

Ministry Information Letter #3

Can you believe it!?

Here we are...nearly 70 days away from Training Camp!

For some of you, your hearts just raced because you desperately need God to work a financial miracle in order for you to go this summer – others of you are overwhelmed because this will be the first time for you to leave the safety of home. Still, others of you – the majority, I would assume, are counting the moments until you are released from school and on your way to Training Camp.

The truth is, this is an exciting and overwhelming time for all of us! You're excited to go be the hands and feet of Christ to a world in need of hope and we are thrilled to be a part of helping you get involved with something so incredibly life changing.

Seize these moments you have...right now! Begin by writing in a journal – include your thoughts of your experience in this journey so far. Include your fears, hopes, and dreams.

Most of all begin now to think about a verse or passage of Scripture that stands out as a “promise” from God to you.

I have mine – Joshua 1:9. Not only is this God's promise to me for my life – it is His promise for this time with Youth In Mission.

Don't be afraid.
Don't be discouraged.
God is with you wherever you go!

This is the WORD of the Lord!

Sincerely,

Joel Tooley
Youth In Mission Coordinator

TRAINING CAMP

Training Camp will be held at the Border Initiative Center in El Paso, TX. Bedding will be provided. Dress will be casual at Training Camp. Shorts are permissible. Since most of the teams will be leaving on Monday, casual clothes are fine for Sunday. There may be time for you to swim, so bring your swimsuit (only one-piece suits are appropriate). Expect very hot and dry weather outside and very cool air conditioning inside the buildings. The El Paso area can be very hot during the day, but can cool off significantly at night during the summertime. If you have asthma or a breathing condition, please consult your doctor for advice or appropriate medication/inhaler before Training Camp. (Note: You may want to bring a pair of jeans, a sweatshirt and a light jacket.)

Keep in mind that throughout the summer modesty is always the best policy. Neither Training Camp, nor your ministry site is an opportunity for fashion. Simplicity is a good rule of thumb. If you cannot carry your luggage across campus or around the block several times without setting it down or getting winded, you are TAKING TOO MUCH STUFF. (**Seriously!**)

Remember: You pack it...you carry it!

The weight limit for international luggage is now a mere 50 lbs. Please weigh your luggage before training camp to ensure it isn't too heavy.

Bring the addresses (both mailing and e-mail addresses—but particularly the mailing address) of those who have supported you financially and prayerfully... they will want to hear from you during your Youth In Mission assignment. Also, bring the notebook you have created, your Advance Training materials, and other preparatory information you have received.

ADVANCE TRAINING

You should now be well into your own personal journey of preparation for this summer's Youth In Mission assignment. We're sure you have plenty to do this spring; however, the advance training experience is a very important part of YIM. Each minute you put into spiritual preparation, as well as site research, will be worthwhile.

Most Nazarene campuses have an Advance Training coordinator/Lead Ambassador. If you are not associated with a Nazarene college or your campus does not have an Advance Training coordinator, please find an accountability partner/mentor or group to be a part of your Youth In Mission preparation. You

can email your team mates to discuss some of the steps they are taking to prepare for this summer – compare thoughts and ideas!

READ AND RESEARCH

Those “dreaded words” should not bring cringes of anxiety, at least when it concerns YIM! Be sure to “read up” on your location (city, state, country, etc.) at the library or on the Internet. Be knowledgeable about your ministry location *before* you arrive. Learn about the history, government, climate, geography, and economy of the area. Be particularly familiar with the current events surrounding your ministry site. Many young people from outside the U.S. like to discuss current events. Also be aware of the church’s influence there by reading the magazine *Holiness Today* and other such literature. You’ll be glad you did!

Each participant should take some time before Training Camp to prepare site information. Get on the Internet and look for articles and news reports about your site (a good site for research: www.lonelyplanet.com). Print out this information and put it in your YIM notebook under the “Site Information” tab. The more you know as a team, the better prepared you will all be as you depart.

MUSIC/MIME/DRAMA/PUPPETS

Even if your site description did not indicate that you would be involved with music, mime, drama, puppets, etc., PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE COUNTED ON TO DO SOME VARIATION OF THIS AT SOME POINT!

Many sites are expecting the team to lead worship and provide special music. If you play an instrument, please ask your site coordinator if you can bring your instrument with you. (No tubas, please.) If you have vocal music or accompaniment tapes, please bring them as well. Mime and drama skits are also much needed resources. (Especially if you have culturally significant or translated material.) You can’t be too prepared for your ministry this summer!

REMEMBER!!!
The key to missions is
FLEXIBILITY!!!

DEVOTIONALS/SERMONS

Each participant will need to have two or three devotionals and/or sermons ready and bring them to Training Camp. Many locations are expecting the team to provide leadership in local church services, and youth and adult Bible studies. Having something prepared will most likely be very helpful at your ministry location. Using your testimony is always a good place to start – when speaking

in a cross-cultural setting, be sure to not use language that can only be understood by people from your area of the world.

Some training will be provided at Training Camp in the area of public speaking and cross-cultural communication – however, come prepared with some basic content for devotionals and/or sermons!

TESTIMONY

Every participant needs to prepare their personal testimony including these three points:

- A. WHO I was before I met Christ.
- B. HOW I met Christ.
- C. My relationship with Him NOW.

Avoid “churchy” language. Assume that you are talking to a non-Christian without any church background. Keep your testimony under five minutes. Please write it out and be prepared to share it with your teammates at Training Camp.

For those assigned to non-English-speaking assignments, you will still need to prepare your testimony. If you have language skills that allow you to translate your own testimony, then by all means do it. There are several translation sites on the internet, (for example, <http://babelfish.altavista.com/> or <http://www.systransoft.com/> or <http://www.freetranslation.com/>) so you might try to translate it line by line on the web before you arrive. Then be sure to have someone correct it before you try to recite it! If you have access to someone who could help you with this prior to Training Camp, then go for it. Be of good cheer, however. If neither of the above options is available, you will have translators on site.

NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING LOCATIONS

Those of you serving in non-English-speaking areas, do your best to prepare yourself with basic language skills before you arrive. Some instruction will be given on site. In the meantime, use the resources at your fingertips—your library and any professors or friends who may have knowledge of the language.

If possible, locate someone nearby you who speaks the language of the people at your site. Have them teach you short conversational phrases. Listen closely and mimic them. Learn a little and practice a lot! Your friends around you will think you’re nuts, but it will pay off big time on site. People are honored when you even *attempt* to learn their language.

Start with these key phrases to learn:

Hello
How are you?
My name is...
What is this?
How do you say . . . ?
Thank you.
You're welcome.
I would like to learn your language.
(And if you speak these well, you may need to learn "I can't say very much.")
Where is...?
How much is...?
I'm sorry.
Goodbye.

Most bookstores (or your local library) have an extended selection of language books, CD's, and tapes. Tapes and CD's are excellent because you can hear it pronounced. These can be a worthwhile investment.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, OR UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING AS MUCH OF THE LANGUAGE AS YOU CAN. We know that we have promised you translators where needed. But if you know even a little bit of their language, it makes a big impact—BIG! It can be an incredible bridge to relationships with the people. You can start with a little, and build on it while you are there. Your interest in their language shows the people you care.

A few years ago, one of our team members made it a point of learning the language of the people. He worked at it the entire time on site. In their last week, they were in a remote village. This young college student preached a simple sermon in the language of the people. That was over 5 years ago and we have heard that the people still talk of him.

Language acquisition is vitally important.

Honor the people by trying to learn their language. Have fun with it, and start now—set aside 10 minutes or a half hour each day. You won't regret it.

TEAM CORRESPONDENCE

Contacting your teammates is strongly encouraged. Begin building positive relationships with your teammates now. Written correspondence is an excellent opportunity to share your prayer requests with them. You should have received their contact information. If you haven't contact us!

Good idea: One school, as a part of their Advance Training, has been “assigned” to contact each of their team mates and report at the next meeting by introducing their team mates to the Advance Training group that they are in.

FRIENDRAISING

All students should be on track with the payment schedule by the end of March. If you are behind and have not sent the appropriate funds into the General Treasurer’s office, it is very important that you contact the Youth In Mission office right away (yim@nazarene.org). **Otherwise, you could be prevented from participating in Youth In Mission 2010.**

Don’t be discouraged, but stay in touch with us. We want to work with you to help you. But if there is no contact with us there is nothing we can do. If you are having a difficult time with your Friendraising, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to contact us! You are not alone!

As of the beginning of March, it is likely that all travel has been arranged for you – from Training Camp to your site and back. **If for some reason, you are unable to participate beyond this point, you will be responsible to cover the cost of your site travel (which, in most cases is the largest expense).** We do not foresee this happening, but want to make this clear to all participants in the event any unavoidable situations should arise.

TRAVEL

Each YIM participant is responsible for the expense and travel plans to and from Training Camp/Re-Entry Camp in El Paso. This is your responsibility. If you do not book this ticket AT LEAST 3 weeks to one month ahead of time, you may pay more than if you book them early. So make your arrangements as soon as possible.

Each participant needs to email a copy of your flight itinerary (we need the COMPLETE flight schedule) to the Youth In Mission office by April 30, 2010. If you are driving, simply send an email letting us know that someone is driving you to El Paso.

If you will not be **flying** to Training Camp, please contact the YIM office as soon as possible with your plans. **You must notify us by April 30, 2010!**

When emailing us your travel plans, send your plans to YIM@nazarene.org and in the subject line, enter your last name followed by your first name separated with a hyphen (that’s the little dash symbol) and the words “Travel plans.” Please use this format for your email:

To: YIM@nazarene.org

Subject: Your Last Name, Your First Name – Travel plans

Again, we need to know your travel plans by April 30, 2010!

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

EVERY PARTICIPANT HOLDING A USA PASSPORT AND TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY MUST SEND THEIR SIGNED PASSPORT TO THE YOUTH IN MISSION OFFICE. WE WILL KEEP THESE FOR YOU UNTIL YOU LEAVE El Paso. PLEASE SEND THIS IMPORTANT DOCUMENT IMMEDIATELY. SOME OF YOU MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WE HAVE THOSE NOTED. IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED WORD FROM YOU REGARDING YOUR PASSPORT AN ADDITIONAL \$500 WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR FINAL YOUTH IN MISSION COST. MAKE SURE THE PASSPORT IS SIGNED IN THE APPROPRIATE SPOT!!

YOUTH IN MISSION
PO Box 220098
El Paso, TX 79913
Phone: (915) 562-6300, ext. 2102
FAX (915) 562-6304
E-mail: yim@nazarene.org

You may want to send it via some traceable means.

Those participants holding a passport from another country, please contact Youth In Mission for information on what we need from you.

SUMMER ADDRESS

Where will you be between the end of the school year and Training Camp? Please email the YIM office with your summer address, (this includes both your mailing address and email address you will be using for the summer or when not at school). Also please tell us the date that the new address will be effective. Do this no later than **April 15th**. This is the only way we can make sure that important last minute information will continue to reach you until the time you depart for Training Camp.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING WORLD POLITICS, MILITARY ACTIONS, THE TERRORIST THREAT AND ITS EFFECT ON YOUTH IN MISSION

Each year, Youth In Mission monitors the developments of world politics and situations in order to evaluate the safety of our teams. Please rest assured (and you can tell your parents to rest assured) that we will not knowingly endanger any of our teams.

We monitor situations through the people we work with who are actually living in the countries where we send teams. They have the best picture of any situation that may impact team safety. Those we work with also have emergency procedures in place, and know what to do if we would need to remove a team for safety reasons.

As you may remember from a previous MIL, because of the current world events and world political climate, it may be necessary this year to cancel some teams, or move a team to a different area than originally planned. This would be done for the safety of everyone involved. We appreciate your flexibility in this matter.

Please know that we are excited to have you be a part of Youth In Mission, and that we would rather send you somewhere (perhaps a different ministry location), than to cancel your trip entirely. If the world political climate changes and it becomes necessary to make a change to a team's location, we will notify you as soon as possible. We will then make every effort to move the team to an alternative ministry location if at all possible. All of this will be done through consultation with field personnel.

Again, due to these factors, we ask for your added flexibility this year. Every year there are world situations that we monitor for the sake of team safety. This year in particular, we ask that you "hold on loosely" to your expectations. Begin to pray for and get excited about your site and your ministry there, but remember—it could change. And know that through all of this, God is still in control, he still has a plan, he is still on the throne, his kingdom work will continue, and his kingdom will know no end. Amen!

YOUTH IN MISSION – TRAVEL & SECURITY STATEMENT

From time to time Youth In Mission is notified about incidences in some of the world areas where we send Youth In Mission teams. First of all, we want to help our participants recognize that with travel, there are always risks taken – whether traveling domestically or internationally. Secondly, we want our participants and their families to realize that we take the security of our volunteers very seriously.

As a result, when we are made aware of incidences that occur – whether that be an isolated criminal act that's reported in newspapers, an international incident, or a disease outbreak, we check with all of our security sources (Site Coordinators, Field & Regional Missionary Personnel, International Headquarters Security Consultant, the US State Department, and the Center for Disease Control).

In some cases, the alerts we receive are very serious and require us to either divert a team's travel destination or postpone the trip. This is a very rare occurrence.

As well, in some cases, news articles report a random act of violence that would be comparable of a person living in South Dakota hearing about an incident that occurred in Rhode Island – both the distance and the nature of the incident would have no affect or bearing on the individual in South Dakota (this is a simple example, but very relevant).

That being said, Youth In Mission wants to reassure our participants and their families that while there are risks involved with travel, the security of our teams is taken seriously and every precaution is taken to ensure a safe, fruitful and fulfilling ministry experience.

MIL #3 CHECKLIST

- ❑ **PASSPORT sent to YIM office!!!**
- ❑ **2 extra passport photos (for travel visas) sent to YIM office!!! (Check w/YIM office if you are unsure of this requirement)**
- ❑ **Sent summer address and summer e-mail address to YIM office (by April 15)**
- ❑ **Have started on site research.**
- ❑ **Have started on language learning for my site (where applicable), and scheduled a short time each day to listen/practice.**
- ❑ **Have contacted at least one of my team members!**
- ❑ **Have arranged flight to Training Camp and mailed/emailed a copy of my itinerary to YIM office (by April 30)**
- ❑ **Up to date with my Friendraising**
- ❑ **Pray daily for my site and my team**