

Hello Team!

Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 It is exciting to have you on the team and to see what God is doing as He puts this team together.

Please be in prayer as God begins to work in this team in preparation for reaching the lost in Palawan, Philippines.

This email is **full** of the details of the trip, so if you'd like to print it out and carry it with you on travel day you are welcome to do so! I like to have things organized when I travel, so I might be printing out a schedule and flight information on a set of paper for me to carry while traveling.

CMC MANUAL and Why Document

You will find attached our Church Multiplication Coalition (CMC) manual. This has a number of answers to common questions and will be a resource for you to look over as you prepare for June. CMC is a church planting organization. We have the goal of planting a church within walking distance of every Filipino. In Palawan we will seek to start new churches as well as build existing churches that are typically 20 or less in attendance. New bible studies will be started. The pastors on the ground are excited we are coming. Our skilled team who meets us on the ground are also excited to see us coming and are preparing for our visit.

The Why Document by Pastor Marcy Babor is a great resource that I will also include as an attachment in this email. This document explains the purpose and vision of the why, how, where, and what of our crusades, everything A-Z from the beginning of the concert to the end and other fundamental events accomplished on our mission. Reading this will give you much preparation for what we will be doing every day. It's very important and very useful!

This email will be broken up into different sections for ease of reading. If you have any additional questions, **please** feel free to email me!

PACKING

Attached is a simple packing list with the basics on it. It's best to pack enough tops or shirts to last for at least 7 days, and then several pairs of pants (or skirts for the ladies) and a few pairs of shoes that match with every outfit. Wearing loose clothing is perfectly acceptable (and understood!) as it will be **very** hot and humid on the trip. If you're not quite sure what humidity is, try standing in a hot and dry heat and then spritz yourself with water every few seconds so you're both hot AND wet... that's kind of what it's like).

In addition to the packing list, I pack a few extra items:

- A fan (either battery operated or just a typical fabric fan that folds out. Both men and women will want one!)
- Beef Jerky or any other high protein, easy to eat snack such as Almonds or Lara bars or Cliff Bars
- A camelback (or a water bottle)
- A backpack (or a camelback to use as a backpack) to carry stuff with you to crusades

Regarding the dress code, please remember that we are representing our country of America and our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people have an impression of America that is based from TV shows and movies, and we want to give a new impression and image of our country by dressing tastefully and acting in a manner worthy of our calling. We want to dress in a way that does not distract the people from hearing the Gospel and giving themselves fully to the Lord. If the dress code is not what you're used to, please bear with us all as it's only 12 days. You can do it! I have attached outfit sample pictures in case you need a visual for what typical clothing styles are over there.

Please keep your suitcase at about 45 pounds. It makes for smoother traveling if your suitcase isn't right at the weight limit of 50 pounds. Your carry on is allowed to be about 20 pounds. Please be sure this is also about 5 pounds under the recommended weight so smoother traveling when we all weigh in at the airport.

WOMEN

Please bring modest clothes. When in doubt, err on the cautious side or email me your question! An acceptable outfit is anything that is dressy-casual to keep a good appearance to our team and to make the locals feel like we took time to make ourselves presentable before visiting their tribes. Typically wear long maxi skirts with simple scoop neck shirts, or breezy blouses. Also, cardigans worn with jeans and TOMS or a similar type of shoe. You are allowed to wear jeans on daytime outreaches, yay! Please avoid any rips and tears in the jeans. Keep the dress code to dressy-casual. When you are preaching, please do not wear pants. Please wear a skirt with a hemline below your knee, and a blouse. Also, please avoid sleeveless tops unless you double check with me to make sure the strap width is okay, and make sure it has sleeves that cover your shoulders. Filipinos are sensitive about women baring their arms!

Please pack a swimsuit! If your swimsuit is a bikini, please pack shorts and a tank top to wear overtop. Typically wear a one-piece swimsuit with water shorts. Please avoid wearing suits that reveal your stomach.

DO:

Wear comfortable clothes - travel days may be long and will be hot.

Wear clothes that are easy to get in and out of. We will often be using “squatty potties” while in the villages, so keep that in mind as you pack! Sometimes they have a toilet bowl but no seat to sit down. Skirts are easy to use when using a squatty potty. Comfort and ease is key for the clothes.

DON'T:

- Show any cleavage. In many countries this is something that's looked down upon. Simply dress with dignity.
- Wear any jeans with holes or rips in them.

MEN

Please avoid shirts that have logos on them, such as O'Neil or Hurley or UnderArmour or similar brands that have a logo on the front. Our point is to not draw attention to our clothing. If you have shirts that have Bible verses or Christians quotes on them, please feel free to bring those along! Those are great conversation starters! As for quirky shirts (like a cat eating a taco on your shirt) just be mindful of the setting that you'll be wearing it in. It's best not to wear shirts like that while preaching as you want people to be focused completely on the story being shared and not the cat eating a taco on your shirt.

DO:

Wear dressy-casual clothes. A nice polo and khakis is fine, or a nice shirt and jeans. If you are preaching, please avoid wearing jeans. Shorts are acceptable for *some* daytime activities as well as for our beach day that we hope to have.

Please pack swim trunks (there's no need to wear a shirt while swimming. They're okay with swim trunks at the beach and at swimming pools)

DON'T:

Wear jeans with holes in them.

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival (or shortly before we land) you should be given two forms to fill out. I have attached sample copies of those forms so you know what types of questions they ask on the forms.

You need to carry a copy of the address of the hotel we are staying at in Palawan (for proof of where you will stay) and Pastor Paul and Marcy's contact information which we will provide closer to the trip.

We will walk off the plane and go straight to the customs lines at the airport. Please be prepared to stand in line for a while without using the bathroom. Try to use the restroom shortly before landing or hold it until after customs. **Please be patient at this point, and PLEASE be gracious with the Filipino workers** at the airport, no matter how rude or slow they might be. A smile and word of encouragement goes a long way! If you express any frustration or anger to Filipinos, they tend to shut down and get embarrassed as public displays of anger are not culturally appropriate.

You should have already filled out your customs form and arrival card at this point. Please have your passport ready along with the arrival card. They do not need your customs form until you exit the airport with your luggage.

They will ask unique questions at the arrivals desk. If you are family members traveling together you may approach the desk together, but **ONLY** family members or spouses. The questions they will ask are to make sure you're not being trafficked and to make sure you plan on leaving the country within 30 days. You are allowed to say you're here doing missionary work, as Filipinos are open about religion. On the form you will mark that you're a tourist, but if they ask what you will be doing you are free to say, "Touring and traveling and doing missionary work" but keep it simple.

After the customs line we will walk over to the luggage loop where our bags come out, and you can group together there. When your bags come out you can grab a push cart and load the bags on the carts. There are men there dressed in yellow or blue and they are porters. They charge to

handle your bags, so if they ask to carry your bags for you please POLITELY but firmly say no thank you.

PLEASE try to use the bathroom before loading up in the vehicles outside and let me know and then your travel buddy.

Please save your customs form for when you exit the airport, and hand it to the people collecting the papers. You will hopefully not be stopped, but if you happen to have your bags checked please let me know so we know where you've gone to.

Evangecube

We will be using a cube called an evangecube which is an evangelistic tool in a cube shape that helps us accomplish sharing the gospels in schools, prisons, hospitals, and other places in the Philippines. I will train you how to use these in the Philippines, but there will be two links attached in the email to click videos showing you how to use the cube as well.

Drama – LifeHouse Everything Skit

We will be performing a drama called the LifeHouse Everything Skit at our concert crusades each night. There are several parts to the drama and we will practice this in the Philippines. However, to become familiar with this drama, please watch the video attached in the email. The timing is crucial in this video, so try your best to learn the timing and we will practice in the Philippines.

Blessing to Pastor Jill's Team

If you can purchase one of these items and pack it that would be so much of a blessing! We would like to bring multiples of most of the items, so they can stock up. This is for Pastor Paul and Pastor Marcy's team in the Philippines that will help them greatly even after we leave.

- Vitamin C - in pill form, preferably chewable or gummy
- Vitamin C - in drink form, such as Emergen-C packets in various flavors, or Airborne
- Multi-Vitamins - in pill or gummy form
- Coffee - any brand is acceptable, but of course they love Starbucks!
- Peanut Butter - any brand is acceptable and any size
- Garlic Salt seasoning - usually found at Costco, the kind without MSG

If any of you are able to pick up one or more of these items, please click REPLY ALL and let everyone know what you are able to bring along.

Day of Prayer

Our team on the ground there is absolutely amazing. They host crusades and missionary teams at least once a month, and they have a special tradition that we have been asked to be a part of for this trip.

Before each team that comes over, our Filipino staff members dedicate themselves to prayer and fasting for three days. Pastor Jill has asked that each of us **dedicate one day this week to pray and fast for your upcoming trip.**

So, for this next week, please pick one day that you can set aside to fast and pray. You can pray over anything you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to pray over, but here are some requests that our staff prays during their fasting times:

1. **Open Hearts and Open Doors** - pray that hearts would be open to receive the Gospel and that we would have favor with people and officials
2. **Strongholds to be Broken** - praise the Lord that no weapon formed against us shall prosper!
3. **Protection and Wellness** - pray for a covering of complete health for our team, and protection
4. **Renewed Strength** - our team will be a little tired by the time we arrive, so pray for all of us to have renewed strength
5. **Workers of the Harvest** - pray that the Lord would send even more workers into the (spiritual) harvest, and pray for the workers already bringing in the harvest

I encourage you to **pray boldly** and to **dream big** and pray God-sized prayers! And if you receive any visions or dreams from the Lord or He speaks something amazing, please write them down and share it with the team either at a team meeting or via email. It's so important for us to keep our eyes fixed upon the Lord and His heart for this trip, because all our ministry will flow from Him.

As you will see there are now 10 people on our team!

I'm excited to see how God will use us as He continues to work in us!

Thank you again! See you soon!