



TRINITY INTERNATIONAL

BAPTIST MISSION • CAROL STREAM • ILLINOIS

2015 SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

Trinity International Baptist Mission (SBC)
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2015 Mission Team Dates:

Essentially, we are available to host teams during March spring breaks, June, July, and (to a limited extent) August. The team is expected to be available for orientation on Saturday afternoon and to depart on the following Saturday.

Short-Term Mission Trip Opportunity Description:

Basic Information

Trinity International Baptist Mission (TIBM) is a church-planting and mission team committed to glorifying God by bringing the hope and wholeness of Jesus Christ to scattered people everywhere — beginning in Chicagoland. We seek to carry out this mission among the least-reached and least-engaged diaspora people groups in the metro area by focusing on 7 key tasks:

1. Loving God
2. Praying
3. Making disciples
4. Raising up and developing leaders
5. Planting new churches
6. Learning from our experiences and sharing with others
7. Partnering with others in God's global mission

Practically, this means that we find ourselves involved daily in a wide variety of ministries, from teaching English to refugees and helping plant and develop immigrant churches to prayerwalking at temples and mosques and hosting church services and outreach events in our homes. Each year, it is our privilege to invite volunteer mission teams to join us in our work. Our hope is that through these mission trips:

- the Lord will advance His Kingdom among our neighbors of many nations,
- that He will powerfully and lastingly impact the lives of those volunteers who come,
- that these brief mission trip experiences will lead to long-term mutual partnerships between our ministry and local churches, associations, and other ministries across North America,
- and that He will raise up from those teams full-time missionaries and long-term prayer and financial supporters for our team.

If you are interested in bringing a volunteer team to Chicago for a week or more of challenging cross-cultural ministry, **please carefully review** the following information. While there is some flexibility with the details below, keep in mind that we have tried to create a mission trip experience that will not only engage your team in activities that will genuinely help our on-going work here but will also richly bless the spiritual lives of the volunteers who come to serve. The details below are strategic, not arbitrary. Submitting a deposit (see below) is understood to be a signal that you have read, understood and agreed to what follows.

Point of Departure

While designing and entering into a long-term partnership is another thing altogether, we do understand even a short-term mission trip to be an act of Christian partnership. In particular, it is an act of partnering in mission. With that in mind, we must establish a basis for our partnership in Christ's mission. There are two key aspects to that foundation that we may consider our "point of departure." This is where the relationship between Trinity International Baptist Mission and your group begins:

1. **Foundation of Understanding** – It is our expectation that any group that wishes to raise up and send a short-term team will take time to familiarize themselves with our ministry and history. We have sought to make this very easy to do by creating a detailed website at <http://tibm.org>. Here you may find information that will enable you to get a good understanding of who we are and what God has been doing in and through us. In order to cultivate understanding on our side, we hope that you will make available to us a web site or some other resource that will help us to get to know you.
2. **Foundation of Theology and Missional Commitment** – TIBM has adopted the Lausanne Covenant as an especially missions-focused statement of faith that sits alongside our affirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message. The Lausanne Covenant, we have found, is an especially clear and faithful articulation of the essentials of the Biblical Christian theology as well as a powerful expression of our commitment to Christ's global mission.

Your group should read and affirm the Lausanne Covenant prior to scheduling your trip. One of the most influential Evangelical documents of the past 100 years, this covenant has been the basis for cooperation globally for innumerable churches, mission agencies, and Christian organizations. It is readily available online at <http://www.lausanne.org/covenant>.

Trip Overview

Teams of **4-15 volunteers*** are welcome to partner with us in performing day and evening ministry among some of the least-reached people groups in Chicagoland including Hindus, Muslims, and other immigrant populations. Included in the trip will be a minimum of two days of prayer, vision, and learning, three days of specialized ministry specific to your team, and a “Chicago Day.” Every day the team will be expected to engage in strategic prayer (including prayerwalking) and worship. Because we believe that it is critically important that volunteers connect with and relate to career missionaries during their short-term trips, those of us that make up the Trinity International team will spend as much time as possible with the volunteer group during the week. Finally, we require that each team spend some time at the end of the trip debriefing, praying, and worshipping with us.

Who can go? We request volunteers be followers of Jesus who are at least of high school age. At this time, most of our trips are designed for people who are able to walk for extended periods of time. Teams larger than 15 members will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Multi-ethnic teams can be especially helpful.

Prayer, Vision, and Learning

Each team will spend one day of ministry and learning in “Little India” (or another multicultural neighborhood) and another day of prayer, vision, and orientation that will include visits to strategic sites in the western suburbs (e.g. a Hindu temple, a mosque, and a local marketplace). The activities of these two days will give the volunteers the opportunity to learn about the vision of Trinity International as well as basic information about prayerwalking, spiritual warfare, missions, cross-cultural ministry and non-Christian religions. Team members will meet and interact with Muslims, Hindus and others both in marketplace settings and in their places of worship. Past volunteers have described their experiences during these days as powerful and life-changing.

Ministry Days

The activities on these “ministry days” depend on the main purpose(s) for your team volunteering with us as well as other strategic considerations. Besides introducing your team to different aspects of our ministry, we are also committed to helping equip your team to become more effective in presenting the good news of Jesus Christ to people of other national, cultural and religious backgrounds. We want to help you return home better equipped for cross-cultural missions.

Worship with TIBM

Your team will have the opportunity to experience “typical” worship gathering with the Trinity family while you are here. You will have unique chances to worship, pray, and fellowship with Christ-followers from various parts of the world. You will also have an opportunity to bless us by leading in worship in various ways which may include music, preaching, drama, children’s ministry, teaching and more. We will work out the details once your week is booked.

Money Issues

Deposit -- Since we have a small staff and are committed to engaging volunteers in mission work that is strategic to the ongoing ministry here, whenever a team cancels, it creates a number of difficulties for us. For this reason, we ask teams to submit a non-refundable deposit before we reserve a week for them. This deposit helps offset some of the training and other expenses related to your week here. We have many groups and churches that request to bring a mission team each year. For this reason, we will not be able to reserve the week for your team until the deposit is submitted. **Please use the deposit submission form below to indicate you have read the information here.** If you would like to discuss adjusting dates or team size, all changes must be requested and approved by TIBM prior to submitting your deposit. Unapproved changes may result in cancellation of your trip and the loss of your deposit. **For teams who have not served with TIBM before, the deposit is \$300. For returning teams, the deposit is \$200 for a standard format week.**

Lodging: Housing is usually one of the biggest expenses for our volunteer teams. In most cases, free housing at local churches is NOT available or convenient. We ask that teams refrain from making arrangements at churches, organizations, or hotels without checking first with us. Depending on the main purpose of your ministry days, different hotels may be slightly preferable. We have a variety of lodging options that we will share with you. Most of our teams opt for staying at local hotels.

Meals: Up to four cross-cultural meals (probably Indian, Pakistani, and Ethiopian) will be planned as part of the vision and prayer days and probably a fast-food lunch as well. About \$50 per person should cover the cost of all these meals. **Please be prepared to pay for meals on a single ticket rather than asking the servers to divide the bill up several ways.** The number of other dining out meals will depend on the main purpose of your ministry days. We can give you an estimate of these other meals closer to your trip but we will try to help these costs not exceed \$80/person.

Transportation: Public transportation is NOT recommended for this trip as we will be in suburban areas most of the time. Gas prices in Chicagoland tend to be higher than in many other parts of the U.S. Also, some of our expressways require cash tolls (or an electronic toll pass).

“Chicago Day”

As part of your trip, a day will be scheduled for you to be on your own in Chicago (usually Thursdays). The purpose of this day is for you to rest and have fun as well as to let the Lord further open your eyes to this great and needy mission field. Each team is on their own in the planning and implementation of “Chicago Day” activities. It is strongly recommended that the team plan this day prior to coming, but we can give suggestions and help in obtaining train tickets, etc. Before making any plans for your Chicago Day, please confirm with us which day we have scheduled for you. In general, we recommend that you avoid attending major sporting events (like a Cubs game) because if last minute changes need to be made to the schedule it can cause problems. **DO NOT** plan any recreational activities on any day other than your scheduled “Chicago day”.

Cultural Issues / Modesty

Your team’s experience will be a very cross-cultural one. Few of your team’s presumptions about their experience, the people, the food, how to do ministry, etc. will prove true. Not to worry, we are here to help you, and we don’t expect you to swoop in and complete the Great Commission in one week anyway. On the contrary, the week is designed to help equip you for a lifetime of greater faithfulness in taking the Gospel to all peoples. Having said that, we ask that you keep the following cross-cultural ministry points in mind:

- **Training is essential!** Please make use of the training suggestions included below and be sure that your team arrives as prepared as possible. You’d be surprised at just how many teams arrive having spent practically no time preparing themselves. We are always discouraged when this happens.
- **Clothing:** Because some of the cultural groups you’ll be spending time with greatly value modesty in dress, **your team members should not wear shorts**, sleeveless or low-cut shirts, shirts/pants that expose the midriff, tight-fitting clothing, or dresses/skirts less than ankle length. Women can wear pants/jeans. Individuals who are improperly dressed may be restricted from fully participating in the day’s activities. Past teams who have ignored this warning have wasted time and money buying pants.
- **Public displays of affection:** Some of the cultural groups you will work with view public displays of affection between men and women as vulgar—even between husbands and wives. Please avoid public **hand holding, hugging, kissing, etc.**
- **Food:** Often the greatest points of connection and the greatest cultural conflicts occur over a meal. Your team needs to **be ready to eat food that seems strange** to them without calling it “weird” or otherwise criticizing it. Train yourselves to tolerate a greater degree of spiciness—for example. You will very likely be in situations where you will be offered food that you should be able to eat graciously. Doing so will honor your host and often make them more receptive to you and your message. Failure in this area is often seen as a rejection not just of food, but of the person who has prepared it.

- Bible: Many people from other religious backgrounds understand that the Bible is a holy book for Christ-followers. **For them, being physically disrespectful of a holy book means you are also disrespectful of its contents.** So, use care with your Bible. Don't place it on the floor. Don't use it as anything other than a holy book (= don't use it to sit on, as a coaster, to hold open a door, etc.). Don't toss or throw it around.
- Some of the families we work with are in old and under-maintained apartments that are prone to infestations of roaches, bed bugs, mice, or other annoying creatures. Unfortunately, far too many Christians avoid these kinds of cross-cultural ministry opportunities because they are afraid of transferring such critters to their own homes. We want to remind all teams that dealing with a few bugs is a small price to pay compared to that which Christ endured to bring us salvation. Team leaders should seek to prepare their team to be shock-proof regarding poverty, filth, vermin, unpleasant smells, and the like. Some teams may desire to plan to wash clothing at a laundromat on the last day of the trip in order to ensure that bugs are not inadvertently carried back home.

Preparation Advice and Final Thoughts

Finally, we expect the volunteer team to arrive prepared spiritually and logistically. Our commitment as a mission team is to utilize volunteers in truly meaningful ministry and to send them home with sharpened skills, a greater knowledge of God, an expanded vision for the nations, and a stronger stomach. Your team doesn't have to consist of "super-Christians"—in fact, you can be really flawed; however, every volunteer must have a genuine walk with Jesus, some basic understanding of prayerwalking, the physical ability to get around (one way or another), a willingness to try new things for the Lord (including unfamiliar food), a teachable and flexible spirit, and a servant's heart. We recommend at least several weeks of preparation as a team prior to arrival. This can be accomplished through weekly meetings, service-learning activities, prayerwalking practice, cross-cultural movie nights, smaller group meetings, and more. During team preparation, special attention should be paid to the personal holiness and discipleship of each member. Teams should also plan several weeks of post-trip discipleship in a team context.

We very strongly recommend utilizing the book *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-term Missions with Cultural Intelligence* by David Livermore in your preparation. This is one of the best works on short-term missions currently available.

Please contact us for suggestions for books, films, and other resources that may be helpful in preparing for your trip. The following are some of the best available:

- [*Experiencing God*](#) by Henry Blackaby
- [*Let the Nations be Glad*](#) by John Piper
- [*Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*](#) by Paul Hiebert
- [*Operation World*](#) by Jason Mandryk (newest edition)
- [*From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*](#) by Ruth Tucker

And films such as . . .

- *Simple Superstar* [Feature film by Wibur Sargunraj highlights a number of important themes relevant to our work and cross-cultural experiences. Also, features South Asian culture prominently. View for free: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wgc_FlqkHZw]
- *Bend it Like Beckham* or *Bride and Prejudice* [discuss different cultural values of Westerners and Indians]
- *God Grew Tired of Us* [Good insights on what it means to be a refugee in the U.S.]
- *The Sixth Sense* [Film was made by and Indian Hindu (Manoj Nelliattu Shyamalan) and reflects ideas about the spiritual realm common among S. Asians; to be views alongside reading the article here- <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/resources/detail/11623>]

Web sites . . .

- <http://www.tibm.org>, <http://tibmpray.wordpress.com>
 - TIBMPray is our prayer blog. We hope you and your team will begin following this blog as soon as you start preparing for your trip. If every member of your team begins to pray for our work here before you arrive, our week together will be much more powerful.
- <http://codylorance.blogspot.com>
 - Many articles here that could be useful for your entire team. These are mostly written by our team leader (Cody Lorange) and cover key topics such as Hinduism, Islam, contextualization, missions, diaspora, refugees and more.
- <http://www.wilbur.asia/>
 - A close friend of Trinity International, Wilbur's many great YouTube videos are the perfect way to begin developing your Cultural Intelligence (CQ).
- <http://answering-islam.org/>
 - Information and apologetics regarding Islam and Muslims.
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinduism>
 - Basic introduction to Hinduism
- <http://www.swaminarayan.org/globalnetwork/america/chicago.htm>, <http://kaival.com/default.aspx>, <http://www.radheyshyamtemple.com/>
 - A few Chicago area Hindu temples
- <http://www.masjidalhuda.org/index.html>, <http://www.muslimsocietyinc.org/>
 - A couple Chicago area Mosques
- <http://www.mislinks.org/>, <http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/>
 - Massive amounts of valuable material about missions on these sites. It is possible to design a mini-mission conference for your group just using this site.
- <http://joshuaproject.net>, <http://peoplegroups.org>, <http://peoplegroups.info>
 - Research and information about unreached people groups around the world and in the United States.

Sermons online that you can listen to as a group . . .

- http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/ConferenceMessages/ByDate/1996/1813/Doing_Missions_When_Dying_Is_Gain/

- [http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/ConferenceMessages/ByDate/1459 Praye
r The Work of Missions/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/ConferenceMessages/ByDate/1459_Praye_r_The_Work_of_Missions/)
- [http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1983/412 Missions Th
e Battle Cry of Christian Hedonism/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1983/412_Missions_Th_e_Battle_Cry_of_Christian_Hedonism/)
- There is more from John Piper on missions at <http://www.desiringgod.org>

Some helpful training experiences might include going together to an Indian restaurant, prayerwalking regularly as a team through your community, having a cross-cultural movie night, doing a Bible study together on missions or a book study based on one of the resources above, or doing a service project together in your community.

Deposit Submission Form for Short Term Mission Trip with Trinity International Baptist Mission

Team leader: Please initial each of these and sign at the bottom. Return this form with your deposit to TIBM, 112 Horizon Cir, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

_____ Our team will seek to bless TIBM, understanding that TIBM will also seek to bless us.

_____ Our team will train and make spiritual preparations together for this trip. We will also make every effort to meet together within one month after the trip.

_____ Each team member can affirm the Lausanne Covenant and will learn something about TIBM prior to our arrival.

_____ Our team will stay in approved lodging and will pay at restaurants on one ticket.

_____ Our team will dress modestly (as TIBM has described), avoid public displays of affection, be physically respectful of our Bibles, receive hospitality with thanksgiving and graciousness, and seek to be respectful to people of other cultures.

_____ Our team will consist of 4 – 12 volunteers who are willing to walk for extended periods of time.

_____ We plan to be able to arrive at TIBM by early afternoon on Saturday and to depart the following Saturday.

_____ I will be (or continue to be) in contact with TIBM about the main purpose of our trip.

_____ Enclosed is our nonrefundable deposit to secure the dates of _____.

_____ \$300 for new teams

_____ \$200 for returning teams

(If these dates are not available, TIBM will inform us promptly and return our deposit if there are no other suitable dates.)

Team leader's signature