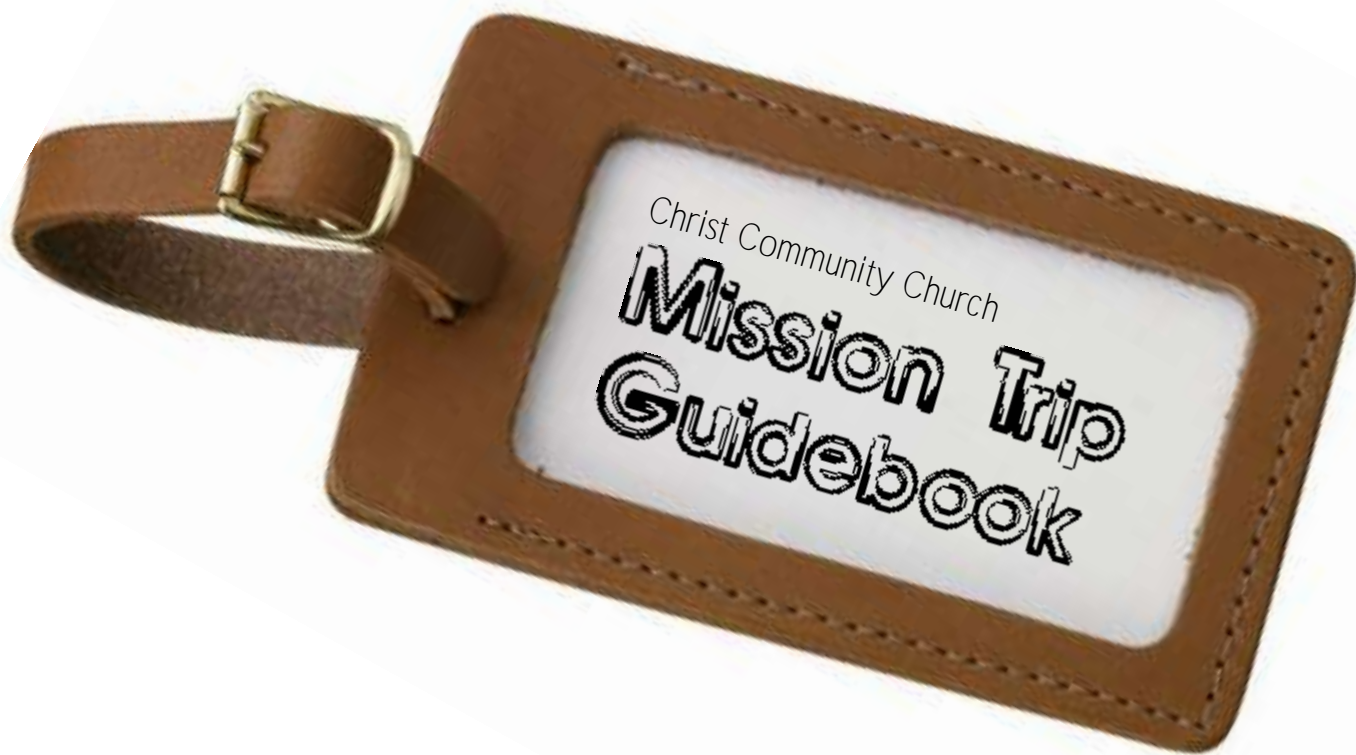


How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?  
As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15





# Mission Trip Guidebook

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# Why Do We Go?

*You're preparing to go on a cross-cultural mission trip. Leaving your comfort zone for a place you've likely never been before to work alongside people you've never met probably represents a giant step of faith for you. It's important to ask yourself why you're doing this. Why are you going?*

Motivations are different for everyone. Some go out of obedience to the Great Commission, or because God has given them a heart for lost people or because they want to be used by God and experience Him in new ways. All of these are good motives for going.

Whatever your personal motivation, one thing is clear: God cares about people. He wants people everywhere to know, worship, and celebrate Him.



In his book “Let the Nations Be Glad,” John Piper puts things in perspective. He writes, “In missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of peoples in the greatness of God.”

We see this theme woven throughout Scripture. For example, Psalm 67:3-4 says:

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

Let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

God has given us the awesome task and privilege of taking the Gospel, the “Good News,” to people groups around the world—so they’ll know and be made glad in Him. We desire that people hear the gospel but also experience the gospel lived out in real life.

While personal motivations may vary, the ultimate reason we go is to bring glory to God. He’s glorified when we step out in faith. He’s glorified when the Gospel is preached and lived out. He’s glorified when people are loved in Jesus’ name. And He’s glorified when new churches are established.

As you prepare for your cross-cultural mission experience, keep in mind that you’re participating in something God is doing. We live in exciting times, when challenges are great and the gospel is making a difference. As we partner with Him in His ministry, He’ll accomplish all He pleases—and He’ll be glorified in you as you trust Him for this.



# Can God Use Me?



Many people wonder, “Can God use me as a missionary?” The answer is yes! It really doesn’t depend on your talent, gifting, or ability to persuade people, as much as what God does in and through you. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

As you prepare for your upcoming mission, the proper focus is critical—it needs to be on God. We all know this intellectually. However, in reality we often dwell on our perceived strengths, weaknesses or **inadequacies, and on what we think we either can or can’t do for God.**

All of the abilities we have are God-given and to be used for His glory. The Lord knows our strengths and weaknesses and is not hindered by them. In fact, the

apostle Paul reminds us that God’s grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in weakness. In 2 Corinthians 12, he writes, “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Your faith journey doesn’t begin when you step on the airplane. It has already begun. Watch God open **doors for you as you share with people about why you’re going on a mission trip, and observe Him provide the funds needed for you to go.** He can and will use you. As you prepare for your trip, fix your thoughts on Jesus—the King of Kings, the Lord of Hosts, the One who spoke the universe into existence; the All-Powerful, Never-Changing One. Go, trusting in His strength and not in your own abilities.



# Spiritual Preparation

“God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.” -Judson Taylor, Missionary to China

There’s much to be done to prepare for your mission trip and many important details to attend to between now and the time you leave. You’ll need a passport, probably some immunizations, and, of course, you’ll have to pack.



The key to a “successful” mission trip isn’t that you pack all the right things, important as that is. If you forget something, you can usually borrow it, buy it, or do without it. **But you can’t do without spiritual preparedness.** Intimacy with Christ and sensitivity to Him are really your most important assets. As you prepare for the mission field, seek the Lord. He desires closeness with you and promises to pour out His Spirit to empower you. **Jeremiah 33:3 says, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”**

There’s no “magic” formula for intimacy with Christ. There are, however, helpful disciplines to cultivate your relationship with Him.

Pray. Prayer is the expression of our dependence on God for all things, and should be the foundation **for everything we do. We can’t do anything of** eternal significance in our own strength. So, as you prepare, you should pray. As you go, you should pray. And when you return, you should pray. We see the connection between prayer and missions in **John 15:16, where Jesus says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, He may give it to you.”**

Clearly, God wants to use us to take the Good News to people around the world. He also wants us to depend on and call out to Him for the fulfillment of His promises.



Get others to pray. The prophet Isaiah spoke of posting watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem to pray day and night, to call out to God.

**Follow Isaiah's example and "post watchmen on your walls" to pray to Him on behalf of your team, the nationals you'll work with, and the land where you'll go share the love of Christ. There's great power when believers agree in prayer. Build a network of people who'll lift up you and your mission trip in prayer before, during, and after you go.**

Your prayer network should include your church. Talk with your pastor, small group leader and/or others in leadership at your church, and ask them to be part of your prayer and sending team.

Often, team leaders are able to send occasional email updates to prayer supporters from the field. Put together an email list of these folks and give it to your team leaders, so that when such messages are sent, your **support network will be included. They'll enjoy receiving news about your trip and, more importantly, will know how to pray specifically for you and your team.**

**Spend time in God's Word.** Meditate on what you read and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and enable you to apply what you read in Scripture to your life.

Look for promises you can stand on. Read through the gospels and the book of Acts, if you have time. On the trip, you will receive a helpful guide to daily time with God. Taking time in the Bible and processing what God is doing will be helpful.

**Recognize that you're in a spiritual battle. You're going to share hope and the life-giving message of Christ with people who, for the most part, have little or no understanding of the Gospel. Incredible as it may seem, some may never even have heard the name of Jesus!**

Regardless, you can be sure of two things:

**Satan doesn't like what you're setting out to do.**

**1 Peter 5:8 says, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."**

**Peter goes on to say we should "resist him and stand firm in the faith."**

Satan often tries to discourage people, placing thoughts in their minds such as, "I'm not worthy to be used by God," or "I'm not an evangelist, I can't lead anyone to the Lord," or, "I don't think the money will ever come in."

**Don't be sidetracked by this! Take captive every thought that comes into your mind. Are your thoughts in line with God's Word? If so, think on those things. If not, throw them out!**

The Lord is in control! We simply trust Him.

**In Ephesians 6, Paul encourages us to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." He further tells us to "put on the full armor of God," so we can stand against the schemes of the enemy. That's good counsel, especially in preparation for your mission trip. Heed Paul's instruction and get your spiritual armor on.**

Take time to read through Colossians 2:6-15 and Ephesians 6:10-19. Meditate on these passages and be strengthened and encouraged by the victory Christ achieved on the cross.



# Logistical Preparation

*Mission trips at Christ Community are focused on continuing and expanding ongoing international ministries of the church. Each trip participant contributes to this kingdom work. It is part of something bigger that God is doing. It is important to see this serving aspect of the trip. While participants do receive much personal benefit and growth from the mission experience, we go as servants to the partners we have and to assist them in their work.*

## **I've Decided to Go. Now What?**

Once you decide to go on a Christ Community-sponsored mission trip, there are a few steps that you must take before you go:

- Fill out a Mission Trip Application. These are available online at [www.cccgreeley.org](http://www.cccgreeley.org) or in hard copy in the back of this booklet.
- Turn in All Required Documents—Mission Trip Application, signed Mission Trip Policy form, copies of Passport, and \$225 non-refundable **deposit to Jamie Doddridge in Christ Community's** office.
- A Personal Trip Account is set up for you at church. After your Trip Application has been received and approved, this account is set up so that people can give to your mission trip (see more about raising funds on the following pages).
- Your airline ticket will be purchased. Once you have enough money in your personal trip account at church, your team leader will purchase your airline ticket. All flight itineraries are set by the team leader. Exceptions to the general travel schedule must be cleared with the leader before purchased.

- We understand that meeting the costs of your mission trip can be a challenge. **Don't miss out on** what is really happening in the process—you are trusting in God to see the need met.
- God provides the financial resources for people in different ways.
  - Save or use resources in which God has already provided you.
  - Raise support. It may be that others will want to help support you in the ministry you have throughout the trip. Keep in mind, this is more than just raising money. You are developing relationships. The focus is not on you. Develop a team of people who will pray for you and connect with the ministry you will have. For more information on raising support, read the following pages.
  - If you have any questions about this, ask your trip leader or Pastor Steve Oeffling ([steveo@cccgreeley.org](mailto:steveo@cccgreeley.org)) or Jamie Doddridge ([jamed@cccgreeley.org](mailto:jamed@cccgreeley.org)).





# Raising the Needed Funds

Raising the funds needed for your mission trip might sound like a scary task. For most people it's true that "raising support" is a faith-stretching experience. However, you can be sure that if God calls you to go on mission, He'll provide the necessary means.

**The Lord provides in a variety of ways.** He's already given the funds to some. God may also want to use others to supply needed money. Remember, the proper focus is critical, THIS MISSION TRIP (including the support-raising process) IS NOT ABOUT YOU! It's about God and what He wants to do.

Raising support for missions is clearly a biblical concept.

Jesus and His disciples were supported by others: *And it came about after this, that He began going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the Kingdom of God; and the twelve were with Him...and many others who were contributing to their support out of the private means.* Luke 8:1-3

Even Paul was financially supported. He accepted this support with enthusiasm, knowing that those who gave to his ministry were building up treasures in heaven. Paul encouraged people to give generously writing:

*Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 10

*"For you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."*

2 Corinthians 8:9

As believers use their material possessions to further the work of Christ, God is glorified.

*"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:12



Where do I start?

Personal participation is important. Save and work toward the costs of your trip. In addition, we do recommend that you start the fundraising process by sending out letters to people in your circle of influence, asking for prayer and financial support. By stepping out **in faith to GO, you're providing these people with an opportunity to be directly involved in the Great Commission.**

Many Christians are willing to share their material possessions so others can be made spiritually rich. The reward for these investments will be realized in heaven as people from every tribe, tongue and nation gather **together at Jesus' feet in worship.**

**Don't be shy about who receives your letters.**

Send them to family, friends, co-workers and anyone who **might want to know what you're about to do and be able to help.** You might even consider contacting non-believing acquaintances. In so doing, you may have an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

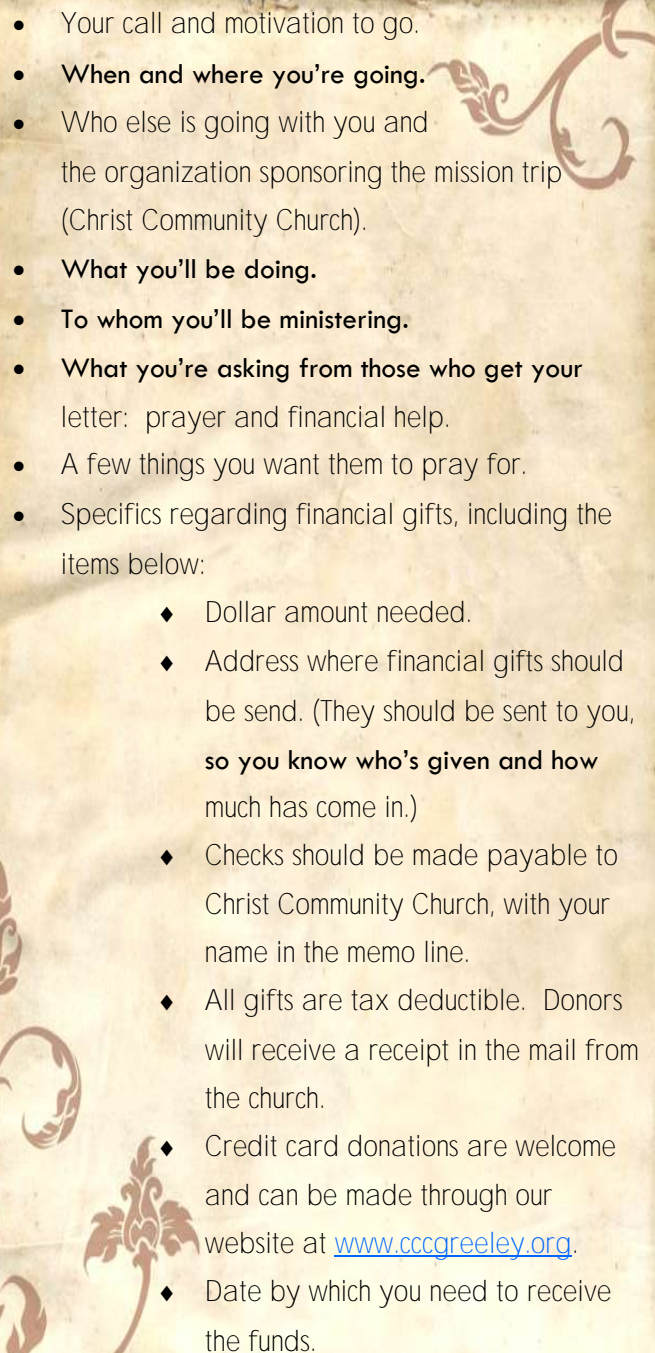
### Sending Letters

Ask the Lord to help you come up with a recipient **list and for creativity and boldness in this venture.** You'll be amazed at how God will raise the needed funds as you let Him direct you. He may really surprise you with the generosity of others. This said, fundraising can take **some time, so don't procrastinate.**

You should write the letter yourself and have someone else review it for correct spelling and grammar. The body of your message can be the same for all **recipients; however, it's a good idea to personalize the opening or closing comment for each letter you send.**

Your letter should be clear, concise, easy to read and limited to one page or two at the very most.

Content should cover the following:

- 
- Your call and motivation to go.
  - **When and where you're going.**
  - Who else is going with you and the organization sponsoring the mission trip (Christ Community Church).
  - **What you'll be doing.**
  - **To whom you'll be ministering.**
  - **What you're asking from those who get your letter:** prayer and financial help.
  - A few things you want them to pray for.
  - Specifics regarding financial gifts, including the items below:
    - ◆ Dollar amount needed.
    - ◆ Address where financial gifts should be sent. (They should be sent to you, **so you know who's given and how much has come in.**)
    - ◆ Checks should be made payable to Christ Community Church, with your name in the memo line.
    - ◆ All gifts are tax deductible. Donors will receive a receipt in the mail from the church.
    - ◆ Credit card donations are welcome and can be made through our website at [www.cccgreeley.org](http://www.cccgreeley.org).
    - ◆ Date by which you need to receive the funds.

In addition to your personal letter, you **MUST include a copy of Christ Community's "Giving to Support Our Mission Efforts" letter with each support letter you send.**



# Raising the Needed Funds, cont.

Here is a sample support-raising letter. You may use this as a guide, however, be sure to add your own personal touch and include some details specific to your trip. Don't forget to include a copy of Christ Community's "Giving to Support Our Mission Efforts" letter with each support letter you send.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting opportunity I have to be part of a short-term mission team going to [country] on [date]. I will be traveling with my church, Christ Community, in Greeley, Colorado. While there, we will [description of type of work]. Our team will partner with national churches and believers throughout our time in-country.

I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with me on this mission trip. I believe God is calling me to go; however, this can only happen if funding is sufficient. As it says in Romans 10:13-15:

**"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?  
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?  
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?  
And how can they preach unless they are SENT? As it is written,

**'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"**

Would you consider SENDING me? First, will you commit to pray for me? Second, will you give financially to help cover my trip expenses? The total cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_. The majority of these funds are due by [date].

If you would like to be a part of my sending team, please make your check payable to "Christ Community Church" with "[Country/Month of Trip]" in the memo line. You can then send your check to me at: [Your Home Address]. All gifts are tax deductible. In addition, I am enclosing a letter from the church detailing financial policies related to mission trips.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this request. I look forward to seeing how the Lord will move as I take this step of faith. Your prayers and financial support will be a great blessing to me, as well as to many who'll have an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel because you helped send me.

In Christ,  
Your name \_\_\_\_\_

### Keeping track of funds...and thanking those who give!

It's very important for you to keep track of all funds that come in for your trip. We recommend you maintain a list of names of each person who gives to you along with the amount given. This is necessary for a **couple of reasons. First, you'll need to be aware of how much money comes in to know how much more you have to raise. Second, it's imperative for you to thank each person who contributes.** We highly recommend sending a personal, hand-written thank you note to everyone who makes a financial gift toward your trip.

You should also be accountable to your supporters for what God does through you on your **mission trip. It's a sacred responsibility to report back to those who sent you about what you saw the Lord do.** Follow the example of Paul and Barnabas at the end of their first missionary journey:

*From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:26-27*

Your sending team will be encouraged and strengthened in their faith when you report back on how the Lord used you to glorify Him on the mission field.

### Getting your funds to Christ Community

As funds come in, you need to send them promptly to Christ Community. You may also drop them off in person. The general rule is that the church should receive at least the cost of your airline ticket as early as possible—at least 90 days prior to departure, with 100% due 60 days before departure. This is important because your team leaders will need to start making cash outlays **for your trip, including purchasing airline tickets. You'll need to check directly with your team leaders regarding specific deadlines for your trip.**

When you receive support checks, please make sure that the Country/Month of Trip is in the Memo Line. You can then bring your trip money to Jamie at:

Christ Community Church  
1301 15th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631

### What happens if all the funds don't come in by the date I need them?

Raising support can be an exercise in faith. As your support-raising deadline approaches, you may not have received 100% of the required funds. In this case, keep your need in prayer before the Lord. He often **provides in ways we don't expect. Also inform your team leaders about your situation. They'll be able to provide counsel and encouragement.**



PERU—March 2009



# Raising the Needed Funds, cont.



Be proactive. Call the people who **haven't responded to your letters, and remind** them about your mission trip. Often people intend to give, but get distracted from sending their gift right away. Sometimes they just forget, so personal reminders are helpful. **Remember, you're not pressuring people to give; you're letting them know about the** opportunity Christ has set before you and inviting them to invest in Kingdom activity.

The church must receive 100% of your funds on or before the date of your departure. That said, if your support deadline is drawing near or has passed and only a small percentage of your funds have come in, the Lord may be closing a door for you to go. The timing may not be right. Again, discuss the situation with your team leaders and get their input.

What happens if I raise more funds than I need?

This is a wonderful situation to be in! If the Lord provides more funds than you need for your mission trip, you have several options:

- You can designate them to help someone else on your team, who may not have all the funds they need.
- You can use them to put toward a regular giving commitment at Christ Community. This may be a monthly tithe or a Project Beyond Catalyst commitment.

If you have extra funds, please talk with your team leaders.

UGANDA—June 2008



# Helpful Hints in a Cross-Cultural Setting

*There's much to learn about sharing the Gospel effectively and doing ministry in a new culture, and your team leaders will provide you with training specific to the area where you'll minister. There are, however, some common principles we can share.*

Beware of Culture Shock!

You're probably aware that many things in your host country are different from your own. Know, for example, that the food will be different, that another language is probably spoken and that people may not dress like you do.

You should also be aware of potential deeper differences regarding the way people view the world. Cultural norms vary from country to country. Even within countries there are often numerous sub-cultures. Common **cultural variations include (though definitely aren't limited to) the way people view time, relationships and personal space.** Many cultures see advance planning and organization differently than we do. Various groups process information and make moral judgments differently. Christians in other countries probably even worship in dissimilar ways. This is all part of the challenge and excitement of a cross-cultural mission trip. There will **likely be things about your host culture that you don't understand or with which you may struggle.** In these **situations, feel free to talk with your team leaders...and pray through all difficulties.**



Flexibility is Key

A flexible attitude is important. Your trip leaders prayerfully work to have things well organized and well planned. However, one of the distinctions of our ministry is that we work almost exclusively with and under the authority of host national leaders and churches. Consequently, there are many factors outside of our **control. Things will not always go the way we've planned or the way you expect.** Know that in advance.

As you go, you must be prepared to remain flexible in any situation our Lord allows. Know that you **WILL** have opportunities to put into practice the command of James:

*"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**" James 1:2-4*





# Helpful Hints in a Cross-Cultural Setting

## Foster a Spirit of Unity

**As Americans, we're individualistic people.**

However, when you go on a mission trip you become part of an interdependent team. The unity of your group is so vital. So, be sensitive to that.

Here are some ways to foster a spirit of love and unity: **Keep in mind that you're going to serve. Pray for unity.** Model cooperation, grace and love in relationships with your team members and nationals. Look for ways to help others. Avoid criticism. Submit to the decisions of **your team leaders. Respect authority. Don't whine. Get to know everyone on your team.** Be FLEXIBLE!

## No Promises

**Over the course of the trip, you'll likely grow to love the nationals you work with and the people to whom you minister.** During your time in country you may be tempted to promise things to your new friends—anything from help with buying personal items or a church sound system to a variety of personal needs. Christ Community asks you not to make any promises to nationals.

There are several reasons for this. First and foremost, **we don't want to do anything to hinder the advance of the Gospel.** Even though Americans often give gifts with the best of intentions, they can often cause problems and create jealousy. This is especially true when money is involved. Furthermore, in many places, if **it's known that Americans are giving things to nationals (cash or otherwise), it would appear that we're trying to influence and/or pay people to convert to Christianity. Obviously, this isn't the case. We want to be above reproach.** We also want to avoid creating problems for nationals to solve when we leave.

If a situation arises in the field where you feel the Lord may be leading you to help with a need or offer a gift, please discuss the situation with your team leaders **first. They'll talk with the national ministry leaders to determine if any assistance is appropriate, and, if so, will help facilitate it. It's imperative that you submit to your team leaders and the national leadership in these decisions.**



MALAWI—July 2008

## Sensitivity with Nationals

Keep in mind that there will likely be a great difference between the lifestyle you **lead and those to whom you'll be ministering.** Your worldview, or overall perspective and way you interpret the world, will also be different—even from Christians in other cultures. This said, here are a few important things to remember:



*Avoid talking about money.* Talk about money can be distracting. Chances are the people you encounter could never imagine earning an **income like yours, even if you don't consider** yourself wealthy. Conversations on this subject should be avoided. If people do ask you questions about financial things, tactfully shift the conversation to another topic.

*Be discreet when pulling money out of your bag or wallet.* We want to treat nationals with the **utmost respect and don't want to call** unnecessary attention to ourselves by pulling out stacks of foreign currency. Keep in mind **that what you consider "pocket change" could be a month's salary for them. Be considerate.**

*Avoid discussing politics.* Politics can be a hot topic, even among Christians here at home. **We want to "keep the main thing the main thing," during our time of ministry. In our case the "main thing" is the Gospel. If people ask** you political questions, as in the case of money, tactfully change the conversation.





# Communicating

*You may not speak the local language, and that's okay. It's actually no problem. Each day you'll likely work with a team of nationals, at least one of whom will speak English and serve as a translator.*

## Translator Tips

Speaking through an interpreter can be a challenge, both for you and the translator. The following are some helpful communication tips:

- Talk with your translator before you get started.
- When speaking, keep your eyes on the people **you're sharing with, not your translator.** Make the people you're sharing with the center of your attention.
- Speak in complete phrases or ideas.
- **Don't speak only one or two words at a time.** In other languages concepts are expressed differently, and the translator needs to know the idea you want to express, not just the words.
- Avoid jokes. You definitely want to have fun while doing ministry. However, be aware that humor **doesn't always translate well in another culture.** In fact, what amuses you may not be understood by other people—it might even shock or outrage some.
- Avoid slang and clichés. Keep in mind that your translator may not speak English very often. They may rarely serve in a role where they're required to translate. If you use phrases like, "don't throw out the baby with the bathwater," or, "where the rubber meets the road," they'll have no idea what you're talking about!



PERU—July 2009



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- **Avoid contractions like can't, won't, they're, etc.**  
Speak slowly and clearly.
- Avoid references to American contemporary culture. Many people are unlikely to be familiar with the latest technological advances, TV shows or Blockbuster movies. Remember to relate to them in a **manner that's always culturally sensitive.**
- **If the translator doesn't understand, do not simply talk louder.** When asked to repeat something, simply repeat what you said. If after a couple of tries the **translator still doesn't understand, rephrase the idea** you want to express. Avoid big words and **"Christianese."** **KEEP IT SIMPLE!**

Finally, be sure to thank and encourage your translator and other national co-workers throughout the week for all their help and efforts on your behalf.

**You're going to share the Good News with** people and demonstrate the love of Jesus. Although you might be nervous, especially at the beginning of the week, try your best to relax and have fun.

- Smile. Smile. Smile—and be gracious.
- Feel free to ask questions of the people you meet. **They'll be happy that you're taking an interest in their culture and lives.**

- Learn a few words in the local language. People love it when you try to speak in their language. Though your vocabulary may consist of just a few words and your accent may need some serious help, the effort you make will go a long way toward establishing rapport with the folks you meet.

**In addition to verbal communication, you'll be communicating in a several other ways:**

- The clothes you wear, the bag you carry and the jewelry you take will all say something about you. **While on the field you'll want to avoid looking like "the rich American"...and remember, it is their idea of "rich" not yours.**
- Body language and gestures. You may not say a word when served a strange-looking dish...however, if you cringe at the sight of what your guest serves, he or she will understand exactly how you feel!

All of this may seem like a lot to remember. The important thing is simply to follow the lead of your national co-workers. Do what they do. If you make a **mistake, they'll help cover for you. It'll be okay. The key is to be loving and gracious...as we know, love covers a multitude of sins!**



UGANDA—June 2008



# Preparing to Go

*There's lots to do before you go. The following are some practical tips to help you get ready.*

**You'll need a passport.** Everyone who travels outside of the United States must have a passport. The best place to get questions answered about passports and to download needed forms is at the U.S. Department of State website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Click on "Passports." From there you should be able to find answers to all passport-related questions, including how to apply for a first-time passport, how to renew your passport, and how to expedite the passport processing time.

**You'll want to apply for your passport as soon as you know you're going on a mission trip.** It can take weeks to obtain the document from the time you apply. If you wait, you may end up having to expedite the passport process, which will cost extra money. So, start early!

Note that your passport should be valid for at least six months after your scheduled date of **return. Many countries won't allow you entrance if you don't have six months left. In that case,** apply for a new passport right away. The cost for a passport is not included in the price of your Christ Community Mission Trip.

**Visas.** Some countries require foreign citizens to obtain entry visas prior to arrival. A visa is usually a stamp placed in your passport by the Embassy or Consulate of the country you plan to visit. Your team leader will let you know if this is required for the **country you'll visit and how to go about obtaining it.**

**Immunizations.** Vaccinations are required in some countries and merely recommended for others. A great place to go for immunization information is the Center for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Click on "Traveler's Health" and then "Destinations." Inoculation requirements for each country, along with other travel, health and safety tips, can be found there. In addition, trip leaders can provide information specific to your trip.





### What Should I Wear?

The way you dress on your mission trip will vary depending on the country you visit. The general rule for both men and women is to dress in a culturally appropriate and modest way. Most places we go, Americans will not blend in regardless of what they wear.

**However, you don't want to call undue attention to yourself or dress in a way that would cause native people to stumble.** Christ Community team leaders coordinate with national leaders regarding appropriate dress in each place we do ministry.

For women, dress varies a bit more depending **upon where you visit. In some countries, it's culturally** appropriate for females to wear pants. In others, skirts are required. Also, skirt length can be important. In certain places, a knee-length skirt would be considered scandalous—so be sure to ask your team leaders what type of clothing is appropriate! Nice t-shirts or button down shirts are generally okay. Sleeveless shirts are not always appropriate. When in doubt, always err on the conservative side.

Sunday church services may or may not require that you dress up more than you do throughout the week. In certain cultures, men who preach are expected to wear ties. Again, your team leaders will give you specific guidelines for your trip.



### How should I pack?

Baggage allowances vary from airline to airline. **However, one thing is certain: you'll want to pack lightly! You'll need to be able to carry everything you bring** without the help of others. The general recommendation is that you bring one suitcase for personal items, and one **suitcase for ministry items. You'll need to check both bags. In addition, you'll want to bring one carry on item/** backpack to carry on the plane. Your team leaders will provide you with specific weight and size allowances for **the airline(s) you'll be flying. Be aware when packing** that weight allowances on domestic in-country flights may be lower than on international flights. You will be personally responsible for any excess weight charges.

In your carry-on suitcase, **it's always a good idea** to pack a couple of changes of clothes, toiletries, **medications, snacks and anything you consider valuable... just in case your big suitcase doesn't arrive in country at** the same time you do. Always pack assuming that your checked luggage could be delayed.



# Mission Trip Packing List

## Men & Women

- Changes of clothes to last throughout the trip. Take articles you can mix and match. Also try to make an outfit last for 2 (or more) days, including slacks, jeans or skirts as appropriate. Nice t-shirts or button-down shirts are generally okay.
- Nice outfit for church on Sunday. Men may need to bring a time, dress shirt and nice shoes.
- Slacks/jeans and sometimes shorts are fine for free and travel days.
- Walking shoes—**make sure they're comfortable!** Tennis shoes are great.
- Sweater or light jacket
- Sleepwear
- Socks
- Underwear
- Flip-flops/sandals
- Sunglasses
- Money belt or pouch
- Hat

## Toiletries

- Shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, toothpaste & brush
- Washcloth
- Kleenex
- Sunscreen
- Moistened hand wipes
- Hand sanitizer (e.g. Purell)
- Band-aids and antibiotic ointment
- Toilet paper
- Shaving cream/razor
- Makeup
- Glasses
- Contact lenses/solutions
- Insect repellent

## Medicines

- Aspirin/pain/cold medications
- Pepto-bismol
- Cough drops
- Benadryl (for allergies)
- Eye drops and nose-drops
- Ginger candy (helps with nausea)
- Imodium AD
- Laxative

## Medicines, cont.

- Antacid tablets
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Sleep medication (e.g. Tylenol PM)
- Your prescription medication (necessary prescription medications should be with you in your carry on bag.)

## "Tools"

- Bible
- Journal
- Pens and pencils
- Backpack or tote bag
- Family photos
- U.S. map to show where you live
- Flashlight (small)
- Earplugs/eye mask/neck pillow
- Reading material
- Alarm clock
- Adapter and converter (if needed for electrical appliances)
- Camera and film/memory card
- Zip lock bags and plastic grocery bags
- Extra batteries
- Umbrella/raincoat (if needed)
- Trip-specific tools (i.e. Evangucube, etc.)

## Snacks

- Gum/candy
- Trail mix
- Peanut butter/cheese crackers
- Granola bars/Power bars
- Sweet-n-low (if desired instead of sugar)
- Gatorade mix
- One bottle of water (in checked bag)

## Documents

- Passport
- Visa (if required)
- Immunization record (if required)
- Airline tickets (or a copy of your e-tickets)
- Emergency contact information
- Credit card (for emergencies)
- Spending money

## Before Leaving (as they apply)

- Stop newspapers/mail
- All appliances off
- Call credit card company to notify use in country
- Itinerary and emergency information to others



# Travel, Health, and Safety

## Travel

Where will I exchange my money?

Your team leaders will provide specific information about **where you may exchange your money. There's rarely, if ever, a need for traveler's checks. Cash is the best thing to bring, along with a credit card in case of an emergency.**

How much money should I bring?

**\$100-\$200 is generally adequate. There won't be much need for you to spend money. All of your transportation, lodging and most meals will be covered with the money in your church mission trip account. Any out-of-pocket expenses will be for meals on travel and tourist days, and for any shopping you do. (You may want to purchase small gifts for those on your "sending" team.)**

How should I carry my passport, airline tickets and cash?

We recommend you keep your passport, airline tickets and cash with you at all times. **Your passport and plane tickets are especially important. Without them you won't be able to get home. It's best to carry these items in a money belt that's concealed under your clothes. Money belts and similar "travel helps" are inexpensive and available in most travel stores.**

Will I be able to call or email home?

Calls home tend to be pretty expensive. However, there will likely be someplace from which you can phone home. Email may or may not also be available at your hotel or **local Internet café. If you'd like to make a call or send an email, ask your team leaders how that may be done. Try to reassure family and friends that communication can be difficult.**

## Staying Healthy

**The last thing you'll want to happen while you're in the field is to get sick. While this is not totally within your control, there are some things that you can do to stay healthy.**

- **Drink lots of water! It's easy to become dehydrated.** Bottled water will be provided for you in-country. In most places you should use bottled water to brush your teeth. Often, just a small amount of tap water is enough to make you sick. Avoid ice and fruit juice, which are often made with tap water.
- Follow the eating recommendations of your team leaders. **They'll know which foods you should and should not eat.** The general rule is to eat meat that is well cooked. If you can peel it, you can generally eat it. Salads are often questionable as lettuce may be washed in local water.

- **Don't eat food purchased from street vendors or offered to you in villages.** This can be tricky. There are times when nationals will want to offer you **something to eat. In most cases it's best to decline the offer.** Be as gracious as possible. Let your host know **you'd love to accept their offer, but that your American stomach is very weak and "reacts" to different foods.** Beverages are a different story. If someone offers you hot tea, you can drink it as long as the water has been boiled.
- Rest. Resist the temptation to stay up late at night. **You'll need your sleep.**
- Sanitize your hands often using Purell and antiseptic wipes.
- Protect yourself from insects by using repellents.
- **Keep your feet clean and dry, and don't go barefoot—to prevent fungal and parasitic infections.**
- **Don't pet, touch or handle animals, especially dogs and cats.**

## Staying Safe

Your team leaders and national ministry leaders are concerned about your safety and take it very seriously. Here are a few things you can do to keep safe:

- Always stay with the team. **Don't wander off on your own.** Travel in groups of at least two people during free times.
- **Be extra cautious with your possessions when you're in crowded places like train stations, urban centers or markets.** These are prime spots for pick-pockets. Watch your purses, wallets and passports. In these **areas it's a good idea to carry your backpack in a front-facing position.**
- Always make certain that you have the name, address and telephone number of your hotel before you leave.
- Keep your hotel door locked.
- **Don't leave any valuables lying around. If you leave anything of value in your room, like a video camera or equipment, make sure it's in your suitcase. Still, there's no guarantee that these things will be absolutely "safe."**



# Processing the Trip

**You have just experienced a time of serving others in Jesus' name.** You have met people and experienced many things—some new, some challenging. Life at home will now continue as usual with one difference—you are not the same. It is important to process what you have experienced. Get together with a friend and mentor to talk through the trip and what took place. Here are some suggestions:

1. Read over Luke 10:1-25 and the disciples mission trip. What do you notice?
2. Talk about the experiences you had. What was exciting? Difficult? Surprising?
3. Where was God in the mission experience?
4. Highlight three things God taught you through this experience.
5. Describe how the experiences affected your heart. Was there any impact on personal authenticity, Christ-absorption, and compassion?
6. Where does this experience fit into the bigger scope of your life?
7. What steps can I take to build on this experience?
8. Who can I share and perhaps encourage by what I experienced?



# Mission Trip Application

Please fill out this application or pick up one from your team leader.

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Trip Dates \_\_\_\_\_

## General Information

Full Name (as it appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Married Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passport Information

*(Please note that your passport MUST be valid for at least six months after your scheduled date of return.)*

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issue \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Departure City (if not Denver): \_\_\_\_\_

## Experience and Gifts

Previous mission experience:

Special skills, gifts, and abilities you bring to the team:

In a few words, describe your relationship with God.



# Mission Trip Application

Why do you want to go on this mission trip?

What are you hoping to gain from your trip experience?

Foreign language(s) spoken:

Have you talked to the specific trip leader about your interest?  Yes  No

## Medical Information

Do you have any known allergies?  No  Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary restrictions?  No  Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical restrictions?  No  Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently taking any medications?  No  Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contacts

(Please do not list people traveling with you.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Insurance Information

Every participant involved in a Christ Community sponsored trip is required to have major health insurance while in-country (Christ Community arranges this, and the cost is included in the price of your trip). While this insurance is primarily medical, it does include some life insurance. Therefore, please list the following:

Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_



# Mission Trip Application

## Endorsement

(Please have a pastoral staff or ministry leader who knows you sign below.)

I recommend this applicant to represent Jesus Christ and our church in this cross-cultural setting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ministry Leader Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Assumption of Risk

I understand that any mission trip includes an inherent level of risks and dangers, including but not limited to illness, injury, acts of terrorism, death, robbery, kidnapping, or other loss or destruction of life or property. Furthermore, I have reviewed the information about the mission trip country found on the Consular Sheets produced by the U.S. State Department at the following website: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html). I hereby agree to accept any and all risks of injury or death that may result from my participation in this mission trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Required Documents Checklist:

- Completed Mission Trip Application
- Signed Mission Trip Policy form
- Two photocopies of passport
- \$225 non-refundable deposit made out to Christ Community Church with "Mission Trip Deposit" in the memo line (applied to travel expenses for trip)
- Release form (for minors only)

Please note that the completion of this application may not necessarily guarantee you a place on the respective mission trip.

Please return all required documents to  
Jamie Doddridge by dropping them off at  
**Christ Community's front office or by**  
mailing them to:

Christ Community Church  
Attn: Jamie Doddridge  
1301 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, CO 80631



# Mission Trip Policy

Must be signed and turned in with Mission Trip Application

Involvement on a church mission team is a great privilege. In going, I represent not only Christ Community Church but also Jesus Christ. In addition, I go as a member of a team modeling the Gospel as well as speaking it. Mission team members set aside personal agendas and aims for the good to the team and what brings God glory.

I am in agreement with the following policy as a mission team member. These elements are vital to the spiritual effectiveness and physical safety of the mission trip.

1. I agree that I am a guest in another country, representing our church or mission organization.
2. **I desire to learn as part of this experience. Other people's methods or ideas will be respected, even when I find them ineffective.**
3. **I will develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward my team members and the national people with whom I work.** I will do what needs to be done to ensure the quality of the mission itself.
4. I will respect my team leader(s) and his/her decisions.
5. I will refrain from passing judgment and gossiping, instead looking to build others up.
6. I will refrain from complaining. Ministry along with travel can bring unexpected and even difficult circumstances. Handling those unexpected situations in a Christ-like manner supports the work and honors Christ.
7. I will attempt to build up the local church and national leaders.
8. **I will refrain from negative comments regarding the situation where we work or the host country's politics.**
9. I will be inclusive in my team relationships. Even when my close friends or family are on the team, I will interact with all members of the team.
10. I will refrain from any activity that could be construed as a romantic or sexual interest toward a team member or a national worker. What may be innocent in my culture may seem inappropriate in other cultures. Dating relationships need to be put on hold during the trip.
11. I will abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco unless approved by trip leader(s). I will abide by the rules associated with local customs and team policy. What may be acceptable in U.S. culture may not be acceptable in other cultures.
12. **I have read and agree to Christ Community's Mission Trip Financial Policy (see the inserted sheet.)**

As a member of a Christ Community Church mission team, I serve to extend the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to another culture. I agree that adherence to this policy is necessary to attend a mission trip, as well as during the duration of the trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Sign the following only if participant is a minor:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Mission Trip Details

KEEP FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Trip Dates:

\_\_\_\_\_

Going to:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Team Leader(s)

Phone #

Email Address

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Team Meeting Dates:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Price:

\_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising Deadlines:

Airline Ticket funds due by:

\_\_\_\_\_

100% of funds due by:

\_\_\_\_\_





### *Giving to Support Our Mission Efforts*

If you are planning to help support the work of our church on the mission field through a contribution, the first thing we want to communicate to you is our thanks. Through your donation, the lives of people will be reached and affected. On each mission trip, we reach out to people in a variety of ways—practically and compassionately as a part of ongoing work. You can rest assured that we will be faithful stewards of the funds which you entrust to us. We take our job as stewards very seriously and it is our goal that not only our actions on the mission field but also our fiduciary responsibilities at home will always be above reproach.

The second thing we wish to communicate to you is in regards to some of the legal necessities of giving a tax-deductible contribution for our mission efforts. When you receive a funding appeal from one of our short-term or long-term missionaries, you are receiving a request that you join in the ministry that they are a part of. It is not a request that you help pay their way to Europe, or another land, for a vacation. They will be working hard and serving people as part of a team and under the direction of an experienced team leader.

For the most part, funding needed for a trip will be totally raised by the participants.

What also needs to be clearly communicated is how we receive your tax-deductible donation. When you give to our mission efforts, you should only give if you can agree that your donation is unconditionally given without personal benefits, to, and for the use of, our church. This means that you have given your donation to be used for our mission efforts, and this is what we will use it for. However, if the project you received an appeal for is over-funded, your donation may be used for one of our other mission efforts. And, if for some reason the individual you received an appeal from is unable to go on the project, we will be unable to refund your donation.

While we want to be as accommodating as possible with our donors, Internal Revenue Service laws concerning the tax-deductibility of donations limit us. It is due to these laws that we are communicating here how we can, and cannot, accept tax-deductible donations. According to the I.R.S., the tax-**deductibility of your donation is dependent on it being “unconditional and without personal benefit to the donor,” and that it “is made to or for the use of” a qualified charity. Further, the church must have “full control of the donated funds, and discretion as to their use, so as to insure that they will be used to carry out its functions and purposes.” Thus, we can only accept tax-deductible donations which are given in this way.**

Please call our Missions Office if you have any questions. We would be happy to discuss these issues with you further, or refer you to our experts on tax law. Christ Community Church is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Colorado. All donors will receive a confirmation of their gift by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year in accordance with I.R.S. guidelines.



Christ Community Church | 1301 15th St. | Greeley, CO | 80631  
970.353.1159 | [www.ccgreeley.org](http://www.ccgreeley.org)