



# Covenant & Liability Release

**Project (location and date):** \_\_\_\_\_

*The guidelines listed below are for those participating in this project. You go not as a tourist, but as a guest. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your host.*

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a volunteer understand and am aware of the risk associated therewith and voluntarily assume such risks as a volunteer by participating in and aiding Men and Women of Action in rendering service to this project. I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term volunteer project. If accepted as a member of this Men and Women of Action team, I agree to:**

1. Release and discharge the organizations and individuals which helped make these arrangements, including the local church, (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Men and Women of Action (MWOA), Church of God, their agents, employees, officers and volunteers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments or executions that I have ever had, or now have, or may have, or which my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have or claim to have, against these organizations, their agents, employees, officers and volunteers, and their successors or assigns, for all personal injuries, known or unknown and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by, or arising out of this journey. I intend to be legally bound by this statement.
2. I understand that I am a volunteer and not an employee of MWOA, Church of God, Church of God State Offices, or any other entity connected with Church of God or International Church of God. If I have health or medical insurance, I agree that I will look primarily to that insurance for any medical expenses that I may incur in my volunteer work with MWOA, and that any other health or medical insurance shall be secondarily liable. If I do not have health or medical insurance, I agree to procure the same as required by MWOA.
3. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or preference. I know that there are many ways to accomplish the same objective, and even if my way seems to be the best, I will be flexible enough to accept whatever is best for the completion of the project.
4. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions.
5. Go as a servant volunteer and adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I meet during the trip.
6. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this trip.
7. Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, including and in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including but not limited to such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests and poor sanitation; potential danger from lack of control over local population; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities.
8. Understand that our team’s work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our fellow partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the local host and to do my best to help them attain their long-term goals.

9. Abide by all requirements for passports, visas, financial obligations, vaccinations, travel insurance and background check(s).
10. Refrain from meddling, complaining and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on this team, during the journey and while onsite, will look at me as a personal example and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that travel, especially to remote locations, can be difficult and I promise to adopt a flexible attitude and be supportive as plans may need to be changed. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements are made.
11. Regard the differing styles of worshiping with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior, colonial attitude.
12. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
13. Avoid any actions that might be perceived as amorous attention toward people I meet.
14. Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages and abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on this trip.
15. Remember we are visitors from another part of the world and will be watched very closely.
16. Refrain from giving gifts, such as money, clothes, jewelry, etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result after we leave has caused problems for our host and jealousy and bitterness among the locals who received no such gifts. If I feel compelled to give a gift to someone I have met, I will consult first with the team leader before I promise or give the gift, and I promise to let him or her make the final decision on this matter. (This covenant does not apply to small tokens of friendship.)
17. Act as a servant volunteer of MWOA, I will respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating and drinking and other such traditions which will help me to blend into the local community.
18. Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is skilled labor or unskilled labor. I agree to participate in these ways.
19. Specifically, because of the frequency and danger of fall-related accidents, I agree that if I work on any roofing project or project that requires climbing, I will wear a "harness" and all applicable safety gear and equipment.
20. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, with all the total discretion of the leadership of Men and Women of Action, my services in connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
21. I hereby agree to abide by all of the teachings and the practices of Church of God.

***In signing below, I represent that I am 18 years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also; accepting the above conditions on my behalf.***

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature (if under age 18): \_\_\_\_\_