



URBAN MISSIONS TRIP TRAINING HANDBOOK



City on a Hill

Urban Missions Trip Handbook

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Section 1

City on a Hill Missions Trip Overview

Introduction

First of all, we are so excited you are considering or have already made the commitment to be a part of City on a Hill's Urban Missions Trip! In previous years, we've had great results with the mission teams that came to City on a Hill. City on a Hill has offered all-inclusive urban missions trip since the summer of 2005. Each year our program has grown and further developed into an amazing experience for those who have participated. We're excited for what God has in store for you in the upcoming months.

This handbook is specifically designed to prepare those who are coming on a City on a Hill Missions trip and to assist leaders in their planning. It is ***highly recommended*** for those who coming to complete the handbook in order to get the most out of their urban mission's experience. Feel free to duplicate any material in this handbook.

History of City on a Hill

On December 29, 2000, City on a Hill received four large buildings that once served as a major hospital in Milwaukee's central city. This unprecedented gift returned the property to its original mission more than a century ago - to serve the poor as an expression of faith.

In 1863, a brick farmhouse on this hilltop property became Milwaukee Hospital established by the Lutheran Deaconess to care for the needs of the poor. Early on, supporters of the ministry rallied repeatedly to the opposition faced from those who considered the hospital a source of contagious disease. Milwaukee Hospital, later called Lutheran Hospital, was operated as a charitable facility, with volunteer physicians and staff. Eventually the hospital garnered philanthropic support, developed other funding streams, and became a prominent medical institution.

Later, however, changes in medical technology, health care financing and neighborhood demographics led to the decline of the hospital, which eventually merged with another to become Good Samaritan Medical Center. In the mid-1990s the medical center's owner, Aurora Health Care, struggling with mounting losses, merged its services into another nearby central city hospital, leaving six large buildings vacant.

In August of 2000, a local Assemblies of God ministry and a large national organization, Convoy of Hope, conducted a community outreach event on the parking lot of the vacant hospital. 8,000 neighborhood residents attended the free event, benefiting from a job fair, health services, children's games, food distribution, haircuts, and many other activities. Impressed by the event and concerned about the deterioration of the neighborhood, the owners initiated a discussion with the board of the local Urban Ministry Center. Four months later Aurora transferred its four remaining

buildings totaling 321,000 square feet to the newly incorporated non-profit organization, known today as City on a Hill.

This property in the heart of Milwaukee is now returning to its original mission - to serve the poor. This time Christians are working together to meet not only the physical needs, but also the spiritual needs of impoverished families. Our mission is to be a catalyst working to save children, reach parents and transform families in Milwaukee's central city neighborhoods.

Like the hospital's founders, City on a Hill is relying on the support of donors who contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars to meet the needs in our central city, along with partner organization, co-located in our facility. City on a Hill is contributing to transformation in our neighborhood, reconciliation in our city, and revitalization in our partner churches. As Jesus urged his disciples in his Sermon on the Mount, we are letting our light shine, like a city on a hill.

Why Do We Offer Urban Mission Trips?

In Acts 1:8, God commanded us all to be His witnesses “in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**”. The inner cities of America are the Samaria’s of today. Just like Samaria during the Bible times, our inner cities are filled with ethnic strife and spiritual darkness. Many people avoid driving through the inner city while going to a sports game or other activities, just the way the Jews would deliberately go the long way to avoid Samaria. During Jesus’ ministry, he intentionally ministered in Samaria to share the Good News with people in need.

Our purpose in offering short-term missions trips is to **equip** those who attend to let their **LIGHT SHINE** in a city of darkness according to **MATTHEW 5:14-16**, and to **encourage** participants to do the same when they return home to their own communities and schools.

Matthew 5:14-16- *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

***To fulfill this purpose, we will focus on four areas:
servanthood, compassion, evangelism & racial reconciliation.***

Why Milwaukee?

The city of Milwaukee is in need of the “light” of Christ. Sadly, Milwaukee has been noted as one of the most segregated cities in America, where poverty, drugs, and violence are escalating at an alarming rate. Below are some statistics about Milwaukee:

- ❖ Milwaukee is the 7th poorest city in the United States
- ❖ 41% of the children in Milwaukee are living in poverty
- ❖ 42% of people that are homeless are families with children
- ❖ 2 out of 3 of babies are born to single mothers
- ❖ More African American babies die in Milwaukee than in any other city in the nation. City on a Hill’s zip code, 53233, has the highest infant mortality rate than any zip code in the nation.
- ❖ 54% of families earn less than \$15,000 a year
- ❖ Milwaukee has one of the highest black male jobless rate in the USA
- ❖ More extreme-poverty neighborhoods than LA, NYC, Detroit, or Washington DC.
- ❖ Is one of the top 5 drug infested cities in America

Benefits of a City on a Hill Urban Missions Trip

Pastors, Church leaders and Church Members will have a new way to invest in the lives of their adults and youth and to help them see the works of God first-hand.

Pastors/Church Leaders will be able to send their church members to a place where they will receive hands on ministry training in many different aspects.

Participants will take part in many life changing experiences. They will be encouraged to be lights in their own communities.

Preparing for your Trip

Experience has taught us that six days may not give participants enough time to fully grasp the ministry education that they will experience on the missions trip. To help, we’ve created a handbook for participants to review **before** they come on the trip. If you are apart of a group, we recommend that you complete the handbook as a team using the following timeline:

- ◆ 16 Weeks Before Trip - Sections 1–Overview
- ◆ 12 Weeks Before Trip- Section 2- Finding Support (Fundraising)
- ◆ 8 Weeks Before Trip – Section 3 – Evangelism & Testimonies
- ◆ 6 Weeks Before Trip - Section 4 - Servanthood

- ◆ 4 Weeks Before Trip - Section 5 - Compassion
- ◆ 3 Weeks Before Trip- Section 6- Racial Reconciliation
- ◆ 2 Weeks Before Trip- Section 7- Last Minute Details

At the end of each section in the handbook, there is a page called “Keeping it Alive”. These are ideas for you to help keep the principles “alive” from the previous sections, until you come on the trip. *We expect those coming to have a basic understanding of the four key points and also to be prepared to give their testimony when they arrive.*

Making an Impact: How will we do it?

In order for participants to get most out of their experience at City on a Hill, we have chosen four topics to incorporate into each day of the missions trip. We chose these topics because we believe they are the most critical and influential ways to truly understand what it means to be a light for Christ. Our goal when students leave City on a Hill, is that they not only take with them a great missions experience, but also Biblical training in these four areas.

1. Servanthood- Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus Philippians 2: 3-4

To be a disciple of Christ, we must learn to humble ourselves and become servants like Christ did while on earth. By our actions, we can be "light" and reach others for Christ.

Teams will participate in serving the families in City on a Hill's neighborhood through Adopt-a- Block, participating in a service projects, and serving at a local missions and organizations.

2. Compassion- Be Love in Action Colossians 3:11-12

Compassion is rooted in love, the love of Christ; and it is up to us to share His love with others. People coming into the city often "feel bad" for the people and circumstances they encounter. Feeling bad is the first step to compassion, but ONLY the first step. Compassion requires action! The ministering and miracles that Jesus performed on earth were the actions that flowed from the love he had for people.

Teams will have the opportunity to act upon the love they have for the people they meet. They will be involved in planning and hosting an outreach event for the children in our neighborhood. They will also participate in a 40 hour poverty simulation, where they live at the income level of the families in a poor neighborhood. More information can be in the Poverty Simulation Leader's Packet, if you have not received one, please contact City on a Hill at 414-931-6670 or info@cityonahillmilwaukee.org.

3. Evangelism- Be a Light in Darkness **Matthew 5:14-16**

As Christians we are commanded to share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ. Evangelism can be a scary thing that requires people to get out of their comfort zone and to be obedient to Christ's commands. Team members will be in a setting where they'll learn to rely on God for the courage to speak to others about the gospel and their personal testimony. They will be able to take that courage back home and become better witnesses for Christ to their friends and families.

Teams will receive training and hands-on experience with local street evangelists. They will also go out onto the streets to share Christ and to pray for the people they meet. City on a Hill will provide training preparation and practice prior and during their missions experience. By the end of the 6-day trip, team members will become more comfortable telling others what Christ has done for them personally.

4. Racial Reconciliation- Be One who Brings Unity **Galatians 3:28**

Fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King stated, "Eleven o'clock Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America." Unfortunately, this is still true today. This should be a wake up call for the church. As Christians, our goal should not only be to bring people to Christ, but also to bring reconciliation among brothers and sisters in Christ across all races and ethnic groups. While on the trip, team members will be confronted with the issue of prejudices within themselves, their race, and what they must do to have a mindset like Christ. They will leave City on a Hill with a better understanding of the cultural differences between people and how to bring about reconciliation.

Teams will learn about the history of slavery and racism in the United States from a guest speaker or visit to America's Black Holocaust Museum. They will also participate in group activities that will get them to think about personal prejudices and how to relate with people who are culturally different from themselves. Groups will also attend cross-cultural church services.

Overview of Trip Schedule

Below is a general schedule of the main activities of a City on a Hill missions trip. Each day incorporates group/personal devotions, time of reflection and group prayer.

Tuesday- (start @1pm)

Emphasis: Racial Reconciliation & Evangelism

- ◆ Guest Speaker about Slavery & Racism in America
- ◆ Tour of Milwaukee
- ◆ Cultural & Racial Reconciliation Activities
- ◆ Prepare & Practice Testimonies

Wednesday

Emphasis: Servanthood & Racial Reconciliation

- ◆ Adopt-a-Block- Neighborhood Service Project
- ◆ Volunteer at local shelter(s)
- ◆ Attend cross cultural church service
- ◆ Start Poverty Simulation

Thursday

Emphasis: Compassion & Evangelism

- ◆ Poverty Simulation activities
- ◆ Street Evangelism

Friday

Emphasis: Compassion & Racial Reconciliation

- ◆ Poverty Simulation
- ◆ Go out to eat @ ethnic restaurant
- ◆ Prepare for Children's activities for Super Saturday

Saturday

Emphasis: Evangelism

- ◆ Prepare & Host Super Saturday Outreach
- ◆ BBQ @ Lake Michigan
- ◆ Trip Reflection Service

Sunday

Emphasis: Racial Reconciliation

- ◆ Attend cross cultural church service
- ◆ Trip debrief/Evaluation
- ◆ Pack up & head home (no later than 2:30pm)

What others are saying...

"They [The youth] now know their testimonies better and see a real need to share it, and to share Christ, with others. As for myself, I loved it. I could lead but also follow. The leaders at City on a Hill did a great job at preparing it. This experience is invaluable for me. I have different, almost new eyes of compassion. I hope my youth understand how being a Christian isn't just about their personal relationship, but also how that relationship must be used to help others."

-Pastor Preston, Marquette MI

While I was here, my eyes were opened to the poor. I will never look at a poor person the same. I grew a lot closer to God on this trip and became bolder in my faith.

-Arianna, Appleton WI

I always knew racism was problem. I knew that all races are different, but this trip opened my eyes to how much we are alike.

-Jason, Germantown WI

"I'm able to look at others who are less fortunate than me in a compassionate way. I need to find out what the needs are where I can help. It requires motivation and effort to make a difference. I felt every bit of information that was given was extremely valuable. The trip opened my eyes to all the outside things that are affecting our community"

-Benjamin, Oconto Falls WI

"I learned that I need not be ashamed to share my testimony with my friends, family, and anyone I encounter".

-Amanda, Excelsior MN

"My experience has changed the way I think of the poor, the way I appreciate things and the many things I learned about evangelism, racial reconciliation, compassion, and Servanthood".

-Brittney, New Richmond WI

"Books can't teach and speakers can't communicate what the missions trip opens your eyes to. You owe it to yourself to become educated in a culture that so many of God's people live inside of"

-Pastor Jason, Kingsford MI

Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in the price of the missions trip?

This amount includes meals, housing, ministry supplies, training, Missions Trip Handbook to prepare you for the trip, Missions Trip Journal and a City on a Hill T-shirt for each team member.

What time to do should we arrive & depart City on a Hill?

Our program begins on Tuesday at 1 pm with welcome & orientation (no lunch provided). Groups will depart on Sunday no later than 2:30 pm. If you have special requests regarding these times, please contact City on a Hill. If you are flying, please allow plenty of time for airport travel. Also, if a group would like to housing on Monday night, there is an additional charge of \$20/person. Please call Brooke for more details.

Where will teams be sleeping?

Team members will be staying in the dorms of City College Milwaukee on the campus of City on a Hill. Housing will be divided, with males and females on separate floors. The number of people in the room will vary between 2-9 people as room sizes vary. All housing floors and all exterior doors are kept secure at all times.

What will be doing for our meals?

The menu and meals are provided by City on a Hill and prepared by City on a Hill staff and missions teams (It is a great team building activity). It is important that City on a Hill is aware of any food allergy or diet restriction, please make sure all participants complete the Participant Application and send to City on a Hill prior to their trip.

How much money should we bring for spending money?

Bringing a lot of spending money is not necessary. There will be a couple opportunities where students may be interested in purchasing items/souvenirs. One meal the team will be going out to eat for dinner, students will need about \$10 for the meal. Vending machines are also available at City on a Hill for those wanting additional snacks. A suggested amount of spending money is \$30- \$40 per person.

Transportation

Please bring your own method of transportation to City on a Hill. Transportation will be needed while on the trip. The majority of the activities will be within walking distance. When a vehicle is needed City on a Hill will use the vehicle that the group has brought. If your group is flying, you must make arrangements for transportation when you land.

Are there any promotional materials available?

A Promotional DVD can be requested from City on a Hill. You can view the promotional video at our website, <http://www.cityonahillmilwaukee.org>. Please use the DVD to excite and educate your church about all that City on a Hill is doing!

Are there any items we can bring to donate to the ministry of City on a Hill?

During the summer, we're always in need of **dollar store prizes** and **small plastic or paper cups** and **candy** for our children's outreach programs. If you have any other ideas or requests, please talk to City on a Hill staff during the registration process.

Background Checks

City on a Hill requires a current background checks on all adult leaders/sponsors on youth missions trips. If the church has not already done a background check, City on a Hill will required the individual to have one done in order to attend. Any college students or adult participant that are not registered through a church are required to have a background check completed through City on a Hill during the registration process.