

# Team Orientation Overview

## A Look at the Team Training Materials

We are so excited that God has led you to be a part of a team to visit your Sister Church! Now comes the fun part; preparation for your trip. We know you desire that “Forever Relationship” that you’ve heard talked about. RMI firmly believes that in order to have a “Forever Relationship”, you must have adequate preparation. It is crucial to a successful visit.

Our aim is to prepare you well for this spiritual adventure. To be effective, and to avoid some of the common pitfalls of short-term ministry, you will need comprehensive cross-cultural training, professional guidance, and support before and after your trip.

This Training Manual is the core of our Team Orientation. It is written and edited by RMI founders, Herb and Shirley Shoemaker, who have over 100 years of missionary experience between them. It is jam-packed with practical, pertinent and up-to-date information that you will find essential in your preparations for cross-cultural ministry to your Sister Church in Haiti.

RMI’s Team Orientation package is divided into two parts: 1. **One time resources** that should stay in the hands of your church’s Sister Church Coordinator (these are to be used by each team going to Haiti—and it should be noted several of these can enhance your missions program in general since they can be used by teams going to other mission fields!). **Once you have these, you don't need to re-order them.** 2. **Pre-Trip consumables**, those items that each team member should have in their hands to use, study and take notes in. **These are consumables that are always being updated, therefore these need to be re-ordered before every trip, one of each item per person.**

The **one time resources** include:

### *Go Prepared*, a set of DVD’s produced by Teams Commissioned for Christ International

“The most comprehensive, practical, easy to understand and enjoyable short-term missions training series (a six-session series on one DVD). Designed to prepare you and your team for the best short-term missions experience. In this six-session series, well-known mission experts cover vital topics such as spiritual preparation, building your team, cross-cultural training, re-entry and debriefing. A *Team Leader’s Guide* is included with each set. Whether you are a seasoned short-term missionary or a first-timer, this video training series will help you get prepared. Get ready to go... but **Go Prepared!**”

“Never before has training of this caliber been united into one presentation series!”

### *Pimsleur Language Program, Haitian Creole*, a set of CD’s produced by Simon & Schuster

“With Pimsleur Language Programs, you *actually learn how to speak* – not just how to conjugate verbs. Our interactive audio-only lessons give you real conversational skills in the new languages quickly and easily, wherever and whenever – without textbooks, written exercises, or tedious drills.”

“Pimsleur programs provide plenty of positive reinforcement that will keep learners on track, and we found that Pimsleur gave us more proficiency and confidence in speaking the new language than any of the other language programs we reviewed.” – *AudioFile Magazine*

“EXTREMELY ACCESSIBLE...each section within the lessons is short enough to hold our attention, and there is enough repetition to teach even those who consider themselves slow learners...Pimsleur [programs] are extremely thorough and easy to use – quite lively!” – *Boston Herald*



## *Foreign to Familiar, A Guide to Understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures* by Sarah Lanier

"The 'Foreign' in the title of this most-helpful book once meant people and cultures 'overseas'. Today that has all changed. Sarah Lanier has captured the keys to understanding our own -- and others' -- ways of doing and saying things. I guarantee that if you follow the principles in this book that the boundaries of your worldview will expand, and you will begin to comprehend your own cultural ways in the process. This book is a quick read and a must read in today's world where 'cross-cultural' may simply mean 'across the street' where you live." -- Peter Jordan, Author of *Re-Entry*

"Sarah Lanier is not only a perceptive author, but she has also lived and worked cross-culturally worldwide. I have observed Sarah professionally, as a teacher and consultant, on six continents. She has character, insight and experience that qualify her to share intercultural wisdom that will be life-changing for her readers." -- Loren Cunningham, President, University of the Nations

The pre-trip consumables include:

RMI's Team Leader's Manual

RMI's Team Training Manual

*Before you Pack your Bag, Prepare Your Heart*, by Cindy Judge

"This 47-page paperback is the #1 best-seller in the entire short-term mission field, and for a very good reason. Its thoughtful, relevant 12-lesson Bible study challenges short-termers to prepare their hearts before packing their bags: as servants, with cultural sensitivity, and as team players. Its spiral binding allows for easy note-taking and journaling wherever you are (at home and overseas). You'll want to order one copy each for every member on your mission team, so that you all process the same studies together as a team."

All of these can be ordered through RMI.

We all live very busy lives and our time is valuable, yet at the same time **we can not emphasize enough the importance of every single member of your team going through this training!** We have worked very hard to make it as comprehensive yet condensed as possible, all to the goal of you and your team knowing, understanding and preparing for what you are going into. It is equally important that you and your teammates spend time together, get to know each other and bond so that together you can minister as a unified body to your Sister Church. You have made a commitment to be a part of a team ministry and that commitment starts now, long before you actually get on the plane, with the Team Orientation Sessions. We pray that you will enjoy the orientation. It will enhance your short-term missions experience.

May God bless you as you venture forth to Build Forever Relationships!

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