

Applicant Welcome Letter

January 2009

Dear Short-term Mission Trip Applicant:

We bid you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your interest in the work that Remember The Poor International, Inc. is doing here in the United States and abroad.

Remember The Poor International, Inc. is a global organization that was created to work with churches to carry out Christian mission work (evangelizing, educating, feeding the hungry, and developing communities) among the poorest people in the world.

Remember The Poor International, Inc. currently has a vibrant field operation in the remote areas of Haiti. Our church of over 120 believers and school educating almost 400 students exists in the village of Boucan La Marre on the island of La Gonave off the coast of the Haiti mainland. These are among the poorest people, materially and spiritually, in the Western Hemisphere. This is why God has us there.

This packet contains vital information on our planned upcoming trip to Haiti in **March 2009**. We ask that you would take the time to read, meditate, and pray over the information. Allow the Spirit of the Lord to instruct you as what to do next. If you feel led to do so, please fill out the necessary paperwork and return it to the address listed on this form with the appropriate fees.

A few words of caution:

1. We sometimes call our mission trips “extreme” because there are no Wal-Mart’s, Starbucks, or Holiday Inns where we’re going. This place literally seems like the “uttermost parts of the earth” that Jesus mentioned.
2. Don’t be intimidated by the cost. The impact that the trip has on you, the people of the village, and the people in your circle of influence when you return far outweighs any financial concerns and hardships caused by raising the money to go. (Please ask your church & others for help to involve them.)
3. Prepare to be changed forever. To this date, no one has ever returned from this trip unchanged for life. God does something to each team member when they’re in the village that is inexplicable with words.

If God leads you to participate in this team effort, please pay close attention to the deposit deadlines. I’ll mention them again here for clarity.

- The trip costs **\$1600** total. The first deposit of **\$600** must be into our office by **February 6th**. This is vital to secure transportation for the team.
- The remaining **\$1,000** must be into our office by **February 20th**. This allows us to obtain vital supplies and make preparations before we leave on **Wednesday March 11th**.
- As you know, in 2008 Haiti was devastated by hurricanes. We’re believing God for **\$16,500** to repair damage in our church, school & village. This is totally separate from the cost of the trip. We would appreciate any assistance in raising this money so our team can perform the necessary repairs.
- We would appreciate a call at your earliest convenience confirming your interest.

Finally, the name of our church in the Haitian village is **Bondye La**. In Creole this means “**God Is There**”. Nothing could be truer as that name says it all. We hope you’ll join us in March. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for additional information at the number listed below or you can contact me via email at livingwitnessmin@verizon.net.

Sincerely In Christ,

Remember The Poor International, Inc.

P.O. Box 23351 Tampa, FL 33623 ♦ 813-425-3213

Pastor Alfonso Kirk, President – Remember The Poor International, Inc.

Remember The Poor International, Inc.

P.O. Box 23351 Tampa, FL 33623 ♦ 813-425-3213

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Trip Registration Form – Page 1

Trip Dates I am attending **03/11/09 - 03/19/09**

*Remember to include your \$600 deposit with this application.

Personal Information

Name [As it appears on your birth certificate/passport]

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Male Female Marital Status _____ Birth date ____/____/____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Church Affiliation

Church Name: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Church Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church Phone: _____ Website: _____

Do you have any medical restrictions for which we need to make special provisions (such as food allergies or other special needs)? If so, please list: _____

Personal History

Have you ever been on a mission trip before? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please write when, where and how would you describe your experience.

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Trip Registration Form – Page 2

Please rate your experience in the following categories and if applicable, provide an example:

	Good	Fair	Poor
Construction / Home Restoration	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Drama	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Worship / Music	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Technical {Sound Equipment}	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Children's Ministry	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Medical Missions	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
VBS / Educational	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Sports	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Automotive	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Bilingual (which languages)	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Evangelism/Witnessing	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____

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Trip Registration Form – Page 3

Approximate month and year you came to know Jesus: ____/____

Describe your current relationship with Jesus.

What do you see as your strongest and weakest characteristics? Why?

How do you respond to stress? Why?

What do you expect out of this trip?

I have provided the requested information to the best of my knowledge. I also give RTPI the right to use my picture, voice and/or testimony in any form of promotional and advertising material. I understand that it is my responsibility to meet the required deposit deadlines at the required times. I further realize that any money paid is non-refundable.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

As, _____ (applicant's name's) Pastor, I have reviewed and discussed the information in this form and the upcoming short-term trip to Haiti with him / her. I concur with his / her decision to take the trip at this time.

Pastor's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

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Short Term Mission Trip Guidelines

Please read, sign, and return to Remember The Poor International.

I hereby attest that I have or am seeking a born-again relationship with my Savior Jesus Christ. I understand that RTPI is an interdenominational ministry believing in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide believers in unity to do the Heavenly Father's work that was modeled in Jesus Christ. I also understand and will cooperate fully with each item stated in the RTPI missions packet. I am willing to submit to my team leader under all circumstances.

As a participant with RTPI, I am expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity and morality. Members of RTPI short term missions are expected to exhibit a high level of maturity and responsible behavior.

I am expected to help other team members maintain a quality atmosphere at all times. Both dress and behavior will exemplify the highest standards of a Christian example.

All team members are expected to follow these guidelines at all time during the trip regardless of the place or circumstances. Those who do not wish to abide by the guidelines set forth could face early dismissal from the trip at their own expense.

1. No illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.
2. Never go outside the field ministry compound without prior leadership approval
3. Never go anywhere alone, always have a buddy with you.
4. No profanity is allowed
5. No fighting, verbal or physical
6. Be on time to all meetings and/or team gatherings
7. No secular music

These guidelines and others will be discussed during the training sessions. These guidelines are intended for the team's physical protection as well the elimination of distractions, where possible.

I acknowledge I will not benefit financially in any way from this short-term mission outreach. This would include, but not be limited to, soliciting funds above the total trip fees including any necessary team supplies and keeping them to pay for other personal expenses or failing to turn in all funds solicited for the trip.

I recognize that all travel arrangements to the mission field are being handled and paid for by RTPI and its designated representatives with money raised by the team members for this express purpose. Therefore all travel awards and/or vouchers for free travel due to cancelled scheduled flights become the property of RTPI. Because of the dire needs of people being served by RTPI in order to maximize the effectiveness of our donors' contributions, there is no money in the operational budget for mission trips. This means that US Stateside RTPI representatives must raise funds for the mission trips in like manner as each team member.

Enforcement of these guidelines shall occur in a manner which RTPI staff and trip leader or leaders feel is in accordance with RTPI principles and the stated purpose of the mission. If in the event a team member is sent home, it is their sole responsibility and/or their family to cover any cost involved such as airfare, hotel, and food.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Pastor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant's Physical Health Release Form

The destination site for this short-term mission trip is extremely remote. You have the potential to be in high intensity activities and other physically challenging situations without immediate medical care available. Remember The Poor International recommends that you obtain approval from your doctor prior to taking this short-term mission trip.

_____ Yes, I choose to obtain a physical exam by a doctor prior to participating in a Remember The Poor International short term mission trip.

_____ No, I do NOT choose to obtain a physical exam by a doctor prior to participating in a Remember The Poor International short term mission trip.

I further understand that it is my sole responsibility to obtain Missionary Insurance, if so desired. I hereby understand that I take full responsibility for any insurance obtained or not obtained and in no way expect Remember The Poor International to provide missionary insurance for me.

Signature _____ Date _____

Doctor's Release Form

I have reviewed this patient's medical information and checklist form and I have performed a physical exam. I find him / her to be in suitable condition for international travel, participation in high intensity activities (such as hiking for several miles), and able to handle other challenges faced in a fourth world county.

Patient's Name _____

Physician Signature _____

Doctor's Name (Printed) _____

Date _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Agreement and Release of Liability

I, _____ residing at _____,
City of _____, Country of _____, State of Florida, acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in a short-term missions trip to Haiti, during _____ (dates), organized by Remember The Poor International, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation (hereinafter "RTPI").

I am aware of the hazards and risks to my person and property associated with my participation in the short term mission trip which include, but are not necessarily limited to, the possibility of death or injury resulting from accident, disease, civil or government unrest, war, terrorist acts (including being taken hostage), weather conditions inadequate or unavailable medical services or supplies. I am voluntarily participating in the short-term missions trip with knowledge of the danger involved and assume any and all risks of injury, death, or property damage.

In consideration of being permitted by RTPI to participate as a volunteer in the short term missions trip, I agree that I and my heirs, guardians, legal representatives, successors and assigns will not make claim against, sue, attach the property of, or prosecute RTPI, its directors, officers, employees, agents or servants, for any injury, death, or property damage occurring to me as a result of my participation in the short term mission trip, whether caused by negligence of RTPI, its directors, officers, employees, agents or servants, or any other person, persons or entities. In addition, I release and discharge RTPI, its directors, officers, employees, agents or servants from all actions, claims or demands that I and my heirs, guardians legal representatives, successors or assigns, now or in the future, may have for any injury, death, or property damage resulting in my participation of in the short term mission trip.

I agree for myself and my heirs, guardians, legal representatives, successors and assigns that in the event any claim for personal injury, death or property damage shall be prosecuted against RTPI, its directors, officers, employees, agents or servants, I shall indemnify and save harmless RTPI, its directors, officers, employees, agents or servants, from any and all such claims causes of action by whomever made and wherever presented.

I have carefully read this Agreement and Release and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and an indemnification contract between myself and RTPI, it's directors, officers, employees, agents or servants, and sign it of my own free will.

Date this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature _____.

Pastor's Signature _____.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE NOTARIZED

State of _____.

County of _____.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 20__, by _____, the person described in and who executed the foregoing Agreement and Release of Liability, and acknowledged before me that it was executed for the purposes therein expressed, Notary Public

Commission Expires _____ Commission Number _____.

Personally known _____ or produced identification _____ Type of identification _____.

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Important Things To Remember – Page 1

Pre-Travel Information:

- **A valid Passport is required for travel.** The application process will take at least 6 weeks to complete. We recommend you begin this process as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary expedition fees.
- **Immunizations Shots** are also required for travel to remote areas such as Haiti. This process should begin no later than 90 days before departure date and may be obtained through your Doctor or local Health Department. The shots you need are as follow:
 - Typhoid (Oral medication lasts 5 years, Shots last 2 years)
 - Tetanus (Up to date)
 - Hepatitis A
 - Hepatitis B (This is a series of 3 shots. You need to have the first 2 series completed before departure date)
- In addition, you will need to obtain a prescription for **anti-malaria medication** (Chloroquine or Methloquine) from your doctor or through your local Health Department. This is to begin 2 weeks prior to departure date on the day of the week chosen by the team (to make it easy for everyone to remember).
- **Start Fund Raising Now**– Each team member is to stand in faith to raise **\$1600** per person that will cover the cost of the trip and airfare departing from Tampa, FL, as well as food, water, supplies, transportation in Haiti, tents, etc. This excludes travel expenses to Tampa, spending money, airport meals, missions insurance, personal shots, personal medications, any medical fees, personal phone calls from Haiti (\$5.00 US for every 3 minute call when available.), and any other personal items needed for your trip. The amount of spending money other teams have recommended to bring is between \$75-\$300. Smaller bills recommended. You will find many opportunities to bless many people.
- **Deposits – \$600 by Feb 9th 2008, Remaining \$1,000 by Feb 23.**
 - Initial transportation arranged with 1st deposit. Supplies & materials obtained with remainder.
- **Additional Fund-Raising** – In addition to your trip expenses, please contact Remember The Poor if you are willing to help raise additional funds to achieve the activities of this trip. We need **\$16,500** to fully complete our work.
- **Fasting** - As part of our overall preparation for this trip, we ask each member of the team to participate in a 3 day fast. The team will decide on the dates as the trip departure date approaches. We also recommend you to discuss this time of fasting with your pastor.
- **Pre-Trip Training Meetings** – RTPI will remain in contact with you throughout your preparation time and asks that all team members relax their schedules 2 or 3 weeks prior to departure. This will allow time for training, any last minute supply packing, and opportunities for the team members to pray and worship together before heading to the field. This time is extremely important for the overall missionary experience for not just each individual team members, but for the team as a whole to be unified as we prepare ourselves to minister together to the people in Haiti.
- In this information packet, you will find a list of “**Stuff to Round Up**”. Look for items you are willing to leave in Haiti as most of the items we bring to Haiti as a team will be left as a blessing for the villagers. We recommend you to visit your local thrift store if needed when selecting clothing to bring with you. This process of gathering supplies can take some time so we recommend you to start early, be on the look out wherever you go, and get your fellow church members involved in helping you collect these necessities. Remember, there is no Wal-Mart where we are going!
- Complete all the **necessary paperwork** included in this packet and return it to RTPI office as soon as possible.

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- **Make 3 copies** of your passport, driver's license, and insurance card (front / back). Give a copy to your US contact (Emergency Contact Person), send a copy with your paperwork to RTPI, and keep one for yourself during travel.

Important Things To Remember – Page 2

Travel Days:

- Team leaders will carry all passports.
- While at the airport in Port-Au-Prince, be mindful of your surroundings. When walking through the airport, keep your backpack in front of you. There will be many people wanting to help you with your luggage, for a fee. If anyone touches your luggage not approved by your leader, say “No, Meri Si” (No, thank you) and keep moving.
- Stay with the group at all times.
- If your team will be traveling by boat, be mindful of any motion sickness you may have. It gets very sunny on the boat so we suggest you bring a hat and/or umbrella and to use sunscreen.

About the Water:

- There is a water cistern and new well on campus that provides water for the school, church, and feeding programs. This water is also used for staff and team bathing, but team members CANNOT drink it. There will be bottled water purchased for the team to use for drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth. This water will be available for you to use at all times. We recommend you to drink 3-4 medium bottles (approximately one gallon) a day.
- When bathing, use flip flops, be aware of the quantity of water used, and mindful not to allow the water to get into your mouth or nose. Further instruction will be given to you in country regarding shower usage.
- Please ensure you replace the lid securely on the 5 gallon community water bottles. More instruction will be given in country regarding usage of this water.
- We do not recommend you to drink water or anything with ice that has not been provided for you by the ministry.
- When drinking out of a soda bottle, wipe off the mouth and neck of the bottle with an alcohol wipe and use a straw.

Cultural Things:

- Each person on the team will have the opportunity to donate their belongings to the people in Haiti. All donations, financial or material, must go through Pastor Pierre Fedner in Haiti.
- Please do not make promises to the villagers that you are not going to follow through on even in passing. Something as simple as saying “See you later” is taken very seriously.
- We encourage you to say “Hello” (Bon Jour – Good morning, Bon Swa – noon until bedtime, and Bon Nuit – Good Night) to everyone you encounter.
- Do not give out any personal information such as phone numbers or addresses for yourself or the ministry.

General Team Information:

- For your convenience, we recommend for you to keep a flashlight with good batteries, alcohol wipes, a roll of toilet paper, mosquito spray, Bible, and journal near your bed.
- We encourage you to keep a journal while on this short-term trip. Each morning you will have the opportunity to spend quiet time with God. Use your journal to record thoughts or scriptures that come to mind.
- While on the mission field, situations arise that require you to step out of your comfort zone. If you encounter a stressful situation when amongst the villagers, be discreet with your emotions. In dealing with these situations, we encourage you to maintain the appearance of confidence and love, even if you are concerned or afraid.
- Take Malaria meds as a team once a week on the same day! The team can decide on the day.
- Ask your leader for approval before taking photos.
- Be mindful in wearing jewelry. We recommend wedding bands only.
- Make sure to cleanse hands and nails thoroughly before touching your face or rubbing your eyes.
- Clean your hands frequently with alcohol wipes.

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- There are parasites transmitted to people from other people, animals and the ground. Be careful in sharing items such as water bottles, chairs, and clothing with other people. Do not pet any animals outside of the compound. Keep shoes on your feet at all times.

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Stuff to Round Up

****Plan to leave all or most items there.****

Personal Items

- Passport, Driver License, & insurance card
- Airline ticket confirmation codes
- Malaria medications
- Any personal medications/vitamins
- Backpack
- Wheeled carryon
- Bible, Pens, Journal
- Camera and accessories – optional
- Flip flop shoes (for showering)
- Sandals with thick bottoms
- Sunscreen 15-50 SPF, lip balm, sunglasses
- Small umbrella or rain poncho – optional
- Large brim hat – optional
- Small pocket size Kleenex tissues – 2 packs
- Money belt for under clothes
- 2 Towels and 2 wash cloths - Thinly napped (easy to dry)
- Clothing List:
 - 8-10 T-shirts
 - 7-8 pairs of long shorts
(Cargos with pockets works well. Women, no jeans please)
 - 2 nice outfits for church services
 - Men - shirts w/ Khaki or nice pants
 - Women – skirts and/or dresses
 - 1 sweatshirt and 1 sweatpants
 - thick socks
 - 10-12 pairs of underwear and under garments
 - Modest Swim Suit (if your team is staying on the mainland)
 - Men – long trunks
 - Women – one piece suits

Team Items:

- Basic First Aid Items
 - Band-aids, Neosporin, Imodium
 - Dramamine – optional
- Pre-packaged Foods – Beef Jerky, tuna packets, salmon, peanut butter, Gatorade, etc.
- Snacks – trail mix, power bars, etc.
- Ear Plugs – (Macks brand) optional
- Flashlight with batteries
- Folding chairs – light weight quad chairs with no arms
- Off Skinstatic or Eucalyptus Spray
- Mint Green Alcohol – 3 bottles per person
- Baby Wipes – 3 large packs per person
- Pillow with cases
- Set of sheets
- Air mattresses
- Sleeping Bags/Blankets
- Tents

Team Packing Items

- 30 gallon plastic bins – 2 per person
- Various sizes of baggies (per person)
 - 1 box XL Ziplock
 - 2 boxes gallon size
 - 1 box quart size
- Duct Tape – bright colors 1 roll per person
- Black Contractor Bags – 1 box per team

Optional Items

- Soccer Balls (new or barely used) with pins and pumps
- Various toys for children
- Various supplies for Teachers and Church Members
 - Soap / Toiletries
 - Clothing
 - Shoes\

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Tentative Schedule For March 2009 Trip

Mar 5th – 9th : RTPI Mission Conference at Elizabeth Baptist Church – Shreveport, LA. – Pastor Alfonso Kirk & Pastor Pierre Fedner travel to Louisiana to facilitate conference.

Mar 9th: Monday – Team Supply Packing Day – Led by RTPI Representative
Team Meeting / Training for field

Mar 10th: Tuesday – Finish up any last minute packing & Final Team Meeting
Rest for early departure next day

Mar 11th: Wednesday – Travel Day starting at 4AM but ending time unknown
Tampa-to-Miami-Port Au Prince-mainland port-Ans Au Galet-up mountains to Boucan La Marre
Travel by small plane or boat in Haiti
Will arrive in Boucan La Marre village around sun-down, if all goes well

Mar 12th: Thursday – Ministry opportunities – To Be Determined
Evening Church Service – Bondye La - Boucan La Marre

Mar 13th: Friday – Ministry opportunities – TBD
Evening Church Service – Bondye La – Boucan La Marre

Mar 14th: Saturday – Ministry Opportunities – TBD
Evening Church Service – Bondye La – Boucan La Marre

Mar 15th: Sunday – Ministry Opportunities
Morning Worship, Community Feeding, & Evening Worship – Bondye La – Boucan La Marre

Mar 16th: Monday - Ministry Opportunities – TBD
Evening Church Service – Bondye La – Ans Au Galet

Mar 17th: Tuesday – Ministry Opportunities - TBD
Evening Church Service – Bondye La – Ans Au Galet

Mar 18th: Wednesday – Ministry Opportunities – TBD
Prayer walk, explore the village, Meetings with local leaders, etc.
Debrief & Rest Up for travel

Mar 19th: Thursday – Travel Day starts at 4AM.
Travel either by small plane or boat to Port Au Prince and fly from main airport.
Depart for the states - Arrive in Tampa around 7pm
Out-of-towners may stay overnight in Tampa, if necessary. Others can drive home
□ Do **NOT** book return flights home Thursday night. Our plane home is almost always **LATE**.

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Note: Ministry Opportunities may involve many things such as construction work, providing basic medical care, praying with the people & children, speaking at the school, visiting church members' homes, taking pictures or video, etc.

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