What can you do to impact the people we are serving in Zambia? Spend time with the kids, the teachers, the staff. Find out about their lives, ask to visit where they live, listen to them talk. This will change your life.

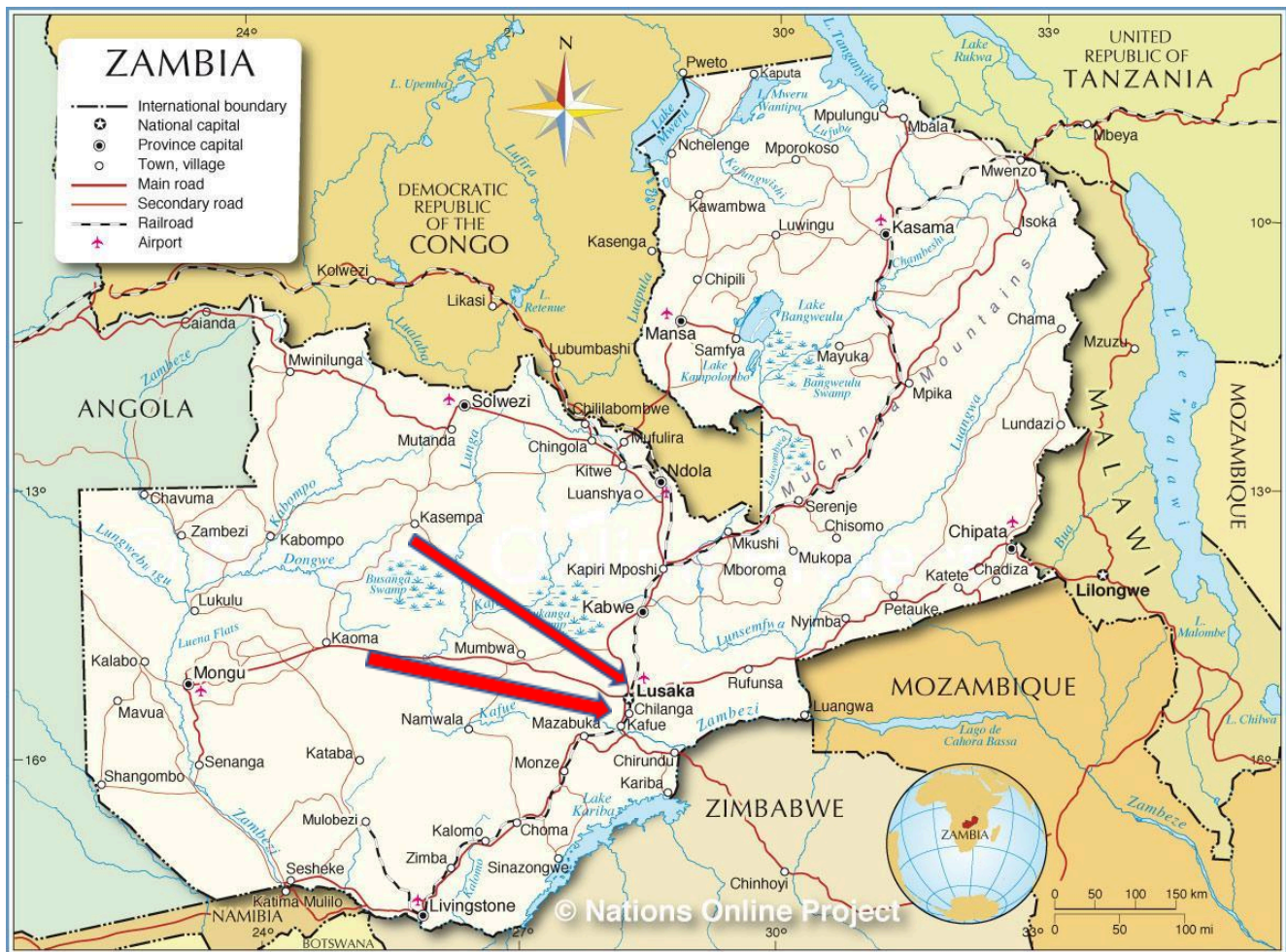
What do we do there? This is a normal question. Personally, I like to ask, "What is the impact of us being there?". No matter our task, the most important thing we will do is make new friends and share our lives.

To offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

Maps

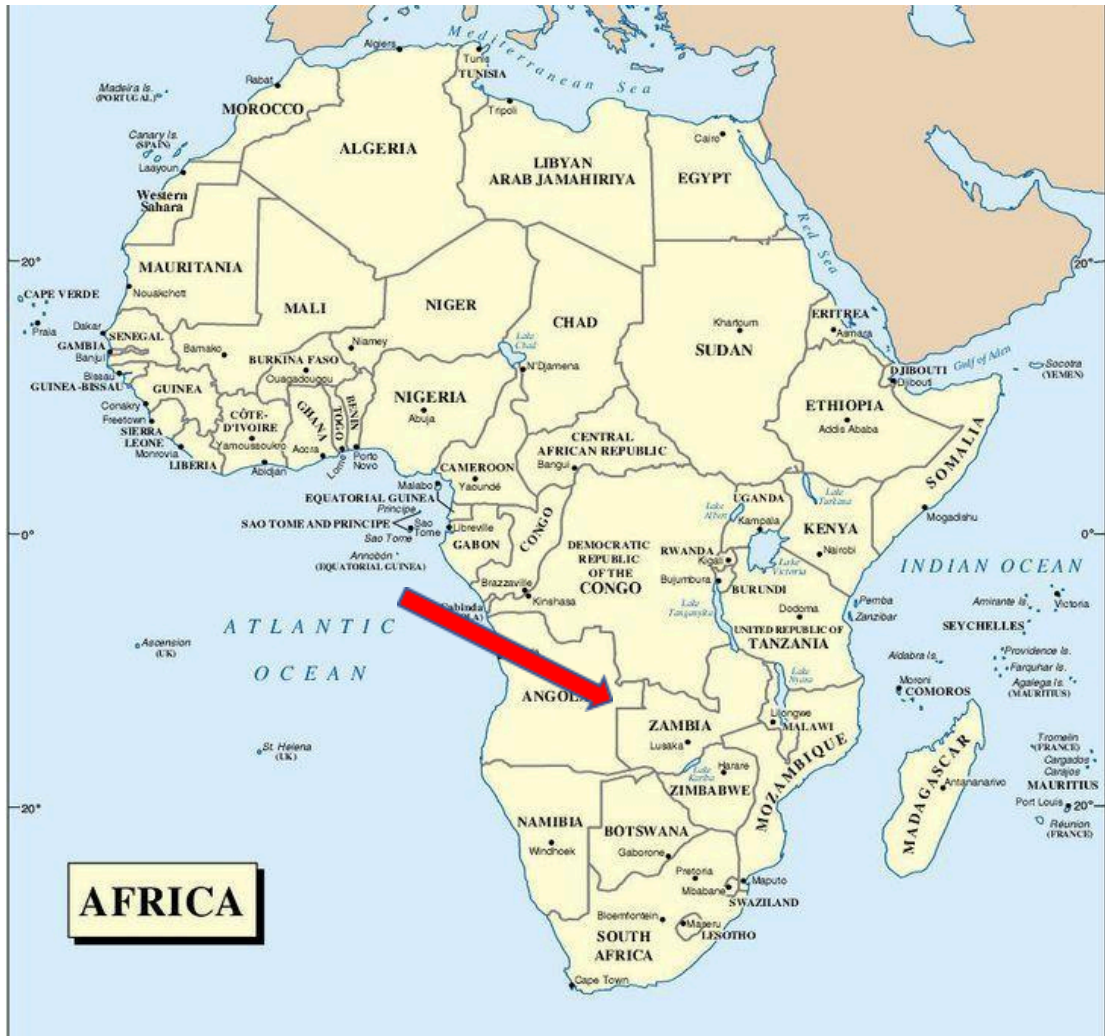
Zambia is slightly larger than California and Nevada combined.

We will be going to Mungu, which is just West of Kafue. Kafue is about one-hour South of the capital city of Lusaka.



To offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

Zambia is a land-locked country in Southern Africa. It shares borders with Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, and Congo. Zambia and Zimbabwe are separated by one of the seven wonders of the world; Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya, “the smoke that thunders”)



To offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

Many Americans do not realize the sheer size of Africa. It is a huge continent with a vast variety of peoples, cultures, and climates. While there may be some similarities from one African country to the next, it would be wrong to make assumptions and generalizations about *all* Africans.

Here is a visual to consider....



You can fit *three* United States on the continent of Africa.

HISTORY of ZAMBIA

Politics

Zambia is a peaceful nation that has escaped the tribal and political conflict that we often hear of in the news regarding other African nations (this is an amazing feat considering Zambia's tribal diversity). Formerly known as the British colony of Northern Rhodesia, Zambia became independent in 1964.

Zambia's first president, Kenneth Kaunda, declared a one-party state until popular pressure forced relatively peaceful democratic elections in 1991. The free elections brought a multiparty democracy, but it was only after considerable pressure from within the party that term limits (2 terms per president) were enforced. Like many other African nations, the Zambian government struggles with corruption and other serious allegations. However, because of its democratic process, Zambians are able to limit the powers of one person or party. Zambia's current president is Hakainde Hichilema.

Economy

Copper exports account for about 55% of Zambia's foreign exchange therefore making Zambia dependent on the value of copper. Zambia is considered a poor state and has high debt with no real way to pay it off.

Zambia is a highly urbanized country with about half of its 16 million people living in urban zones strung along major transportation corridors (you will see this phenomenon in Kafue). The rural poor often attempt city-life in an effort to make a living only to find very little available work, life in a slum, and exposure to drugs, crime, and disease.

Salaries for low-skilled workers in Zambia is approximately \$140 per month. For rural areas, the wage drops.

The monetary system uses the Zambian Kwacha (dollars) and Ngwee (cents). The Kwacha currency symbol is ZMW.

Population

There are nearly 70 different ethnicities represented in Zambia's tribal population. Each ethnicity has its own language. While there are similarities between groups, some groups/languages are so different they are unable to communicate with each other in the vernacular. Because of its British history, Zambia has determined English as a national

language. This makes sense in terms of unifying the people and providing a common language for commerce, education, and politics.

Of the 70 ethnicities, the largest groups are Bemba (21%), Tonga (14%), Chewa or Nyanja (7%), Lozi (6%), and Nsenga (5%). The area where we will be visiting is right on the border of Tonga and Nyanja regions so most of the people we work with are one of the two. They speak Tonga and Nyanja respectively, and most speak English.

Zambia's population is primarily Bantu decent, but there are significant communities from Europe, South Africa, and India. Thanks to the missionaries of the 19th century, the majority of Zambians are Christian. The next largest religious groups are Muslims, Hindus, and indigenous faiths. In fact, if we were to stay in town, we would hear the Muslim call to prayer in the mornings and evenings.

Statistics

- There are fewer people in Africa with an internet connection than in New York alone.
- Due to disease and other poverty-related deaths, over 600,000 Zambian children have lost one or both parents.
- The average woman will have 6 children. Infant mortality is about 40 per 1,000 and lack of food security threatens child health. Almost half of the children under 5 are affected causing stunted growth and development.
- Roughly half of Zambians are unemployed or underemployed, and more than 85% live below the international poverty line.
- Lack access to safe water: 40%
- Average number of years in school: 7
- Life expectancy: 62 (this is up from 49 a few years ago)
- Median age: 17
 - 0-14 years: 46% (note that nearly half of the population is under 14)
 - 15-24 years: 20%
 - 25-54 years: 29%
 - 55-64 years: 3%
 - 65 years and older: 2%

Cross Cultural Relationships

The U.S. is a time-oriented, independent, aggressive and success-driven culture. In contrast, Zambia is a culture with deep roots into community, relationships, and respect. A Zambian will expect that the conversation begins with questions about family, weather, and other personal life matters before diving into business. One of the challenges Americans face in Zambia is taking the time to properly greet someone before getting down to the task at-hand. This applies to the public space as well. Shops, the airport, and restaurants are full of people expecting the same respect.

Another area where Americans struggle is in conversation. We tend to get to the point quickly and assert our opinions. Zambians wait... Sometimes for uncomfortably long periods. Practice the art of slowing down, listening, and refrain from interrupting and taking over the conversation (You will be surprised at how hard this is!)

Zambians can sometimes be offended by questions that ask them to do something. This can sometimes be interpreted as “bossing.” Instead of, “Will you help me?” It may be more appropriate to be less direct. “I need help with ___ do you know someone who is available?” or, “Can we _____?” Most Zambians jump at the opportunity to assist!

Zambians also do not point (with their finger) at other people. It is considered rude. Instead, you will notice their tip of the chin to indicate a direction.

One thing that can grate on Americans is staring. In Zambia it is not considered rude to stare at someone. This can be difficult to get used to, especially since we are the odd ones. We are the recipients of a lot of staring!!

It is good manners to give and receive an item with your right hand... never the left. Even better yet, holding out two hands like a cup is the best way to receive. Receiving is an act of allowing another to give, so do not reach out your hand to receive what is being given (Out of respect to adults in the community, we should also expect this of children.)

Zambians are welcoming, warm, and very hospitable. They also enjoy and take pride in their hospitality. If you are given a gift, even a live chicken, you should receive it with joy. It will be very easy for you to make friends if you are also warm, welcoming, and hospitable.

PURE NARD MINISTRIES

Pure Nard Ministries was born out of a deep desire to serve communities at the local level. This concept has been named, *In Community by Community* (ICBC). The first ICBC was developed in Swaziland through the partnership of the local Swazi church and an American church in Ohio, Christian Life Center. This partnership brought forth several sites that included a church, sustainability projects, orphan care homes, and preschools.

Wafuka Kapolesa was serving in Swaziland during this time. He began to sense God's calling to bring the ICBC concept back to his home in Zambia. Through a partnership with the church in Ohio, land was purchased, and buildings were raised. It was during the construction phase of the ministry when Rob and Jennifer Taylor, who were serving as missionaries there, served alongside Wafuka and his wife Lily.

The ministry includes a church, a Teen Challenge program for adult men, a preschool, a sustainability project (raising hens for eggs), outreach ministry, and animal husbandry.

The preschool was built in 2014, opening its doors to its first students in early 2015. The school year in Zambia runs from January to December with three, 13-week terms. The school serves 50-60 students with three classes; the baby class (3 yr.), the middle class (4-5 yr.), and reception (5-7 yr.). Reception is the equivalent to our kindergarten. Primary school begins with grade one.

In 2024, the Pure Nard Grade school was opened and serves one first grade class. The primary school will add a grade level each year.

Wafuka and Lily have a vision to expand the ministry and have already started on these:

1. To establish additional ICBC sites in other regions of Zambia
2. To grow the preschool into primary, adding a grade level each year.
3. To establish a Teen Challenge women's program.

Serve the Children partners with Pure Nard Ministries in Zambia.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Five months before the team leaves, we will begin holding informational meetings and request that you provide us with your application. You need to ask yourself, “Why do I want to go on a short-term mission trip?” Schedule your vacation time at work.

Be prepared for a spiritual battle! Satan does not want you to go on this trip and he will attempt to discourage you. The Holy Spirit is there for you to battle Satan. Your teammates are praying for you.

Four months before departure, you need to complete the medical release form, the team covenant and submit a \$500 down payment. You also need to confirm that your passport is current and renew it if necessary.

Three months- Schedule any required immunizations. Send out your fundraising letters. Start your journal. Serve the Children will arrange airfare.

Two months before departure. The remaining balance is due.

One month before departure begin thinking about the clothes and other items that you will need to take. Confirm that you have a ride to the airport, purchase your supplies and make sure you know when to begin taking your malaria pills.

1, 2 days before we leave- usually we have a packing party and weigh all of our suitcases to confirm they are within the weight limits for check in luggage. Review the check list- Do you have everything?

TEAM MEETINGS

In the U.S.

We will have team meetings beginning several months prior to leaving for Zambia. THESE MEETINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR TEAM MEMBERS. The purpose of these meetings is to prepare you for your experience, to bond as a team, to communicate the goals and objectives of the trip and to plan how we will accomplish them. Spouse and friends are welcome to come. Topics that we will discuss include:

1. Trip Logistics, i.e. communication, dress code, travel arrangements, etc. These items are covered in your team book, so we will not spend a lot of time going through these items in the team meeting.
2. Cultural issues
3. Team member roles and preparation
4. Spiritual preparation
5. Immunizations and medications for malaria and other medical issues
6. Keeping a journal
7. Packing and luggage needs
8. Passport and visa requirements
9. Questions and concerns

In Zambia

Once we arrive in Zambia, we will also have team meetings. We will meet for breakfast as a team and have a devotional time together. This meeting is also required. We will quickly review what we are planning to do during the day. We will have meetings after dinner as necessary to discuss changes in the schedule, find out how everyone is doing and go over plans for the next day. Evening meetings could also happen with groups that are working together, such as a teaching team or medical team.

Another reason to have meetings at night is to spend time together as a team. Married couples need time alone. Leaders need time alone. You will need time alone. But we also need time to just relax with each other. It is a good chance to decompress and cope with all of the things you will be experiencing.

IMMUNIZATIONS/MEDICATIONS

You should be up to date on all of your regular immunizations before traveling (Check on Tetanus). In addition to our regular schedule of immunizations, it is recommended that you receive the immunizations for **Hepatitis A**. The inoculation is completed in two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, so plan ahead. Additionally, you will need to have the **typhoid** vaccine or pills before traveling. These should be recorded on your Yellow Card or immunization card and should be carried with you along with your passport.

And about Malaria....

Malaria is tricky. While most people who get Malaria recover and do well with an ordinary round of antibiotics, there are strains of Malaria that are life-threatening.

The dry season in Zambia runs from May-Oct. This means our exposure to Malaria is significantly reduced (no rain = no mosquitos). Products containing Deet and mosquito nets are also effective. Nothing is worse than being sick on a trip... especially that sick... and should you have a dangerous strain, the long flight home may delay essential medical treatment.

There are several anti-malarial drugs to consider. Talk to your doctor about the right one for you.

Most people with medical insurance will find the best rates for immunizations at their doctor's office. If they do not carry a particular immunization (such as Yellow Fever), you have several options:

- Local pharmacies - call ahead so they can make sure to stock what you need
- Infections Northwest - 1624 S. I Street, Suite 405. Schedule 30 days in advance: 253-428-8754

Medical Checklist:

- Acquire vaccinations: Tetanus, Hep A (Hep B for medical workers), Yellow Fever
- Talk to your doctor about anti-malarial medications
- Make sure you have adequate supply (plus a few extra) of regular medications
- Consider over-the-counter medications for comfort: pain relief, allergy, sleep aid, upset stomach
- Don't forget essentials like contact lens solutions and sunscreen

PASSPORTS

If you are applying for a passport for the first time, you must do so in person. Visit the Department of State webpage (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>), collect the appropriate documents, and search for an acceptance facility convenient for you.

If you have had a passport in the past you may renew by mail under certain circumstances, so check the website above regarding your situation.

If you have a passport already, check the expiration date. **You may not travel to Zambia with a passport that will expire within six months of your dates of travel.** Do the math and make sure your passport is valid for the travel dates plus the following six months. Also, confirm you have at least two blank pages for your visa stamp.

In any case, **apply early**. Obtaining a passport can be delayed for any number of reasons.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to take extra steps to ensure your passport and travel documents are in order.

VISAS

You will need a Visa to enter Zambia. The simplest way to obtain the visa is to arrive with a \$50-dollar bill (USD) and pay for the visa at the port of entry. \$50 is the only denomination that is accepted.

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE?

Important Items

Passport/immunization card- in a zip-top bag. Provide a copy of your passport and card to your team leader.

Money belt (and/or necklace) – cash in newer bills- amount should be at least \$300 depending on how much you want to spend on souvenirs and eating out or at the airports. Exchange for kwacha can be done at the airport or we can arrange this. Typically, the cheapest way to exchange funds is at an ATM machine. However, not all-American cards work in Zambia. How to get cash and deal with money can be challenging, so it is something to consider and discuss as a team.

Clothing

Depending on when your trip is scheduled, weather can be a factor. For example, July can be a cold season for Zambia. Prepare for very chilly evenings with no heat in the buildings and cool mornings, but then standing outside in the sun may make you hot! You need to be able to dress in layers. You may start the day prepared for a snowstorm but be in short sleeves by the afternoon.

Another feature of the trip is that the ministry site is located on a rocky hillside. Appropriate footwear is a must.

Everyone: Clothing for length of stay. We can hand-wash clothes and hang-dry. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for task (i.e. work project vs. teaching) **Conservative wear is critical, and you will be asked to change your clothes if they are not appropriate.**

OTHER IMPORTANT CLOTHING: Cool-weather wear; gloves, stocking hat, scarf, sweater, socks, flip-flops or slippers for inside the cottage, sleepwear, tights or leggings for women (for warmth under skirts).

Women: No low-necked tank tops or spaghetti straps, no transparent, tight clothing or strapless tops. No shorts. Women in Zambia wear a range of outfits based on heritage, location, and occupation. In Mungu, women should wear skirts long enough to cover the knees while sitting. (An exception would be made for suiting). Jeans are acceptable if they are conservative and the top is long enough to cover the saddle. Younger women in Mungu are beginning to wear more contemporary clothing so it is OK to wear American clothing, but a conservative look that respects the occasion is a must (teaching, church, etc. would warrant nicer clothing). Church is business casual, below the knees skirt or dress.

Men: Long pants, including jeans, and t-shirts are OK. Clothes should be neat and clean (consider how wrinkled some things can get during packing!) Church clothes should include a collared shirt and non-jeans pants. Casual khakis are OK. **NO HATS INDOORS.** This is considered rude.

The electrical current in Zambia is 220 volts, 50 cycle's alternating current (AC); you may want to bring a converter.

MUST HAVE'S:

Bible

Clothing

Bug spray-40% to 100% depending on your skin sensitivity and the time of year

Journal and pens/pencils

All/any medications (including anti-malarial)

Money belt (optional, but consider how you will carry cash)

Passport with Yellow Fever Card and \$50-dollar bill

Sunglasses

Sunscreen (SPF 30+)

Toothbrush/paste

Refillable water bottle

Carry-On: Your bag should be able to fit into a 22" x 14" x 9" box

- Any electronics, expensive, or non-replaceable items (theft can be an issue with luggage in transit)
- A few of the toiletries that will keep you comfortable during a long trip (i.e. toothbrush/paste, washcloth in a zip lock bag, microfiber towels work best or body wipes, comb, deodorant, chap-stick) Remember to keep fluids under 3 oz.
- A book, magazine, game to keep yourself entertained
- Snacks (although they feed you well on international flights)
- Ear plugs, eye mask, neck pillow
- ALL** your *necessary* medications
- Journal
- One change of clothes (2 pair undergarments) and anything else you cannot live without for a couple of days incase luggage is delayed
- Luggage locks are good, but zip ties are a bad idea!
- Sunglasses/eyeglasses/Contact lenses
- Travel-sized Kleenex tissue packs to carry in pocket or purse (for restrooms with no TP)

Checked-in Luggage: Your bag should weigh less than 50lbs

- Toiletries, including over-the-counter medicines for your comfort
- Sunscreen
- Nail clippers
- Chapstick
- Insect repellent
- Waterless hand sanitizer for purse or pocket
- Feminine products
- Clothing, including for cool weather (2/3 changes of clothing)
- Travel size laundry detergent (can share one among a few team members)
- Camera/phone for photos and essential charging cords
- Something with an alarm (phone, travel clock) and appropriate chargers
- Small flashlight
- Photos of family to show *Zambian* friends
- Handy items: sharpie pens, zip lock bags, pocket tool (checked-in luggage only) a garbage bag or plastic grocery bags for soiled laundry, zip ties, tape, extra batteries

*Suggested Medical Supplies
For a Team First Aid Kit*

Airborne
 Aloe Vera
 Band-Aids
 Chapstick
 Cortaid cream
 Imodium AD
 Neosporin
 Nyquil
 Pepto-Bismol
 Stool softener
 Sudafed
 Sunscreen (45+)
 Tums
 Tylenol/Advil

Antibacterial wipes for cleaning small wounds
Sleep aid
Band-Aids, Q-tips, cotton, gauze

Note - Medications containing diphenhydramine, such as Benadryl, are illegal in Zambia. The Zambian Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) has detained a number of U.S. citizens for possession of antihistamines such as Benadryl and other over-the-counter medications, which contained small quantities of diphenhydramine, an active ingredient that is on Zambia's list of controlled substances.

TRAVEL TIPS

Airline travel can be an exhausting experience. You probably did not sleep well the night before you left because of the excitement of the trip. You might have stayed up late preparing for the journey and taking care of last-minute details.

There are a number of things you can do to make your travel experience more pleasant. Drink plenty of water on the plane. Buy bottled water after you go through security before you get on the plane. You can always ask the flight attendant for more water once you have boarded the plane. On long flights, it is important to get up and walk around occasionally to maintain good circulation and avoid stiffness. If you cannot sleep, at least try to rest as much as possible.

Simple stretching exercises help a lot; stretch your feet, turn your head and hold it, flex some muscles. Wear comfortable clothes and layer them. Take off your shoes. Take books, crossword puzzles, games to play, shows & music on your phone. Remember to pack for both ways!

Zambia itself is 9 or 10 hours ahead of us, depending on daylight savings time. We also cross several time zones going there.

How can I improve plane travel?

Most people don't have any problems when they fly, but it's possible to make airplane travel safer and more comfortable. Here are some tips:

- Carry enough of all of your medicines to last your whole trip in your carry-on luggage. Ask your doctor whether you should change your dosages if you're eating and sleeping times will change at your destination. Take extra medicine with you in case your return trip is delayed.

- If you have diabetes or epilepsy, carry a notification and identification card (such as the "Diabetes Alert Card" from the American Diabetes Association). Have the name and phone number of your doctor with you in case of an emergency. Remember to bring along the names and dosages of all of your medicines.
- Drink nonalcoholic, decaffeinated beverages and water to avoid becoming dehydrated.

What can I do about jet lag?

- Get plenty of sleep before you leave.
- Eat well-balanced meals, avoid overeating and alcohol
- Exercise as much as you can on your trip.
- Use sleep medicines for only a few days.
- Get used to a new time zone by going along with the local meal and bedtime schedules.

What about pain in my ears?

If your ears hurt when you fly, try taking a decongestant medicine (such as pseudoephedrine) before you get on the plane. You can also swallow often and chew gum during the flight. Talk to your doctor about taking any kind of medication.

Other suggestions:

- Place a washcloth in a zip-loc bag in your carry-on. This way you can wash up and put away with washcloth without getting everything else wet.
- Neck pillow!!
- Trade a few outfits with a team mate so that if your bag is lost you still have something to wear
- Lock your luggage with luggage locks (must be TSA approved)
- Do not pack anything in the small outer pockets of your bags.
- Keep record of your bag brand, size and color in addition to saving your luggage receipt.
- Do not haphazardly toss your used boarding passes. They contain all your personal information!
- Keep it simple, but do not be afraid to bring what makes you comfortable. Comfort is king!
- Drink a ton of water and eat a clean diet in the days leading up to the trip. You will be amazed at how poor diet and dehydration contribute to swelling feet and jetlag
- For those who take medications, consider how crossing time zones impact the time of day you are to take medicines.
- International flights are more accommodating to stiff bodies and tired people. Take advantage of the ability to walk the plane or stretch.
- Start the trip being well-rested and take opportunities to sleep during travel if you can. Traveling to Zambia can take anywhere from 24-48 hours.

Picture taking

You're on a mission trip and you want to take pictures for a PowerPoint presentation at your church when you return home. But do you point your camera at people you do not

know in the US and take their picture? We need to be sensitive to the people around us and treat them with the same respect and dignity that we treat people in the US. ASK.

TRIP LOGISTICS

We will meet at the airport and check in together. Be prepared for a long flight. Regardless of the route we take, we usually have long flights and long layovers. Bring whatever you need to be most comfortable for this part of the journey.

What will we do there?

Activities while on a mission trip can vary. You must plan ahead for your time so that you are prepared.

1. Child sponsorship program - STC uses sponsorships to support our staff in both countries where we serve. Each team member is asked to find five people who will commit to sponsoring a child. You will find a child for each of them while you're there. You can also help update our sponsorship information on children currently sponsored. We need team members to photograph children currently sponsored, get a letter from them to their sponsor and interview new children for sponsorship.
2. Chapel services- be prepared to lead a chapel service or VBS. This includes music (teaching a new song or leading the singing with a guitar or CD), message and a skit. The children love skits.
3. Sports- be prepared to lead some outdoor activities like group games.
4. Classroom- read stories, read poems, teach phonics, math, art and other crafts.
5. Picture taking and display- the children love to have their pictures taken and see their picture displayed on the TV screen using a PowerPoint program.
6. Cooking- you can join in on the cooking and learn some great ways to cook Zambian food for your friends when you return home.
7. Work projects such as painting, building repairs, etc.

CULTURAL ENTRY

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please all men in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved." 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

- As you enter a new culture and begin to make observations and experience life in a new setting, you will either find this to be a positive time of growth or a very difficult and frustrating time.
- Let go of expectations. Let the Lord speak to you. Let Him reveal new things to you about Himself, yourself and others. Be flexible. Keep a journal and maintain a daily quiet time. Lean on the Lord.
- Rather than being suspicious, fearful, prejudiced or feeling superior, try to see things with openness, acceptance, trust and adaptability. It is inevitable that you will feel uncomfortable as you live in a new cultural setting. At times, you may become frustrated or feel misunderstood, confused, tense or embarrassed. This is to be expected. It is your response to these emotions that will determine a negative or positive outcome. Rather than rationalize, criticize or isolate yourself, try to observe, inquire and listen. If you do, you will find that you will establish a rapport with the people and empathy for their plight rather than alienate yourself through withdrawal.
- Don't assume anything. Ask questions and observe. You will be stretched.
- Cultural differences exist all around you, some are visible.
- Cultural beliefs are not visible, but they govern the thoughts of the people. Women care for the home and children. Men work outside the home, if they're lucky. Many Christian churches teach against dancing, drinking, smoking, excessive make-up and jewelry and hold to varying degrees of legalism about these matters. The society is

event versus time oriented. Punctuality is not a priority. Assertiveness, loud and aggressive behaviors are not considered admirable traits.

- The purpose of your short-term mission is to be a support to the STC staff and children and be a witness to Christ. It is about dying to self and living for Christ for two weeks. It is about being sensitive to the culture. If it means wearing a long skirt or removing an earring or eating a food that you are not particularly fond of...just do it... for the Lord. You will be blessed.

(Portions taken from Intersarsity STIM Manual)

SPIRITUAL MATTERS

Your spiritual life could be challenged on a mission trip. Lack of privacy, a different schedule of activities (eating times, work, etc), and lack of sleep can impact your time with the Lord. But you must adapt your new situation to your daily time with God. I get up early in the morning to pray and find time in the evening for Bible reading. This time comes very naturally when I combine it with updating my journal.

We cannot emphasize the importance of having a daily quiet time. Satan will be doing his best to keep you away from God. If he succeeds, this will impact the team and the goals of our trip. Read Ephesians 6:10-19. Be prepared for spiritual warfare! This applies equally as you prepare to go on the trip and after you come home.

Bring a simple devotional along with you. Set the pace for your roommates by having a daily devotion. Let them see how important this is to you.

Be prepared to share your faith with the people that we come in contact with. Most of our staff are Christians but you can find some non-Christians in the outreach that you might be involved with.

Writing a 3-5-minute personal testimony is easy. You do not have to create a theological discourse to explain how you came to know Christ. Talk about how your life was before you became a Christian, explain how you became a Christian and end with a verse that has a special meaning to you or talk about the importance of Christ in your life now.

COMMUNICATIONS

Emergency contact- We will provide you with a name and phone number to give to your family so if an emergency occurs at home, they can call the number and we will be contacted. There is a 9-10-hour time zone difference depending on Daylight Savings Time.

Facebook- The easiest form of communication of what the team is doing is to have your friends and family join the Serve the Children group site on Facebook. This is updated regularly during the mission trip.

While we are on the topic, if a stranger came to my child's school to support the staff and took photos of my child and posted them on Facebook, I would be LIVID. Granted, the context is not the same, but consider the perspective of those we are visiting. All posted images should be nameless and should point positively to the local ministry, not to our "personal work". **Social media and overseas ministry is a complex issue.** Respect that you are publicly posting images of someone else's reality. It should honor, lift up, and reflect what God is doing.

Internet services- While in Zambia, we will have limited access to the internet. There is internet on the ministry site, but it is paid for by the Gigabyte. **We Will have a cap on how much internet we can use. Tread lightly.** Your cell phones might work in Zambia, but the cost will probably be high. Verify your plan and its costs **BEFORE** you leave so you can make an educated choice. The team leader will have cell service in country for safety and communicating with our hosts.

WHY RAISE SUPPORT?

- **A Prayer Team Will Result**

When people are challenged to give financially, they are likely to pray for you, too.

- **Your Faith Will Grow**

Support raising is a faith journey. When days go by and your support level does not increase, you may be tempted to question your call to missions. Those are the days when you will be challenged to step forward in faith that God has called you and, in His time, will supply every need. You will learn how to adapt to divergent, difficult, and sometimes desperate circumstances. That's when you realize that you are so limited, and God is so limitless.

- **It Broadens the Missionary Vision for you and your church**

The best recruiter for world missions is the missionary yourself. When you meet face-to-face with others, you are able to communicate your vision and your call. Your enthusiasm and dedication stimulates and challenges interest and involvement in missions.

How to Raise Support:

1. **EVALUATE your contribution.** Other team members can tell you the surprising places God provides money (unexpected refund checks, garage sales, extra income opportunities). Challenge yourself to plan ahead, evaluate what sacrifices you can make in the next few months to contribute toward your trip.
2. **LOOK outside of your church.** Friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors, whether they are Christians or not, will feel blessed to invest in you and God's leading in your life. Seek out their support. Many people are looking for opportunities to invest in someone else's life and help a good cause. Use Facebook and other social media sites.
3. **ASK inside your church to see if your** small group or ministry team friends would pray about God's leading to give you prayer and/or financial help for this opportunity. Do not give requests to people that do not know you personally unless they hear of your need and want to be a part of your team.
4. **DEVELOP your financial supporters** into prayer supporters. Use the Prayer Covenant form (included in this book) to gather prayer team members. Your prayer partner can keep a copy of the covenant to remind them to pray for you. They should return one to you so that you know that you have prayer supporters lifting you up each day during the trip.

RE-ENTRY

RE-ENTRY is the experience you will have as you return to your home, family and friends. You may have experienced changed attitudes and values. The greater the change in attitudes and values, the more unsettling the **RE-ENTRY** to your personal home culture will be.

Although you may not realize the impact this short-term mission has had on you, there are a few things to consider:

- The things you have experienced here are very unique. Some people will never have such an impacting experience in their entire life. As you go home, it will be as though you were in a time-warp...so much has happened to you, while it has been 'life as usual' for most of the people you know back home.
- Values you have maintained all your life may come into question. You may feel convicted about certain things you have always done or become disturbed by things that others say or do. Things that once seemed very important may suddenly appear trivial or meaningless.
- Though people may ask you, "How was your trip?" many do not really want to know the details. Not everyone will share your enthusiasm and want to hear about your trip.
- It is important to connect with your teammates after you return to help you adjust.

The following are some ways that people deal with **RE-ENTRY** and the above reactions

ALIENATE (negative)

- Assume the: "Nobody understands. Nobody cares." attitude
- Withdraw or become an elite group that excludes others
- Become depressed, judgmental, critical

ASSIMILATE (negative)

- Compartmentalize the experience. It is over. Check it off the calendar and get on with life as though nothing significant happened

- Dive into diversions: movies, malls, activities
- Channel your desire to do something by overcompensating or assuming ‘black and white’ mentality
- Be tough and untouched

INTEGRATE (positive)

- Use lessons from your experience as a springboard for positive growth and change
- Search for platforms where you can share your experience with a selective audience
- Become a “bridge” between your experience and how those at home can benefit from it
- Use your experience as a tool for evangelism
- Be a spokesperson sharing with others so they can ‘catch the vision’ of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20

There are more positive ways for you to handle your transition back to life at home. Here are some steps you can take before and when you return that will help things go smoothly:

- Prepare for re-entry shock
- Pray and listen to God
- Journal and re-read your mission journal one day at a time
- Become a good listener with others. Be interested in their lives
- Prepare a ‘snapshot’ of your trip
- Become a storyteller. Learn to salt your speech to make others thirsty. Have the 30-minute, 3-minute, and 30-second versions of your story ready to go.
- Seize the opportunity to share with that person that really wants to listen
- Get together with others from your team that shared the same experience
- Be a point of strength by living out your newly identified values at home
- Remember successes and accomplishments

- Use the talents God has given you
- Write a note of thanks and share your experience with everyone who received your request for support letter
- Eat well, rest and exercise. Understand that you will probably feel a physical letdown upon your return as well
- Realize that long-term changes may take time and patience
- Continue to make plans to impact your life and the lives of others
- Make the minutes of your life count for eternity

Prepare a five-minute testimony to give when your friends ask you about the trip. Invite anyone interested to meet with and look at your pictures or make copies of your journal and pass these out. Refer people to the Serve the Children website and recruit people to sponsor children, donate to STC or consider going on a mission trip with us.

Be prepared for flashbacks or re-runs; memories of your trip that were negative—the poverty that you witnessed, malnutrition of the children, etc. Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people or to children? Do you serve a big God who cares for you or a little god who cares nothing about you? You will be forced to ponder these questions and more.

(Portions taken from Intersarsity STIM Manual)

CONTINUING YOUR MISSION INVOLVEMENT: Wondering How to Make a Difference in Your Corner of the World?

Discover Your Unique Life Mission

“What do I need to do next after a mission trip?”

- God has a mission for the world and is already working to reach out to the hopeless, hurting, and lost people groups. He has invited us to respond to his call to join Him at work around the world.
- We don’t want you to develop an interest in going on multiple short-term trips for adventure travel. We want to help you develop a heart for your world.
- You have something unique to give! God desires to use your gifts, passions and life experiences as a unique life mission to the world. To where or to whom will it be?

“What is a unique life mission?”

It is allowing God to use your gifts and abilities, life and vocational experiences (both the good and the bad), and passions and interests for the Great Commission of reaching out to people with Christ's love.

Plan your schedule for the next 30 days by committing to some of these suggestions. Keep these commitments with you as a reminder in discovering your life mission.

1. PRAY FOR A WORLD VISION

*"When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to his followers, "There are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them. **Pray to the Lord**, who owns the harvest, that he will send more workers to gather his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38*

- Pray for 5 friends, family members or neighbors that need a relationship with Jesus. Include someone of a different ethnicity than your own. How can God use your recent mission trip experience to expand your vision locally?
- Ask God daily for the next month: "Help me see the world the way you do."
- What can you volunteer for to help Serve the Children?
- Pray for your passion issues globally (i.e. abortion, homeless children, health, and women's shelters).
- Turn your current life roles (Little League coach, consistent customer, employee, neighbor, etc.) into a mission field. Ask God to give you opportunities to share God's love in practical serving ways and to share a bit of your faith story with them.

2. CONSIDER WHERE YOUR LIFE DREAMS COLLIDE WITH THE WORLD'S NEEDS

- Ask yourself: What would I do for God if I knew I couldn't fail? Then write it down! Commit to praying about that dream.
- Read the international sections of the newspapers. (The Bible tells us what God wants to do in the world: the newspaper tells us where He needs to do it and where we need to be involved through our prayers.)
- Pray daily for the staff of Serve the Children.

3. GET CONNECTED

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

- Invite a speaker from Serve the Children to your church, Sunday School class, small group or Bible study
- Volunteer some time in your church (Need: administrative help, phone calling, special projects)
- Commit to sponsoring a child or staff person at Serve the Children.
- Take a next step in leadership. How would you like to lead a short-term trip for Serve the Children? Contact dougc@servethechildren.com.

4. EXPLORE THE NEXT STEPS

"My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring." 1 John 3:18

- Lead out in an opportunity to practically serve in the community. Encourage other members to participate with you.
- Meet with a staff person of Serve the Children or your church to discuss in greater detail how God wants to use your unique shape for life mission around the world.
- Tell your mission story. Encourage others to step out in faith and be stretched to see and experience their world in whole new ways. Have a "Chai Night" info party for your friends, relatives and supporters when you return to introduce them to the children who need sponsors and tell them what you saw and did.
- Serve the Children has many openings for volunteers. We would love to talk to you about using your skills in our organization.

We all know money is not everything. You worked hard to raise money for your two-week mission trip. Now what? Do not stop being engaged. Consider the following options:

1. Sponsor a child and ask your friends, relatives and donors to your mission trip to sponsor a child
2. Volunteer- Serve the Children needs you. We have fundraisers and we need help as well as occasional office support
3. Recruit future mission team members for Serve the Children

SERVE THE CHILDREN
SHORT TERM MISSION POLICIES AND TEAM COVENANT

I realize that the following principles are crucial to the effectiveness, quality and safety of our mission together. As a member of the short-term mission team, I agree to adhere to these policies:

1. Remember that I am a representative of SERVE THE CHILDREN (STC) and the church I attend, and as such I will seek to represent good spiritual values, moral conduct and a likeness to Christ that is embraced in that assembly. I will adhere to the STC Mission Statement and Statements of Faith and Belief in my conduct and conversation.
2. Remember that I have come not only to teach, but also to learn. I may be exposed to procedures and practices that I feel are ineffective or insufficient. I may also be confronted by attitudes that I feel are narrow or close-minded. As this occurs I will resist the temptation to "correct" my hosts and inform them about "how things are done back in the United States."
3. Respect my host's culture and distinctive practices of Christianity. I recognize that the Christian faith has many different faces throughout the world, and that one of the purposes of my trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a different culture.
4. Develop and consistently maintain a servant's attitude toward all nationals and my teammates.
5. Respect our team leader(s) and their decisions and the guidance of our host country staff.
6. Refrain from gossip and keep my promise of giving only good reports. If there are policies and decisions made by the leaders with which I disagree or do not understand, I will go to the team leaders in private and make my concerns known to them rather than to other team members. In so doing I will avoid the possibility of sowing seeds of dissension and division. If someone on the team offends me I promise to remain silent and forgive the person before God in my heart (Mk. 11:25), allowing love to cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8), or go to the person privately and seek reconciliation. I will resolve to approach an offender in the spirit of gentleness and genuine love, having first corrected my own attitude and actions (Gal. 6: 1, 2). Only if I am unable to restore an offender will I share the problem with others according to the principles of Matthew 18: 15-20. When I violate these aforementioned principles, I resolve to ask the forgiveness of my brother or sister and the Lord, knowing that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). By doing all these things I will seek to promote harmony on my team.
7. Be patient, forbearing and forgiving toward the shortcomings of the other members on the team.
8. Refrain from complaining. I realize that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesirable circumstances, but the rewards of conquering such circumstances should be my goal. I will resolve to be flexible, supporting and adaptive on such occasions rather than grumbling when circumstances are difficult.
9. Respect the work that is going on in the host country with its pastors and leaders. I realize that our team will be there for just a short time, but the local church and ministry is there long term. I will respect their knowledge, insights and instructions.
10. Refrain from negative comments or hostile discussions concerning the host country's politics and culture.
11. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships with the team. If my best friend or spouse is on the team, we will make every effort to interact regularly with all team members of the team.
12. Refrain from activity or undue interest that could be construed as a romantic interest toward a national. I realize that certain actions that seem innocent in my own culture may be inappropriate in another culture.
13. Refrain from any consumption of alcoholic beverages, including beer, wine, and liquors. While this is not an attempt to bind the conscience, I understand that such indulgence may cause another to stumble. I realize and accept that failure to adhere to this mandate will result in my exclusion from further short-term trips with STC.
14. Refrain from use of any tobacco or tobacco related products while on this trip. This is due to the different cultural or religious views of tobacco usage the team may encounter and I do not want to hurt my witness or the team's testimony.
15. Remember my financial commitment as a team member and to STC in choosing to be a part of this team.
16. Attend team meetings in the US and in the country where I am serving.
17. I will help with fundraising activities for the team as much as my schedule will allow. All pictures or videos that I am in are the property of STC.

I understand that if I cannot abide by this covenant, I may be asked to return home early at my own expense and will not have any funds that were spent on this mission trip returned to me.

Signature _____ *Date* _____

To offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

**SERVE THE CHILDREN
SHORT TERM MISSIONS APPLICATION**

PERSONAL INFORMATION-Name must be as it appears on your passport

Date _____

Name on passport _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Date of Birth _____

Passport Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Hair Color _____ Eye Color _____

Physical identification marks _____

Spouse name _____ Spouse phone _____

Nearest relative _____ Relationship _____

(Emergency contact)

Address _____ Phone _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Doctor's name _____ Phone _____

Office address _____

Medical insurance company _____ Phone _____

Plan name and number _____ Travel coverage? _____

If you are presently under a doctor's care for treatment and/or medication now or in the past two

years describe care and medication (attach additional page if needed). _____

Describe any allergies or problems relating to food, medicine, heat or lifting. _____

Do you smoke or use tobacco? _____

Would you have trouble walking 2 miles carrying your suitcase? _____

If yes, explain _____

Describe any health problems _____

CHURCH INFORMATION

How long a Christian? _____ How long at your current Church? _____

Positions or involvement include: _____

A close friend that is active at your church is _____ Phone _____

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Employer _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Your position _____ How long? _____

Describe any duties that might relate to this trip _____

MISC. INFORMATION

Describe any skills and proficiency _____

List present and past leadership positions _____

Foreign countries you have been to _____

Foreign languages you speak _____

Do you have the personal funds or access to funds to pay for this trip? ____

Will you need help to pay for this trip? ____

Can you help with fundraising activities for the team? ____

To offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

EMERGENCY RELEASE AND RIGHT OF REPRESENTATION

I, _____, in consideration of my participation on this mission trip to Zambia, represent and agree that:

- 1. I am prepared physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually for this trip. The scheduling, environment and other foreign country and travel conditions are not averse to me. I will be flexible and have a servant attitude.
- 2. I grant to any of the Serve the Children leaders or their contracted agents the right to represent me in decisions relating to my welfare or the group welfare during the trip. I will follow the suggestions made on my behalf.
- 3. I understand the administrative role that Serve the Children plays in putting together our mission trip. I also understand that the mission trip could be handled by a contracted agent of Serve the Children in country and the contracted agent of Serve the Children will be responsible for the trip and the team.
- 4. I hereby grant any of the Serve the Children leaders or their contracted agents my permission to authorize medical treatment and medication on my behalf. I will not hold any of the Serve the Children leaders or their contracted agents responsible for the results of such treatment, medications or decisions made on my behalf.
- 5. I am aware of the hazards and risks to myself and property associated with this mission trip. I have read the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory (if any) for this country found at <http://travel.state.gov/travel>. These risks include, but are not limited to, death or injury by accident, disease, terrorist acts, weather conditions, and inadequate medical services and supplies. I accept these conditions with full awareness, and I assume all risks of death, injury, illness, terrorist assaults and personal property loss or damage associated with such risks.
- 6. I attest and certify that I am physically fit and have no medical conditions that would prevent me from performing my assigned duties which may include long hikes, high altitude, and heat, limited and infrequent meals. I am aware of the disease risks associated with foreign travel and I accept these risks.
- 7. I waive any and all claims for damages against Serve The Children leaders or their contracted agents, arising from death, injury, illness, inconvenience, or in property damage or loss occurring as a result of this mission trip for any reason including but not limited to any negligent act or acts of Serve The Children leaders or their contracted agents which may in any way cause death, injury, illness, inconvenience, or property damage or loss to me. I have read this release in its entirety, understand its contents and agree to them of my own free will.
- 8. Governing Law/Venue: In accepting service from us, this agreement shall be governed only by the laws of the State of Washington. Venue for any action hereunder shall be in Pierce County of the State of Washington.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature if minor _____ Date _____

Please return to: Serve the Children along with your application and covenant

Serve the Children
Child Protection Policy

Purpose: To create a secure and nurturing atmosphere where children will be treated with honor and respect and be properly protected. We want to assist children to be capable and to learn to protect themselves.

We believe that every child regardless of gender, creed, caste and color should have a basic right to get protection from sexual or other exploitation.

Each and every staff and visitors of the organization are obliged to follow the child protection policy as mentioned below.

I _____ hereby declare that I am obliged to abstain from the following:

1. To beat or physically manhandle any child. To abuse a child physically, mentally or sexually.
2. To establish a physical or sexual relationship with any minor child.
3. To establish a relationship with a minor child that results in exploitation.
4. To engage in any action that is dangerous to children.
5. To engage in physical actions or sexually provocative language or comments.
6. To pressure a child under his/her care and protection.
7. To use or force children to do our personal work.
8. To involve a child in illegal or dangerous behavior or to neglect a child's essential needs.
9. To purposely engage in any action that insults the child.
10. To favor selected children and to discriminate against other children.

Any complaint received from the children or anyone found breaking conduct of the above-mentioned policy will result in investigation by management and a report will be lodged with law enforcement.

DECLARATION:

I _____ have read the above-mentioned child protection policy being implemented by Serve the Children. I declare that I accept and am obliged to follow this policy. Failure to follow this policy will result in the team member immediately returning to the United States at their own cost.

Signature and date

Sample Fundraising Letter

Dear (name):

Make your first paragraph a personal greeting and introduction.

God has opened the door for me to go on a short-term mission trip to Zambia with Serve the Children in Month, 20XX. We will be working at a school in Zambia. I will be involved with the (education, recreation, medical team) as we work with the children at that school.

You can find out more about the ministries of Serve the Children by visiting their web page at www.servethechildren.com.

This is a team project, and you are needed on the team. First, I need to have a prayer team in the US supporting me while I am on the trip. Would you be willing to sign a prayer covenant and commit to praying every day for me and the team while we are gone?

Second, please pray to God about becoming a financial partner with me in this project. The total cost is \$xxx. Would you consider investing \$xx to help me pay for this trip? Much of the cost of the trip is due by MONTH 1, 20XX.

If you would like to join me in this, please make your check payable to “Serve the Children.” Either return your check to me or you can send it directly to Serve the Children, 6314 19th Street West, Unit 18, Fircrest, WA 98466. Just place my name on the memo line of the check and the funds will be directed to my account. Your payment is tax deductible.

If I do not hear from you by _____, I will attempt to contact you to see what you have decided. I can answer any questions you may have at that time.

You are very important to me. Thank-you for praying about being a part of my team.

Letter tips:

4. Avoid mass produced letters
5. Avoid long words and sentences
6. Establish a deadline
7. Mention the amount of money that you need. Maybe suggest an amount to give
8. If you have been on a mission trip before, briefly explain to your supporters how the trip changed your life or impacted you personally
9. Follow-up

Serve the Children

**Mission Trip to Zambia
Prayer Partner Covenant**

I do hereby covenant to pray daily for _____
from this date until they return from the mission trip. Further, I will pray for safety for the
mission team, that God will work in their lives and for the people they are serving.

Your Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

www.servethechildren.com

Cut here- keep one copy for yourself and return one copy to your prayer partner

**Serve the Children
Mission Trip to Zambia
Prayer Partner Covenant**

I do hereby covenant to pray daily for _____
from this date until they return from the mission trip. Further, I will pray for safety for the
mission team, that God will work in their lives and for the people they are serving.

Your Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

www.servethechildren.com

HISTORY OF SERVE THE CHILDREN

Serve the Children was founded to give opportunity to children without access to an education. Poor and underserved, they are vulnerable to malnutrition, disease, child labor, and a lifetime of poverty. Without the hope an education provides, they have little chance to rise above the hard circumstances of their lives. Serve the Children exists to offer hope and a future through God's love to underserved children and families around the world by meeting their educational, physical and emotional needs.

Liberia

Fourteen years of civil war-ravaged Liberia between 1989 and 2003. Rebel factions kidnapped children, forcing them to abuse their own families as a way to condition them into being ruthless soldiers. The UN estimates that 15,000 children fought, murdered, and pillaged during the war. Warlords gave soldiers of all ages psychedelic drugs to force their dependency and extinguish their inhibitions. Families fled to the capital of Monrovia to escape looting, rape, and murder. The city, crippled with no infrastructure or government, became overcrowded with refugees. More than 150,000 people were killed, leaving more than 50% of the population under the age of 18.

Liberia has been steadily rebuilding since the war ended in 2003, however, it is a low-income country and around 54% of the population lives below poverty level. Education must be a priority for Liberia to go forward. Only about 62% of males over age 15 and about 32% of females over age 15 can read and write (2015 estimates, CIA World Factbook, cia.gov). Government schools are full beyond capacity, suffer corruption, and offer low pay for barely qualified teachers. Modest school fees or uniform requirements for private schools put basic education out of reach for most families. A 2013 news report indicated that many young girls were turning to prostitution to pay for school.

The founders of STC were compelled to help the war orphans and former child soldiers of Liberia after witnessing firsthand the atrocities of the civil war. In 1997, we helped found a school in the capital city, Monrovia. At that time, it was the only tuition free school in the country, and the only school focused on Christian education and counseling for former soldiers and war orphans. Our schools operated consistently and expanded steadily, even during wartime, unless forced to close by the fighting. As former child soldiers have aged through our schools, the mission has expanded from war orphans and former soldiers to reach children who simply cannot afford to pay for school. Currently, STC partners with Action Faith Institute that serves preschool through 12th grade students.

India

India's forgotten children are living on meager subsistence in rural tribal villages. They live hours away from access to clean water or education. Generational poverty and an unrelenting caste system create little opportunity for children to have a better life than their parents. The government and a number of non-governmental organizations are seeking to provide food and education to India's impoverished rural families, but the need continues to outweigh the help.

In 2007, we began partnering with Hosanna Ministries, an Indian ministry. In Lasina we offer a vocational school and currently teach young people from local villages Microsoft Office and tailoring. Without these skills, these young people would probably end up as farm laborers earning about \$3 per day. Lasina is a very rural village and we are the only option for vocational training close by.

In 2017, Hosanna Ministries began serving women and children in Mumbai. Many women and children live in the slums and earn a meager living by picking rags from the dump and selling them. They are vulnerable to human trafficking, disease, and malnutrition. We offer sewing classes for women to help them better provide for their families, other vocational training including computer classes, a preschool, and a day school with a meal for children who would otherwise have no hope of education.

Zambia

In 2018, Serve the Children began partnering with Pure Nard Ministries to help continue the amazing work that is being done in Mungu, Zambia.

Zambia is a nation of peaceful people. Rich in natural wonders and with hospitality as a cultural cornerstone, Zambia has much to offer, but like many other Southern African nations, Zambia has been ravaged by HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty, and a lack of resources. Almost half of the nation's population is under the age of 14 (46%) due to high rates of disease and poor health care. Health and nutrition, education, job training, and food security are all major issues of concern for rural families. Pure Nard Ministries serves to address these issues in community and by the community.

Pure Nard Ministries is located in Mungu, a rural community south of the nation's capital, Lusaka. The preschool has three classes; a baby class (3-year olds), a middle class (4 and 5-year olds), and a reception (which we know as kindergarten, for 6 and 7-year olds). It is an English-medium school, giving a head-start for some of the world's poorest as they gain school readiness. The school serves its children and their families by providing an education, but it also serves the community by providing a meal for students and by drawing families into the church. In 2024 the Pure Nard Grade School opened with first grade and will add one class a year up to grade seven, preparing students for the grade seven exams and secondary school.

All our STC supported schools are led fully by local leadership. We partner with local leaders who understand how to best serve their own communities. Our objective is to resource and equip schools in a shared vision to improve the future of children.

The children in our schools are eager and ready. Each one has a dream to be something greater than the poverty they see around them. Our goal is to equip them to fulfill those dreams by providing free education. We believe God made them with amazing talents and potential for today and for the future.

We invite you to come join us on a life-changing mission trip to one of the countries where we serve. Help us to achieve our vision of “educating the underserved”. You can partner with us to change a life by sponsoring a child or one of our teachers. Contact our office via email at info@servethechildren.com and we will get back to you.