



# INTERNATIONAL COURAGE

**SERVES:  
POOR**

**TIME:  
ANYTIME**

## PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM



Have you ever visited the poor, orphans or those who are sick? It is a completely profound experience that can change your life. There are tens of thousands of extremely poor people in our own country today. There are hundreds of thousands of poor people in other countries as well. Some countries such as Haiti and the Philippines have had natural disasters that have not only devastated the poor, but created thousands more. Other countries like Mexico have the majority of the people living in complete poverty.

Most people living in these conditions just want to know that someone cares about them, that someone can show love to them. What can I realistically do to help? I can give of myself, so they can experience the love of Christ. Every mission has a story, what will be my story? Do you have “International Courage?”

## LET'S ORGANIZE A MISSION YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MISSION!

### OUR CALL TO SERVE

**International Missions** – We could organize our team to participate in a week long mission trip to Haiti or Mexico. Visit [www.missionyouthmissions.com](http://www.missionyouthmissions.com) for the latest updated list of mission dates.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p><b>Weeks:</b> This project is for High School only and cannot be completed in 8 weeks but realistically takes months in advance to plan. (start planning in winter for a summer mission trip.)</p> <p><b>Decide:</b> To join an international mission, contact the Mission Youth National Office at (855) 556-6872 for available dates. Fundraising will be necessary for an international trip. An average international mission trip cost is \$735 per person (not including airfare). Sometimes groups like to organize fundraising for a specific project that is available, such as to build a church, pews, houses, etc.</p> <p><b>Plan:</b> Plan first the dates – and secure them with the Mission Youth national office. There are other organizations available for international missions, but most are not Catholic and are more expensive.</p>	
2	<p><b>Budget:</b> make a budget to see how much each team member will need to pay or fundraise. Things to consider are actual mission fee, projects and airfare.</p> <p><b>Invite:</b> Invite parents to help assist with this project and to chaperone and provide transportation.</p>	
3	<p><b>Plan:</b> Plan a fundraiser(s) that everyone can participate in as a team to benefit all.</p>	

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4	<p><b>Make List:</b> Each member should have at least one responsibility in this project that is completely dependent upon them.</p> <p><b>Fundraise:</b> Each member should write letters to friends and family members to ask for donations to help support their mission trip.</p>	
5	<p><b>Fundraise:</b> Continue fundraising activities including events and gathering personal donations.</p> <p><b>Passports:</b> Each participant for the mission will need to apply for a passport well in advance.</p>	
6	<p><b>Fundraise:</b> Continue fundraising activities including events and gathering personal donations.</p>	
7	<p><b>Training:</b> Train the team on working with the poor, elderly or sick. Ensure that they use good common sense and explain what is appropriate and what is not (such as taking pictures, etc.)</p>	
8	<p><b>Mission Youth Mission!:</b> Make sure to pray as a team prior to going on the mission, that they can bring the joy of Christ to those they will meet.</p>	

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# TACTICS BY AREAS

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## LOCATION

- **Best Fit:** Choose the country that best fits your groups desire to serve. Investigate thoroughly on the Mission Youth website the differences between Mexico and Haiti. Read the stories to the team, watch some videos and review pictures.
- **Cost:** This will play a factor in your decision. While Mexico mission are much cheaper, it is a different experience than Haiti and serving dying adults and children.

## PROVISIONS

Depending on the mission type you choose to organize, here are some possible items that could be used:

- Prayer Cards / Holy Cards
- Rosaries
- Donated items such as clothing, food, etc.
- Brochures (on Mass, Confession, etc.)
- Any specific needs requested by the place you will visit – such as diapers, baby clothes, toys, etc.
- Transportation (adult volunteer drivers and chaperones) to and from the airport.
- Permission forms (from Mission Youth office)



# TACTICS BY AREAS

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Team Members – Should each have their own responsibility assigned to them, that they are fully responsible for. This ensures that they have their heart in this project and mission.
- Adult Volunteers – Should have their local diocesan certification for working with youth completed prior to assisting with the project. They should also register with the parish / institution to be volunteer drivers (some require proof of insurance and copies of drivers license.) before driving youth to and from the airport.
- Priest – Ideally, a priest should accompany the team on the mission (if possible) to offer confession and advice to the team during the mission. Although most Mission Youth missions already have a Chaplin in place for each trip.

## CONTACTS

- Mission Youth National Office (or other organization you may choose)
- Adult Volunteers – for chaperones and transportation
- Parish / Institution Business Office – for obtaining certification of adult volunteers.
- Priest – to hopefully be able to accompany the team during the mission.
- Friends / Family – To be able to petition for donations to help this worthy cause.
- Others – you meet during your fundraising events.

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# DEBRIEFING

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## SPECIAL OPS

- Adult leaders should help ensure fundraising is a success by getting directly involved and helping coordinate events and efforts.
- A priest should have a special Mass / send off with blessings for the group prior to leaving for the trip.
- Preparing the team for first time encounters with the homeless, sick or dying and poor is crucial. They should not take this lightly, and be shocked and quiet and not knowing what to say or do. They need to receive some sort of coaching ahead of time, preferably by someone who has experience and can share their experiences. Mission Youth office can assist with some materials.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN



Any type of mission to help bring Christ to others can be organized. However, an international mission should be the goal, even if it seems difficult to plan and organize. The team needs to experience complete giving of themselves in very uncomfortable circumstances in order to grow spiritually, and there is no better way than to give them an experience of suffering outside of our country. Something as simple as organizing a soccer game for kids in a local trailer park can have a huge impact on both them and the poor community, but not as deep and lasting as an international mission trip – that requires “International Courage”

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**NOTES:**

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