



MISSION TEAM CHURCH HOST PACK

Thank you for your interest in hosting a More Than Gold Mission Team during the 2012 Olympic Games.

We are looking forward to welcome thousands of Mission Team Members from all over the world who are going to serve alongside local churches during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This Church Host Pack consists of the following:

- A. What you can expect from a mission team.....
- B. Application Form Guidelines
- C. Host Family Guidelines.....

After reading through the above, please complete the Application Form to obtain a mission team to assist you with your outreach programme.

If you have any enquiries, or would like to speak further about this opportunity, please do contact Danita Beetge or Philippe How at the More Than Gold office on Tel. 0845 475 2012 or email us at missionteams@morethangold.org.uk.

If you have already partnered with one of the More Than Gold partner organisations or ministries, please feel free to be in contact with them directly for further consultation.

A. What to expect from a Mission Team

Training

Each Team Member receives a one and a half day compulsory training and orientation upon their arrival. This informs them of the do's and don'ts when doing ministry in the UK, cultural differences, safety, etc.

Each team member will have the knowledge that they are here to serve and strengthen the local church and that the community work needs to go on after the Games.

Accreditation

All mission teams coming through More Than Gold receive a backpack, t-shirt, lanyard with nametag and training material. Their name tag marks their official recognition and they will need to wear it in most situations where they are 'on duty'.

More Than Gold works with a number of official organisations, such as the Metropolitan Police. These organisations will be informed of the More Than Gold accreditation.

As part of our Child Protection Policy, More Than Gold requires all Team Leaders to have a current Criminal Records Bureau certificate or national equivalent police check.

More Than Gold assume that host churches will have obtained a CRB Check in time for their programme.

Welcome to the UK

It would be helpful for churches to pick up their guests when they arrive in the UK and drop them off when they leave. If there is likely to be a cost involved for this that you wish your mission team to pay, you will need to make sure they know about this before you go ahead.

If your church cannot arrange transport to pick up the overseas team, then it would be helpful if you can send someone to meet them at their arrival point to help them make the journey.

Day off

We recommend that you plan a rest day for your team within their programme with you. These teams had a lot of expenses to cover to be able to be here and would appreciate time to experience the Games' atmosphere.

Cross Cultural Living

Cross cultural interaction is always a challenge and in this case, you would also need to consider different church culture and traditions. In the west, we are very work oriented whereas in other parts of the world, people are seen to be more important than getting things done!

In practice, this translates in differing priorities that may cause frustration. For example, how important punctuality is to you may not be the same as to your guest!

Some of these more common issues will be mentioned in the orientation days of the teams.

Internet

Your guests would need internet access so it would be helpful if you would allow them to do so. However, allowing them to use your landline is not recommended. It is better to encourage them to get a phone card or a UK SIM card.

Laundry

It would be a great practical help if you could provide laundry facilities, especially for our creative arts teams that perform in costumes, sport teams playing in their kit and those staying at accommodation facilities in places with no laundry facilities.

Medical

All our mission team members will be required to have medical insurance and if your guest becomes ill or injured, you should help them contact their insurance company.

If the injury is serious then call an ambulance or take them to the nearest hospital but make sure hosts inform their church leader as soon as possible. The church leader should let the overseas mission leader(s) know asap.

Culture Shock and Pastoral Issues

Hosts need to be sensitive to their guests as some may be on their first trip abroad. They may be homesick and struggle with the foreignness of the people and their

incomprehensible language! They may find the weather and people 'cold' and the food bland!

One of the signs to watch out for is when the person seems disorientated, withdrawn and just looks miserable, he or she may be experiencing what is known as 'Culture Shock'.

However, there may be more serious pastoral issues involved and hosts should contact their Pastor first and he/she will talk things over with the overseas team leaders.

We ask hosts to be wise when they have guests stay in their house and to ensure that money or expensive items are not left around but are put in a safe place.

Preparation before your guests arrive

It would be very useful if hosts can do some research and find out more about the place their guests will be coming from. Learn something about their culture, history and even a few phrases of their language.

Encourage the church congregation to pray for your mission team on a regular basis before their arrival in the UK.

Money Matters

Mission Teams staying in church halls or in private homes organised by the church will each contribute prorata £5 per day towards their accommodation and food expenses. Your church leaders may wish to waive this charge if your guests come from a less economically developed country. Do bear in mind that some of them have had to make a considerable sacrifice to make it to the UK.

General

We can't guarantee you will receive a mission team matching your requirements. We are planning to finalise placements with churches and organisations by 1 May 2012. You will then be notified if your application has been successful and you will receive the contact details of the team(s) allocated to you as soon as possible.

B. APPLICATION FORM GUIDELINES

If you are more than one church/organisation working together on one outreach programme, please complete one form for all your mission team requirements.

We want to find the team that will best meet your needs – and that is the reason for many of the questions on the application form. To help you respond, have the following explanations alongside the form as you fill it in so you can be clear as to what information is needed.

1. Contact Person

Please provide the contact details of the main contact person that will coordinate mission team activities during your 2012 summer outreach programme. If this person changes at any time, please inform us as soon as possible.

2. Church / Organisation Details

Here, please provide the church / organisation details.

3. Outreach Programme

Here, describe your proposed outreach programme in a short paragraph (please mention dates, venues, activities, etc). This will be very helpful when we get to the mission team placement process.

4. Team Details

Indicate number of team members needed and what kind of team assistance you require. You can also mention other language skills required in the language block if your community speaks other languages.

Please bear in mind a team consists of 5 to 20 mission team members. Please select activities that will suit your outreach programme the most. Remember a mission team is there to support your outreach programme and not to do your outreach programme for you.

Annexure A: Creative Arts Teams

** If you have selected a creative/performing arts team, please complete the annexure at the bottom of the form as well with more detailed questions.*

Annexure B: Sport Teams

** If you have selected a sport team, please complete the annexure at the bottom of the form as well with more detailed sport specific questions.*

Your church will have the choice of a coaching team, demonstrating sport team, a sport holiday club team or a playing team.

A sport coaching team can be ideal to reach your community through a one day coaching clinic where they will be coached on both technique and life skills. We recommend a ratio of 12 children per coach.

A demonstrating sports team can be used to gather a crowd through their public performance. Once they have an audience they will share their personal testimonies to share the gospel. Keep in mind that there are extra preparations to keep in account such as permits for public performances, equipment to be provided (for instance Taekwondo teams will require pieces of wood of a specific length and thickness) and safety regulations. These preparations will vary from sport type.

A sport holiday club team. With the Games being during the summer break it is the ideal opportunity for a sport holiday club to keep children occupied and safe. A sport holiday club will be over a maximum period of four days. If you decide to provide accommodation for the children at the same time it can also double up as a sports camp.

A playing team. Organising match days or tournaments can be very rewarding as an outreach to your community. It would be vital to get playing teams of more or less the same playing standards (amateur, semi-professional, age, etc.) to compete in a match or a tournament.

It is recommended that a playing team play a maximum of six games over a period of eight days. They can also be available to do ministry work in 2/3 of the day including a match. Once again there are a few extra things to keep in mind for the church to organise such as organising the sport field and refreshments during half time for instance.

5. Outreach Dates

Mission Teams will mainly be available during three blocks. Each block starts with an orientation of one and a half days at scheduled venues, followed by the outreach phase at your church. International Teams will be asked to arrive in the country on the first day of the block.

- Block 1: 24 July – 3 August 2012 (Teams can start with your church outreach on the 26th)
YWAM Teams: 25 July – 3 August (YWAM teams can start with your church outreach on the 27th)
- Block 2: 3 – 13 August 2012 (teams can start with your church outreach on the 5th)
Catholic Mission Teams will only focus on Block 2: Arriving for orientation on 1 August, starting with your church outreach on the 5th)
- Block 3: 28 August – 10 September 2012 (Paralympics) (teams can start with your church outreach on the 30th)
- One Day: You will also be able to select one day if you are planning a one-day event. Please also provide the specific date(s) on your application.

The dates for Operation Mobilisation Mission Teams are slightly different as they will have various outreach programmes they can assist with starting from 20 July to 12 August 2012.

You will be asked to indicate your outreach dates on the application. You may choose more than one block. The Mission Team will most likely alternate with another team when choosing more than one block.

6. Accommodation

Some of our mission teams will make use of the More Than Gold suggested accommodation. If you do not provide accommodation for the teams, they will be available to join your outreach programme on the third day of the block as indicated in section 5.

Some of our teams will prefer to stay at churches or nearby schools (the venue would need to have kitchen and toilet/washing facilities) or with a host family while serving your church. Your church will need to decide if you can provide suitable accommodation for team members whether it is in the church, nearby school or with the host families, and indicate that on the application form. All such accommodation will need to be coordinated by your church.

If you do provide accommodation for the teams, they will need accommodation on the first night of the block already although they will attend the orientation programme for the first one and a half days.

If you are going to make use of home hosting, please provide the guidelines on page 7 section C of the Church Host Pack to your host families so that they will know what will be expected of them.

7. Meals

Some of our mission teams will make use of the More Than Gold suggested accommodation. Teams staying in booked accommodation will receive breakfast and a

packed lunch daily. ***We suggest that you provide at least one warm meal a day to reward your team for their hard work.*** You can coordinate this meal with the team closer to the time.

We request that mission team members who are being accommodated by your church are given breakfast and a hot meal each day, whether they stay in the church hall or at a host family coordinated by you. If you are going to make use of host families, make sure they are well informed on what is expected from them regarding meals.

We suggest you find out from your mission team regarding any special dietary requirements or allergies prior to their arrival.

Please make sure that your mission teams are well looked after in terms of fluid intake, especially if the teams need to be active during the outreach programme, performing arts and sports teams.

8. Transport

Mission Teams know they need to cover their transport costs to and from the UK and while in London.

If your outreach venue is outside London (outside zone 6) and teams do not receive accommodation with you during their block, More Than Gold recommends that you organise their transport to your venue, whether it is organising a shuttle, paying for transport with proper directions, etc. If so, please complete section 8. Transport on the application form.

C. A guide to Hosting Mission Team Members

More Than Gold are thankful to hosts who are keen to offer a warm hospitality to our teams and give them a memorable summer to cherish. Your ministry towards your guests is so vital and we trust they will be a blessing to you and your family as well.

This document gives you an idea of what hosting a member of a short term mission team involves. It should contribute towards making your experience of hosting a positive experience and one which will lead to long lasting friendship.

Gender

As Hosts, you have to indicate whether you would prefer to have a female or male guest or a married couple stay with you.

Accommodation

Your guest would need to have their own room and this facility would need to be available throughout the whole time they are volunteering.

Shower Time: Some of your guests may come from countries where they normally shower 3 times a day! We will encourage you to discuss recommended shower times with your guests, especially if some members of the household also need to share the bathroom.

Privacy

All your guests should have their own bedroom and will not share a room with one of your children.

Please do not keep your guests up too late after they have been at work all day.

Meals

Please find out from the church what is expected from the host family regarding meals. Make sure that you do ask for any special dietary requirements and/or allergies beforehand.

Time Schedule

Please make sure that your guests are up in plenty of time to have shower and breakfast and be at the scheduled location on time.

Please check with your church co-ordinator regarding the scheduled location and arranged times.

There will be a full day off per BLOCK for your guests for recreation. It would be great if you and your family could offer to show them around if they so wish.

Transport

Hosts are required to drop their guests at the meeting place every day or at the nearest transport spot to travel to the outreach venue. Picking them up at church or from the station in the evening would be greatly appreciated.

Chores

Your guests are required to keep their bedroom tidy and to do some basic chores such as helping to clear up after meals or wash up. However, they should not be asked to babysit.

Medical

All our mission team members will be required to have medical insurance and if your guest becomes ill or injured, you should help them contact their insurance company. If their injury is serious then call an ambulance or take them to the nearest hospital but make sure you inform your church leader as soon as possible.

Final Word.

The main goal is for your family to provide a homely environment to your guest and to treat him/her as a member of your family during their time with you.