

## Memorandum of Understanding

between **Global Partners** and visiting guests or team members on Haiti mission stations.

As a guest in another culture and as a volunteer representative of Global Partners and in respect to the host missionaries and their National Church coworkers, I agree to the following:

- I have come to serve without remuneration – I am a volunteer
- I will be responsible to pay all expenses related to my trip or visit, including such things as immunizations, travel, lodging, translation and other miscellaneous expenses related to my accommodation in Haiti. The mission has a standard fee schedule to help an individual or team establish a budget before arrival. I agree to pay all debts or expenses incurred before leaving the field, unless other arrangements have been made.
- During my stay on the mission stations, I will abide by the lifestyle guidelines established by the mission. The National Church has established certain lifestyle guidelines that reflect the current standards of the local evangelical churches, and ask us to model this lifestyle while present among them.
- I will purchase Travel Insurance before arriving in Haiti (required by Global Partners)
- I will agree to conform to the following directives. Therefore,

**Alcohol, illegal Drugs** – No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed on the mission station and the consumption of them is strongly discouraged off the compound...even when eating at local restaurants. Obviously, illegal drugs are not permitted and may be cause for a visitor to spend a lot more time in Haiti than anticipated. The use of tobacco products is strongly discouraged.

**Dress for Women** - Knee length dresses and skirts are still considered the most appropriate apparel, and should always be worn to church, on the street, on excursions to rural areas, and in the yard during daylight hours. In personal homes and in the guesthouse, pants and shorts to the knee may be worn. Tank tops and shirts with straps are NOT allowed. Medical “scrubs” may be worn when appropriate for safety and modesty.

**Dress for Men** – Shirts should always be worn outside the guest’s room (except when swimming).

**Church protocol** – In Haiti, the locals love to dress up for church. Visitors are sometime viewed as too casual even disrespectful when they appear in church dressed down. Women: skirts or dresses are always recommended, while men should wear long pants and a button up or polo shirt. Visitors are often asked to share a word of greeting with the congregation and Pastors may be invited to speak. Communion may be offered to visitors and they need to know that real wine is often used. It should not considered offensive if you choose to not partake.

**Security** - For their own security, visitors should not leave the station after dark without a definite purpose and a proper escort. Please consult the station manager or guesthouse manager before leaving the station if anticipating a return after dark. The gates are usually locked after 9:00 PM and entering the station compound may be difficult.

**Memorandum of Understanding (Page 2)**

**Employees and visitors** - Security for the station and guesthouses is a priority for guests and residents. For this reason there are two levels of security that we ask visitors to observe.

**Station access:** Please do not invite persons who are not staying on the premises onto the station or into the guesthouse without advance approval of host missionary, guesthouse manager or station manager. The very friendly person you have met on the street who just wants to “practice English” may be someone known to the mission personnel to be a security risk. Some of the best English speakers on LaGonave were deported from North America for criminal activity. The children of missionaries and national workers must enjoy a high degree of security on the grounds. Please do not invite Translators and or drivers and other mission employees to have meals with you. It is a basic fairness issue as we do not provide meals for our full time employees. Please do not put us in the position of having to ask someone you invited to leave.

**Inside the Guesthouse:** Only guests residing in the guesthouse or guesthouse staff have access to guest rooms. Please do not invite someone not staying in the Guesthouse to a dormitory room. Please respect the right to privacy of other roommates.

**Distribution of goods** - While the generosity of visitors is appreciated, distribution of donated items is a very difficult and sometimes dangerous activity, best done through the systems of our partner organizations (local churches, hospital, community ministries). Random, spontaneous distributions in the past have caused near riots and created dangerous conditions that often persist long after the offending team member(s) have gone home. If guests have items to donate please do so through the host missionary, local church, school or hospital.

**Guests should never give away anything in the street or on the station...even a piece of candy given away in a public place can create a very serious situation. Ignoring this directive creates grounds for an early end to your mission trip.**

**Signature of Team Member or Visiting Guest**

**Date**

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**(Please print name)**

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