

# Preparing for Your Mission Trip: Essential Checklists

## Preparation Checklist

- Obtain necessary documents:** Check to see if your passport meets the required criteria, because most countries require a six-month buffer between your travel dates and your passport's expiration date. Check to see if you need a visa, or any other travel documents for the destination country. Make sure you apply for or renew these documents well in advance.
- Review health requirements:** Research any health requirements such as recommended vaccinations for your destination country. Visit a travel clinic or consult your doctor to ensure you have all necessary immunizations. It's best to do this as soon as possible so you have time to get the necessary immunizations.
- Plan for financial needs:** Determine the local currency and exchange some money before the trip. Consider carrying a mix of cash and cards. Notify your bank about your travel plans to avoid any issues with card transactions.
- Learn local customs and traditions:** Gain knowledge about the customs, traditions, and social norms of the people group you'll be working with. This will help you navigate social interactions and show respect to the local community.
- Organize personal belongings:** Make a checklist of personal items to bring such as toiletries, medications, electronics, and travel adapters. Ensure you have everything you need for a comfortable and safe journey.
- Research cell phone plans:** Understand what the recommendations are for having a cell phone. In some countries you can purchase a SIM card for your phone, while in other countries it's best to purchase a local phone and service plan upon arrival.
- Pray:** Start praying for the people you will be ministering to. Ask God to prepare their hearts, to prepare your own heart, and to glorify Himself through you and your team.

## Packing Checklist

### Documents

- Passport
- Travel visa
- Personal ID
- Immunization records
- Plane tickets

### Consumables

- First aid supplies
- Medications
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Travel-size sunscreen (so it won't be confiscated at the airport)

### Clothing

- Clothes that are appropriate for the climate and culture
- Hat & sunglasses
- Swimsuit
- Closed-toed shoes

### Personal Items

- Phone, laptop, headphones, & chargers
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Power outlet adapter
- Camera
- Refillable water bottle
- Bible, journal, & pen
- Deck of cards, games
- Towel
- Cash, credit card, and/or debit card

### Other

- Gift from your home country for your host family (a way to honor someone in many cultures)