



GO-Team Pre-Trip Checklist

Passport Applications are available at any US post office. You will need to have a passport photo taken to include in the application. A Passport can take 6-8 weeks to receive after sending in your application. Make two photocopies of your passport, and two copies of your driver's license or other photo ID. Leave one copy of each at home. Provide the other copies to your GO-Team leader prior to departure.

Immunizations At least 2 months prior to going on any foreign God Op, check with your doctor about what immunizations you should have to visit your destination country. Some immunizations are a series of shots that need to be given over a period of time. Most malaria preventive medicine is a series of pills that you will need to begin taking prior to leaving on the trip. Be certain to get a form that lists what immunizations you have received. It should be filled out and signed by the physicians providing your immunizations. Make a copy of this form and bring it with you on any foreign God Op.

Insurance Part of being a good steward for your family is making certain you have adequate health, travel and life insurance prior to going on a God Op. Most travel insurance can be purchased for around \$5 per day for just the extent of your trip. It can be purchased through a travel agent, the airline you are using or other sources. Most foreign God Ops will require you have travel insurance, and will purchase it as a group.

Equipment If you are taking any specialized equipment for use on a foreign God Op, you will need to make certain it is acceptable by the airline. If you are taking expensive electronic equipment, it is advisable to go to a US customs office (there is one at the Wichita airport) and register each piece of equipment, product numbers and serial numbers. If you have any difficulties getting your equipment through customs in a foreign country, this form can help prove you brought the equipment with you and did not purchase it in the country you are visiting.

Will and Testament It is also wise to have a will drawn up and formalized prior to going on any foreign God Op. There are many inexpensive online sources for doing this. Or, of course, you can enlist the services of an attorney.

Frequent Flier Miles There's no reason not to take advantage of what the airlines will give you. Be certain you are a frequent flier member of the airline you are using on your God Op. You should enroll at least 8 weeks prior to your departure so that you can receive a member card. By traveling on just one God Op to another hemisphere you can earn nearly enough miles for a free domestic flight. Take two international flights and you'll probably earn enough miles for a free God Op flight.

Raising Support/Funds for your God Op As soon as you have committed to being a member of a GO-Team, you should begin contacting people who know you well and asking them to help financially support your mission. If you are being led by God to participate on a God Op, You will find that God will work in some amazing ways to help facilitate your obedience to His calling. This also gives others a way in which to serve God and the mission of the God Op. God may be leading them to provide support and they just need to be asked. Simply tell others why you feel God is leading you to participate, what you will be doing on the God Op to serve Him, and how much support you need.

Prayer Support Another important way for others to support you on your God Op is through Prayer. It is recommended that you enlist a group of serious prayer warriors to pray for you every day while you are away on a God Op. Security, safety, openness to God's teaching, preparation of the hearts of the people you are serving, and God's guidance are wonderful things for your team to pray for. Share with them any fears you may have prior to the trip.

Family Discussion It is important to talk with your family prior to departing about why you are participating in a God Op. Tell them how you feel led to serve, give them a positive description of where you are going, show them on a globe or map where the destination is, explain what you are going to be doing, tell them how you will be helping "the least of these," tell them why they need your help. Keep the discussion positive with a goal of comforting and informing them. Also, look for ways to "trim their schedule of activities" while you are away in order to reduce their unnecessary risks.

Call Bank/Credit Card Company A few days prior to departure, let your bank and/or credit card company know you'll be traveling, especially when on a foreign God Op. Some will freeze accounts until they receive verification if they think the spending is in an unusual place.

Register at US Embassy On some foreign God Ops you should inform the local US Embassy of the dates, locations and activities your God Op will be undertaking. This is typically handled by the GO-Team Leader for the entire GO-Team.

Inform Neighbors/Friends Let some neighbors and friends know when you will be away so that they can keep an extra eye on your family while you are away. Coordinate with them ahead of time to provide "fix-it" help in case a car or something at home breaks down while you are away, or if a family member becomes injured or ill. Let them know your families schedule so they can make sure everyone is where they should be at the right time.

Packing List

Clothing Depending on the climate and mission of your God Op, you will need to take appropriate clothing. A rule of thumb is plan to wear most of your clothes more than one day in order to travel light. Many God Ops will require you to also carry materials and supplies for the missionary or God Op activities, so luggage space may be needed for things other than your clothes. Often you will need to bring at least one "nice" set of clothing to wear to a church service. (Not every church is a casual in their dress code as Hope CC is.) Pants that have zippered or Velcro-flap pockets are good to help keep from losing things.

Toiletries Bring only the essentials that you will need to accomplish your mission.

Medicines Be certain to bring any prescription drug you are taking regularly (in their original Rx containers). Some other medicines recommended, especially for foreign God Ops are: sleeping aid to help overcome jet lag, ibuprofen, antiseptic ointment, anti-diarrhea meds, an antibiotic, antacids or other indigestion aids, malaria meds, cough meds, allergy meds, small bandages, small first aid kit.

Passport/Document Satchel ESSENTIAL. There are 2 types. One is worn around your neck, one worn round your waist. Keep your Passport, important documents, credit cards, large amounts of money in this Satchel and wear it at all times. This prevents these important things from being lost to pick pockets or theft from your luggage.

Bedding On many foreign God Ops, you may need to bring your own sheets, blanket and pillow. Check with your GO-Team Leader.

Electronics The best rule of thumb is, if you don't need it to accomplish your mission, don't bring any extra electronic device. You don't want the extra hassles of worrying about their security, and they can be a distraction from what God may be trying to show you. If you need to bring rechargeable devices, be certain to find out what type of electricity options you will have in your destination country. You can purchase adapters that plug into a foreign outlet and convert the power supply to the same 110W supply we have in the U.S. These, however, are not always reliable and can cause damage to sensitive electronics like laptop computers and cell phones. If you need to bring your cell phone, also be certain to bring your charging device.

Environmental Adaptation Supplies Depending on the climate/environment you are visiting, some useful items to bring include:

- a bug spray that contains DEET
- HIGH SPF sunscreen (especially in high altitudes)
- Mosquito netting to sleep under
- Duct tape
- Swiss Army Knife or "Leatherman" type multi-purpose tool
- Ear plugs (many foreign nations have trains, trucks, horns, animals, etc. making noise all night, these can gain you hours of sleep)

Hand Sanitizer Keep a bottle in your pocket at all times on foreign God Ops. It's also useful to bring sanitizing wipes for your face and hands.

Water Bottles and Water Purifying System Nalgene bottles are excellent for use as drinking water containers. MSR makes a water filtering kit that will attach perfectly to the top of a Nalgene bottle. When you have access to purified drinking water, be certain to fill or top off your bottles while on the trip. You can buy purified water in most cities worldwide, but in rural areas you may need a filtering system.

Cameras/Camcorders It is important to be able to document your God Op, and then share the stories, adventures, situations where God revealed Himself, and your enthusiasm with other Hopesters upon your return home. But, be aware, many people in foreign countries feel insulted by Americans taking their picture as if they are some oddity or creature in a zoo. Be courteous and ask yourself if you would be offended if you were in their shoes.

Journal On a God Op, you will experience "Information Overload." Plan to write a few paragraphs about everything you did or experienced each day on your God Op. Often, as you are writing down your thoughts, God will reveal something to you. Plus, after you've been home a few weeks, all your memories start to get hazy. A Journal will help you preserve your experiences to relive and learn from for years to come.

Map A map of the areas you are visiting can be essential at critical times. Ask your GO-Team Leader if they already have one.

Directions to American Embassy/phone number In case of emergency, GO-Team Leaders should always have these.

Health Insurance Card If you have health insurance, be certain to take your group ID card with you on every God Op.

Travel Photo Album If you are away from your family for a long time, you may find it comforting to have pictures of them. In addition, many foreign cultures are fascinated by our family photos. It is a good way to show someone who doesn't speak English how you have children and a spouse just like they do, what your home looks like, what type of pets you have, etc. This can open doors to a trusting relationship.

Comforts of Homes Sometimes you just need a little taste of home after you've been eating foreign food for 2 weeks. Take a small, plastic jar of peanut butter to have one meal that tastes like home. Take some candy or small snacks. Pop-Tarts, trail mix, granola bars, MREs and dehydrated backpacking meals can replace a meal. Take enough to share. When you need to zone out, listen to your iPod or read a book.

Bible God's Word is a mighty tool, weapon, comforter and teacher. Enough said. But, make certain the country you are traveling to allows Bibles.

ETC.

In your carry-on luggage, pack a spare pair of underwear, socks, t-shirt in case your checked luggage gets lost. Don't put anything in your checked luggage you can't do without on the God Op. For long, international flights, it's also nice to pack toothbrush, toothpaste and cleansing wipes in order to "clean up" before landing.

Good Rule of Thumb for God Op travel, if you can't carry it all at once, don't bring it.

Money Exchange You will find a money exchange booth at all International airports. For security reasons, you may want to exchange some cash prior to departure. Check with your bank a couple weeks prior to your trip for assistance. Also, keep in mind, in many 3rd-World countries travelers checks are not accepted. In nearly every 3rd-world country, good ol' US greenbacks are welcome by even small vendors.

Keep your Passport and ID handy On International flights, before you land at the destination, flight attendants will pass out a form that requires information including:

Your Passport Number and other passport info

The address of your destination

After de-planeing, you will immediately be required to go through a Customs check where you will need to show your Passport, another photo ID, and provide the form you filled out on the plane. So keep them all handy.