

Short Term Mission Trips at OCC

What kinds of things do you do on a mission trip?

Teams from Overlake serve in a variety of different capacities such as providing trauma care to refugees, coming alongside church planting movements, reaching out to women trafficked into the sex industry, caring for street children, responding to natural disasters, and much more. One thing that most of our trips have in common is that we seek to share Jesus' love with vulnerable people around the world.

I have never been on a mission trip. Do I need any special qualifications? I'm not sure what I have to offer.



Not at all! Can you smile, hand out Bibles, pray, and care about the lost? Your presence and prayers make all the difference in corners of the world where there is no witness of Christ. Additionally, in your pre-trip training you will be equipped and prepared for the activities of that mission trip. One thing we believe is that you don't need to have any special qualifications or be a spiritual giant to be able to serve, just a heart open to God that is willing to be used by Him!

How do you decide where teams go?

Every year Overlake sends out multiple short term teams to a variety of different countries. Almost all these teams are connected to missionaries who were sent out from Overlake and organizations that we have ongoing partnership with. Some of the countries we typically send teams to are: Thailand, Kenya, India, Spain, Chile, Israel, Peru, Puerto Rico and more.

I've never traveled overseas, is it OK for me to join?

No problem! What a better way to experience overseas travel than with a group of Christians from your church. It can seem frightening to think of stepping on a plane and leaving what is known to what is unknown, but that is part of God's plan to grow your faith. What you may not know is that every team is led by a caring, trained, and experienced leader who will prepare you each step of the way. You will find all about what to pack, how to prepare, what shots you need, how to get a passport, and even what to expect cross-culturally. You will grow in your faith as you obediently take that next step.



Can I bring my kids?

We greatly encourage exposing children to missions! Some trips are suitable for the entire family while others primarily for adults. Check out our trip list for age appropriate opportunities!

I want to go, but I just don't have the time.

Most of our trips are 10 days to 2 weeks. We try to schedule them to fall over weekends or existing national holidays, so that most team members only have to take 5 – 8 days off work to participate. Plan ahead and take a trip with a different kind of purpose! Trust me, there will never be a “perfect” time!

I really want to go, but I just don't have the money.

Usually trips cost between \$2,000-\$3,000 depending on length and location, but don't worry, we will help train you on support raising techniques. As you pray about going, God will lead you in decisions on how to save, make money, and ask for support from friends and family. He will also surprise you with financial support from people or places you would never have imagined. Remember, where God guides, He provides.



I just don't really feel 'called' to do missions.

Neither did John or Allison or Jake. They went out of obedience and discovered the amazing blessing of being available to God. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. You may not be called to spend the rest of your life living overseas, but missions is one of the primary purposes for why the church exists. Your experience internationally will help you discern God's plan for your life.

What is the process to join a mission trip with OCC?

- 1) Check out our Mission Trip List as well as our Process to Join an OCC Team at www.occ.org/teams.
- 2) Contact Pastor Laura at LauraA@occ.org to get your name on an Interest List for a specific trip or to ask any questions.
- 3) Apply for a team and attend all Team Training Meetings
- 4) Go, Serve, and be ready to be changed! You have no idea the blessings that await you!