

Aussie SOS Church Planting Team Member

PERSONAL COVENANT

You go not as a tourist, but as a guest of another country. It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust to the expectations of your host.

I recognise and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this missions team, I agree to:

Attitude

- Adopt an attitude that I am on this team for the purpose of understanding the host culture, and not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
- Understand that our team's work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best to help these partners attain their long-term goals.
- Regard the differing styles of worshipping with respect. I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior attitude.
- Remember we are Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take lightly this important responsibility of setting an example.
- Act as a servant-disciple of the Philippines Assemblies of God churches, I will respect the advice I am given concerning my attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions which will help me to assimilate into the local community.

Actions & Activities

- Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race or traditions.
- Go as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ and will adopt that attitude when dealing with my fellow team members and the people I come in contact with during the trip.
- Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the Aussie team leader, and also the Filipino leaders of teams that we join. I promise to abide by his or her decisions in relation to this missions trip.
- I agree to interact with all members of the team and promise not to initiate or seek new romantic relationships with team members, either Aussie or Filipino, during the trip.
- Refrain from complaining, interfering, and obscene or insensitive humour. I realise that others on my team, during the journey, and while onsite, will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, 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.

- Avoid any actions which might be perceived as flirting towards Filipino people I meet.
- Refrain from using tobacco or alcoholic beverages when in the host country. Abstain from any illegal drugs or prohibited activity while on this trip.
- Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular talents, whether the skills or talents are music, singing, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully as possible.

Giving of gifts

- Refrain from giving personal gifts of money, electronics etc. Although the intent of the giver is good, the result to the overall church planting across the Philippines is not good. **Refrain** from giving gifts directly to Pioneer Pastors such as support money, or money for vehicles. [Explanation: In the Filipino culture, those who do not receive will tend to resent if they see others receive gifts - especially from guests. Since the choice of Target Town for Aussie teams is the decision of the SOS officers, any assistance therefore given to a pioneer worker or a local church can be viewed (mistakenly) as favour extended by SOS council. For effective ways of giving, see the following.]
- Giving small token gifts such as Aussie souvenirs is OK. Another way of showing love to our Filipino hosts is to bless the whole team - say buying a special meal for all! Filipinos will love it!
- Financial gifts from individuals (and churches) can be given to the central SOS Fund. In Australia this is managed by David Bates and gifts can be sent to a Westpac account in Sydney in A\$. All Filipino churches benefit from this – not just the Target towns that Aussies have visited. Gifts should be nominated for a specific purpose, not for an individual church plant or Pioneer Pastor. eg
 - Purchase chairs for new church plants.
 - Pay for the initial rent of venues for new church plants
 - Give to SOS nationwide general expenses.

In signing below, I am 17 years of age or older, or my parent/guardian will sign also, agreeing with me to the above conditions.

Participant's Signature *Date:*
 (If participant is under 17 years of age, parent's signature is also required)

Participant's name *email*

Address

Telephone (Home) *(Mobile)*

Witness Signature.....*Date:*.....

Name Address & Phone Number of Pastor:.....

Important: the witness, where possible, should be your pastor, or your Aussie team leader.