



**Q: What immunizations does a trip to Haiti require?**

A: BEM expects that all team members receive basic vaccinations, and that their children be similarly vaccinated according to the standard recommendations of the medical community. Beyond basic immunizations please refer to your PCP or local clinics for more details. The Center for Disease Control recommends you should have protection against malaria, typhoid and Hepatitis A. Those under the age of 18 should have DPT immunizations. Those born after 1957 should have a 2nd MMR. Adults should have a current tetanus shot (required every 10 years).

**Q: How much does BEM charge for administrative fees?**

A: While some agencies charge several fees for administrative services, others charge a percentage based on overall funds raised. We see value and limitations in both of these strategies. As such, we have chosen to adopt a blended approach that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the limitations of these approaches. Currently, 10% of the total cost of the trip and Meds purchased goes to administrative services. With that we remain among the lowest administration cost in the industry.

**Q: If for some unexpected reason I cannot travel after my trip costs has been paid, can I be refunded?**

A: Due to airline regulations your initial deposit is none refundable. This payment is for your airline tickets, bus reservations for both here and in Haiti. We will provide you with your record locator from the airline so you can handle your case personally. If you've paid in full for your second segment of your trip, you will be refunded if you cancelled at least 2 weeks prior to departure.

**Q: How does BEM determine where I will serve and what I will do?**

A: As you get to know BEM throughout the process and meetings, your ministry calling will be a recurring topic of conversation between yourself and your Trip leader. We want to hear what ministry experience, gifts, abilities, and education you have. Your own sense of how the Lord has equipped you will be critically important in this conversation, as will be the input of your local church/temple, university and past ministry coworkers. It will also be important to bear in mind what opportunities BEM currently has available. Keep in mind we are serving mainly in the southern peninsula of Haiti.

Taking all of the above into consideration, your Missions Director will discuss your interest in cross-cultural work with the leaders of any particular ministries that you want to pursue and, at the appropriate time, invite you into that conversation. If you're not already a selected professional through all of these conversations and

much prayer, we will narrow the options of service for you until we arrive at a service opportunity with which both BEM and you are comfortable.

**Q: How does BEM work with my church?**

A: Early in the application process, your Team leader or mission director will have a conversation with a representative from your church to discuss how we can work together to send you and others overseas. BEM believes that the local church/temple is called to send missionaries, while the mission agency is called to equip the local church for that sending. In short, it is our mission to facilitate your sending through your local church. Our relationship with your church, then, will be tailored to the kinds of assistance that your community requires. This is why we will develop a relationship with your group or house of worship even as we get to know you throughout your application process, with the goal of enabling your church to be a faithful and dynamic missionary sending body.

**Q: With whom will I work in the Application Process?**

A: Every applicant will work with a Team leader or our mission director for the entirety of their application process. Your Leader will be your point-person throughout the application process, answering any questions that come up, facilitating your dialogue with the ministry team you're considering, making sure that you have the proper forms at the appropriate time, and representing your file before anyone or legal representative who asks.

**Q: How will the information provided in the application process be handled?**

A: BEM is careful to make sure that the various pieces of your application will only be available to those responsible for making assessment decisions. For Mid-Term applicants, this means that your file will be available to your team leader and mission director. Long Term applications are reviewed by professionals and field leaders.

**Q: How will BEM prepare me to build my support team?**

A: BEM has a handful of resources to prepare our missionaries for the work of support development. Internally, our Ministry team is made up of support development professionals. Representatives join us for Missionary Orientation, or team building, and will lay a solid foundation for your understanding of this process.

**Q: Will I have a face to face interview before being accepted as a missionary?**

A: Yes. If you are in the following states: CT, NY, MA NJ or RI, BEM asks all final applicants to complete an in-person interview with the mission leader. This interview will take place at the end of your application process, but before you are accepted as a missionary with BEM. We will consider alternate arrangements to complete this face-to-face interview in other regions.

**Q: How long does it take to complete the application process?**

A: BEM's application explores your missionary call, current character development, career and ministry competence, emotional and physical health, and general compatibility with the missional approach. As we aim to get to know you in each of these ways, please understand we will deal with the process in a case by case basis.

On average, successful applicants for missionary service with BEM take 5-12 weeks to proceed through the process. This tends to be a reasonable amount of time to develop a relationship and together explore God's leading for the future.

**Q: How much will the application process cost me?**

A: In an effort to remove financial barriers to missionary service, BEM charges no fees for our application process. Fees associated with your background check, Intercultural Competency Survey, and Readiness Assessment are covered by BEM, and reimbursed to us if needed. That's why it is important to be honest with us on the application.

**Q: Will I receive personal training before leaving for the mission field?**

A: Yes! As you work through the application process, you will have the opportunity to identify growth areas in your life and begin addressing these areas with your personal mentors, pastors, or even your BEM team leader. Once accepted as a missionary with BEM, we will begin working with you. Our leaders have all served in Haiti extensively, and are excited to help prepare our new missionaries for the challenges that lie ahead.

Additionally, BEM offers several meetings in person or online/phone for weeks or months prior to departure. We will focus on cultural adaptation, ministry effectiveness, and other skills critical to thriving with our children, pastors, construction workers, medical professionals and staff on the mission field.

**Q: Do I need any special qualifications?**

A: Yes, a willingness to work and to abide by Christian conduct. You must be age 15 or accompanied by a parent.

**Q: If I have a physical handicap will I be permitted to go?**

A: Yes, as long as you are willing to work at things you can do and it isn't against your doctor's orders.

**Q: What are the work and conduct expectations?**

A: Work projects are work, so if you don't want to work hard, don't go. Conduct is to be that expected of a Christian. You should be willing to place yourself under the authority of the team leader(s) as well as give and take in your interpersonal relationships. It will be important to maintain a spirit of unity and harmony in the group. You will be expected to extend politeness and courtesy to those in the country where you are guests and to other members of the team. In short, all of your actions should be those becoming to a Christian. Attendance at movie theaters, drinking, smoking, and dancing are not permitted while you are involved with the team. No pairing off or dating is permitted.

**Q: Is there a dress code?**

A: Yes, both men and women are expected to wear conservative (not revealing) attire at the work site(s). Ladies should bring long dresses with modest neckline and sleeves for church, while the men should bring long pants and a collared shirt. Pastors should wear a shirt & tie and a jacket.

**Q: Are passports required?**

A: Passports are required to travel to Haiti. To obtain a passport, contact your local Post Office for an application and detailed information. You will need two passport photos and proof of citizenship. If you are over age 16, your passport is good for 10 years and will cost \$85.00. For those under 16 a 5-year passport is \$70.00. Passport renewal is \$55.00.

**Q: Is insurance required?**

A: Since most people have their own insurance, NONE IS PROVIDED BY BETHESDA EVANGELICAL MISSION. To do so would significantly increase the cost of each person's financial involvement. If you do not have insurance and want to be covered, you may secure a short-term policy from your local insurance agent.

**Q: Are shots required?**

A: You must have a current tetanus shot. Based on information from the U.S. Communicable Disease Control Center in Atlanta, you should have protection against malaria, typhoid and Hepatitis A. Team members under age 18 should have DPT immunizations. Those born after 1957 should have a second MMR. Team members over age 18 should update their DT every 10 years. You should contact your doctor and discuss it with him/her. Chloroquin phosphate is recommended for malaria.

**Q: What do I need to bring?**

A:

- Work clothes (modest attire)
- work gloves
- bathing suit (modest one piece)
- church clothes  
(women: dress or skirt/blouse;  
men: shirt and tie)
- sunglasses
- hat or cap
- personal items
- insect repellent
- comfortable shoes for work
- Bible, notebook
- spending money
- credit card for emergencies
- ear plugs
- camera
- snacks
- sunscreen
- towels, face cloth
- sheets will be provided

**Q: How much luggage can I bring?**

A: You may bring one (1) good size bag (70lbs; duffel bags work very well) plus a carry-on bag (must fit under your seat). You will be provided with an additional duffel bag that will be filled with 70lbs of items such as used clothing, medicine, tools, school supplies, etc. We will help you carry all this weight. Tag your luggage clearly both inside and outside. Boxes are not permitted.

**Q: How can I afford to go?**

A: If you feel the Lord would have you go, pray, use your own resources first, then contact your church, Sunday School, youth group, friends and relatives to see if they would assist you financially as a missionary project.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Pray and ask God for His guidance and blessing for each other and the folks you will meet.
- Keep a diary of your trip (you might even start now). This will be helpful in any future witness to relatives and churches.
- Look up Haiti in your library and do some research.