

Dear Short-Term Missions Candidate,

“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well” 1 Thes. 2:8

Thank you for becoming involved in a short-term mission trip (STM)! We are excited to see what the Lord will do in your life; before, during and after your mission experience.

We believe that you, the individual mission participant, our BCC Mission team and the church body as a whole can benefit from your experience on STM. It is our desire to enhance this benefit by giving you opportunities to discuss and share your experiences and insights with others. In order to do this we would like you to understand the process to accepting BCC STM funding. The steps are as follows:

- Submit STM application to BCC mission team coordinator at least 2 months prior to your trip.
- Meet with a member or two of the BCC mission team to review your application. While having the chance to meet you personally, this also gives us the opportunity to better assess the prayer and financial needs for your mission trip.
- If possible communicate with BCC mission team while on mission. This keeps us in the loop with your experience and gives us opportunity to pray over needs as they arise.
- Complete evaluation form within one month after you return from your trip.
- Meet with a member or two of the BCC mission team to review and debrief.
- Upon return communicate, in a way that is comfortable for you, with BCC congregation. We want the entire congregation to benefit from your experience. We will provide an opportunity for the congregation to hear from you about your experience after your return.

Please complete the application and financial agreement provided and return to BCC Mission Team, 1617 E Michigan Ave, Bismarck, ND 58504

In Christ,

BCC Mission Team

Application for Bismarck Community Church Short Term Mission (STM) Support

(Please Print) Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

MISSION AGENCY: _____

DESTINATION: _____

DATES OF SHORT TERM MISSION: _____

Are you a member or regular attendee of BCC? _____

Will you be going through any pre-departure and/or on-site training? _____ If not would you be open to BCC provided pre-departure training? _____

Agency/organization that you will be training with: _____

Dates of training period: _____

What is the total cost of your STM? \$ _____

How do you plan to finance your trip? _____

Please respond to the following questions on a separate piece of paper and attach to this Application, they do not have to be long answers;

1. How would you link your walk with Christ and this STM?
2. Please specifically describe your anticipated ministry
3. What do you personally hope to gain from this STM?
4. What do you feel will be your greatest strengths/challenges on this STM?
5. How do you think your experience might benefit the church body at BCC?

As much as it is within my power, I agree to be a positive and Christ-centered example on this STM.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Financial Support Agreement:

Applicants for financial support are required to fulfill the following:

1. Be a professing Christian, currently attending BCC who considers BCC their church home.
2. Meet individually with the short-term subcommittee for an interview (arranged after your application has been received).
3. Submit a copy of the Evaluation Form to the short-term missions subcommittee within one month of your return from the STM.
4. Meet individually with the short-term subcommittee for an interview (arranged after your evaluation has been received.)
5. Be willing to communicate with BCC congregation (in a format that is comfortable to you) about your mission experience.
6. Please fill out the following information so that we may have this on hand if your request for financial aid is approved:

Whom the check should be made payable to: _____

Address to send the check: _____

Support raising deadline: _____

Ways you can communicate with the Mission team while on STM: _____

If any of the above information changes, please notify Bismarck Community Church at 701-223-3304 or email bcc@bismarckcommunitychurch.com

If for some reason STM is cancelled or effort is reduced \$ will be returned to BCC.

I have reviewed this financial support agreement and I agree to fulfill the requirements stated above. All of my answers are truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Dear _____ :

The BCC Missions Team as representatives of the BCC congregation is happy to offer support of \$ _____ in your STM endeavor. We consider ourselves to be working alongside you, both prayerfully and financially in; your preparation to go. while you are away and when you return from your STM. If you need any suggestions or help with fund-raising ideas, please don't hesitate to ask us!

Enclosed please find a list of suggested readings and devotions.

God bless you as you; prepare, experience and reflect!

BCC Mission Team

BCC Short Term Mission Evaluation:

The Bismarck Community Church Mission Team is deeply thankful and appreciative of your willingness to give of your time and effort to this missionary experience. We hope you sensed our prayers for you, as well as God's leading and care during your STM.

Feel free to write your answers on a separate piece of paper. Please explain any yes or no answer. Return completed evaluation to: Kaye Otteson, 2525 Smokey Lane, Bismarck ND 58504.

1. Share your observations and feelings about your experience on your STM
2. Would you say the trip affected your life? If so how?
3. What did you find to be your greatest strengths/challenges on this STM?
4. Would you encourage other people to take a similar STM?
5. Do you see ways your experience might benefit the church body at BCC?
6. Could you give the BCC mission team any advice on how we could better support/encourage you on a STM?

Suggested Books about missions:

Eternity in their Hearts, Don Richardson,

The Bible tells us that God has placed eternity in the hearts of men. Don Richardson introduces us to various examples from cultures around the world of just how true that is. People long for redemption. No matter our color, culture or language, people know that things are not right and they long for redemption in their stories and rituals.

Let the Nations be Glad, John Piper

John Piper introduces you to a stunning new concept of missions. A twist on the tradition "we need to share the gospel so people can go to heaven." John argues that we need to preach the gospel to increase the fame and worship of God. Not only is this an interesting idea, it also makes us more aware of the majesty and grandeur of God.

When Helping Hurts, Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

A great study of the way centuries of "helping" has actually hurt. They give great analysis of some of the bad ways we do mission work, and suggest how we can do it better.

The Mission of God's people; a Biblical theology of the Church's Mission - Christopher J.H. Wright

Chris Wright writes pretty deeply. His books are usually well thought out and a bit more "scholarly" than some of the others on this list. But I am sure that if you can stick it out, this book will wake you up to the massive scale of the mission of the church, which is so much larger than most of us imagine.

Suggested Devotional material:

The Practice of the presence of God - Brother Lawrence

This is an old book, a classic. In this excellent, thin and simple book, we learn both the significance and the insignificance (I will let you ponder that) of what we do FOR God. Lawrence helps you to learn what it means to simply enjoy God and live out a Kingdom centered life - No matter what your calling.

Five who Changed the World - Daniel Akin

*Five missionaries who sacrificed EVERYTHING are profiled in this book. William Carey, who translated the scriptures into more than forty dialects, and Jm Eliot who **Spoiler Alert** dies for the sake of the gospel are two of the three. These missionary stories will not only motivate you to pursue your calling, but they will also reveal to you a deeper and more magnificent God than most of us tend to believe in.*