

Teams Trips

2024
EDITION



Team Member Manual



I'm Interested in a OneHope Teams Trip

Who Is OneHope?

OneHope is an international ministry that is changing lives by sharing Scripture with children and youth around the world.

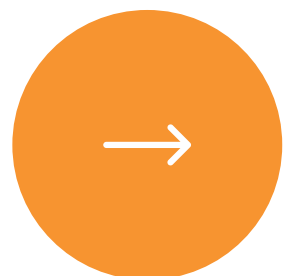
Founded in 1987 by missionary Bob Hoskins and now led by his son, Rob, OneHope has a strategic plan to walk alongside the global Church to reach every young person in every nation with a relevant Gospel message by the year 2033, while laying the groundwork to reach future generations.

What Does OneHope Do?

OneHope develops Scripture engagement programs that are as diverse as the children and youth they are intended to reach. Though the format and delivery methods are different, the scripturally based message of God's love is still the same.

Keeping cultural relevance and each society's unique issues in mind, OneHope's Scripture programs in Japan look much different than its programs in Madagascar—and in each of the countries it serves worldwide.

OneHope is an outcome-based ministry. This means we start by identifying the desired result and then build a program specifically designed to achieve that purpose.



What We Do

We have developed the *Book of Hope* in hundreds of languages and a variety of specially targeted editions for various age groups, cultures, and circumstances. What started as a single book in 1987 has evolved into many innovative mediums—films, mobile apps, trading cards, and more—that effectively communicates a relevant message of hope to children and youth.

The *Book of Hope* is a Scripture book designed to engage and speak to the heartfelt needs of children and youth within various cultures, clearly showing God's redemptive plan through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It's a harmonized version of the Gospels, broken down into pieces and messages children and youth can understand.

For children who cannot read and in areas that the printed Word cannot go, The GodMan film tells the story of Christ's life.

God's Big Story helps primary children learn Bible stories and uncover the underlying message of redemption and restoration through a series of illustrated cards and a parent's/teacher's guide stocked with activities, lessons, and memory verses.

Stories of Hope is a collection of 75 quintessential Bible stories that helps families, churches, and volunteers build biblical literacy.

Bible App for Kids is a digital library of Bible stories that brings the Bible to life in a new way for this generation of digital natives. It was developed in partnership with YouVersion, and we have reached more than 100 million children around the world through this digital tool.

Empower Churches

OneHope is helping churches become more effective in reaching their communities by sharing its outcome-based ministry model. We believe the Church is God's answer to restoring communities. We also believe the Church is God's plan to reach the world. OneHope's role is to help churches do the work of the Church.

"Sometimes churches take on so much that they are no longer able to do anything well, and they lose sight of what they set out to do. By starting with the end goal in mind, we can help them build a road map to achieve their desired outcomes."

Trips Outcomes

OneHope Teams are designed for you to assist in the work of OneHope's church partners around the world. We desire that through this trip you will:

- Experience an increase in passion, vision, and engagement with the mission of God, both internationally and in your daily life upon return.
- Gain a greater understanding of our world, the Church, and how the Church in the U.S. can effectively partner with the body of Christ around the world.
- Understand clearly the work of OneHope and our vision of *God's Word. Every Child.*
- Be directly involved in reaching children and youth with God's Word.

What will we be doing?

All OneHope Teams are designed for participants to understand and experience OneHope's outcome-based programs around the world. Depending on where your team is going, programs you will be involved in may include:

Traditional ministry: Classroom and assembly presentations in schools where the *Book of Hope* is personally handed to each student. These typically involve:

- Skits and dramas
- Sharing personal testimonies
- Sharing object lessons

Digital ministry: Digital programs, including the *Bible App for Kids*, are utilized by our field teams to reach the technologically connected generation with the truth of God's Word.

God's Big Story: A Scripture program that uses a series of 16 trading cards, each one with an illustration of a major Bible story on the front and a puzzle piece illustration of the overarching metanarrative of God's Word on the back.

The GodMan: An animated film that tells the life story of Jesus from a child's point of view—a boy who meets Jesus and observes His ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Short-film ministry: Films that focus young people on God's Word through engaging dramas that speak to the heartfelt needs of their audience.

Specialized ministry: There may be opportunities to match the gift.





I Just Signed Up!

We are so blessed by your decision to join us on a OneHope Teams trip and are excited about the opportunity for you to minister to children and youth. There is something very special about the chance to personally give God's Word to a child—perhaps bringing them the Gospel for the very first time.

Enclosed in this manual, you will find:

- Helpful information on OneHope's ministry around the world
- What to expect during your trip

Remember, the more prepared you are for ministry, the better your experience will be!

We are praying that this trip will give you a new vision for what God is accomplishing through His Church around the world and that you will return with special stories and experiences you can share with others. We look forward to the opportunity to minister alongside you!

Trip Preparation

Not only does every OneHope team represent the face of the ministry, but are also ambassadors for your church, your community, the global Church, and the Gospel message we are there to share. Representing the name of Jesus is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly.

We recommend that you take time to prayerfully prepare for this trip and any opposition you and your team might face on the field. There is nothing more powerful than a unified witness, and nothing more damaging than a fractured, conflict-ridden ministry team.

A OneHope Teams trip is about

- Team unity and serving
- Being open to receive what God has planned for you
- Stepping up to push yourself outside your comfort zone
- Cooperating with your team leader and OneHope staff to minister effectively on the field
- Allowing God to open your eyes to a new world perspective

A OneHope Teams trip is not about

- Going on a vacation
- Spending a lot of time alone relaxing
- Staying in the background and letting others do all the work
- Meeting individual desires and expectations
- What you might receive—but rather what you can give



Passports & Paperwork

Passports & Visas

If you don't have a passport, apply immediately! Passports can take as long as four months to get if you apply by mail, sometimes even longer. If you have enough time, go ahead and apply for your passport without expediting it.

If the country you are traveling to requires a visa for entry, you will be advised of the appropriate paperwork to fill out. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please note that the requirements may be different for you. Connect with your team leader as soon as possible to work out the details.

Required Paperwork

You will need to supply the following paperwork for your trip:

Assumption of Risk form

- Must be completed by each team member age 18 and older.
- Full completion of this form includes signatures from two witnesses.

Permission for a background check

- All team members age 18 and older must undergo a mandatory background check from Accurate Background before going on the mission field. Please make sure they complete this form.

Health information section of the Assumption of Risk form

- This section is required and must be completed in full. It is critical that we have medical background information on file.
- Note any medications you are taking, allergies (including foods), immunization records, and any current health issues.

Parental consent form

- Must be completed for each team member who is under the age of 18 at the time of trip departure.
- Parents or legal guardians of the minor must complete the form in full and have it witnessed by a notary public.
- This form replaces the Assumption of Risk form for minors participating in the trip.

Photocopy of passport

- This will be needed to keep on file at the OneHope office.
- We also recommend keeping a copy of the information page in your luggage in case you lose your passport while traveling.

Transportation

Your trip leader will coordinate booking plane tickets to your trip destination. Upon arrival, the OneHope staff hosting your team will arrange ground transportation, lodging, and meals during the trip. If you have any constraints on your departure and arrival dates, please alert your leader as soon as possible so they can make appropriate arrangements.



Fundraising

Fundraising isn't about asking people to give you money; it's about inviting them to join your journey and put their resources at the disposal of God's Kingdom. Fundraising is an invitation for people to partner with God's call to reach the nations. The key to fundraising is to be creative and maximize your team's talents and skills as you think outside the box for innovative fundraising ideas.

Letter writing, email campaigns, and GoFundMe social media campaigns generally work very well as long as your team members are giving regular updates about their process and what God is showing them through it.

One thing to note: Remember how many team members are going on the trip. If you want to put the time and energy into car washes and bake sales, just remember that you are dividing the total profit by the number of people going on the trip. Fundraisers like these can be great to help build team unity. However, personal fundraisers such as letter writing, mowing yards, babysitting, working odds jobs, auctions, and selling crafts seem to be the better way to raise money because more money is raised per person.

Prayer Preparation

Every OneHope Teams trip needs to be covered in prayer from start to finish. Your team will likely experience opposition while on the trip, and it would be a mistake to go into it spiritually unprepared. As you prepare for your trip, pray for the following:

- Your personal spiritual growth
- Your team's personal needs
- The ministry activities you will participate in
- The preparations of the field team who will be hosting you
- That your love for the people of the host country will grow
- The cities where you will minister
- Distribution of the *Book of Hope* or other program materials
- The local pastor(s) who will be working with the team
- The translators who will work with the team
- Health for yourself and your team members
- Protection from spiritual or physical attack
- Team leadership and unity





I Leave in One Month

Team Meetings and Trainings

It is essential to the success of your trip for you to learn the object lessons and skits as a team. Instructional videos are accessible here: teams.onehope.net/resources/.

Object lessons

- Gum and Money
- Choices
- M&M
- Playdoh
- Water (Identity)
- Balloon (Peer Pressure)
- Jacket (Addiction)
- Paper + Eraser (Gospel)

Skits

- Walk of Life
- The Chair
- The Hello Song
- Heart Skit

If you're viewing this packet physically, visit our OneHope Teams Website: teams.onehope.net/resources/

Country and Culture Research

It is helpful to do a little bit of country and culture research before you go on your trip. Some key things to find out:

- How to say "hello" and "thank you" in the local language
- Learn about the religious climate in the country
- Find out more about current events, and the country's government, including the name of their government leader.
- Know eating mannerisms. For example, in some countries finishing your plate is expected, and in others it signifies that you were not fed enough.
- Understand what is considered respectful clothing. Your team leader should have more information on this from the OneHope Team.

Sharing Testimonies

Sharing your personal testimony of how you encountered Christ and the work He is doing in your life is an integral part of any Teams trip. It helps those you will be ministering to know that the Gospel message of hope is real and impactful in our daily lives and invites them to share in that story. You might feel intimidated to share your testimony in a public setting. Don't let fear prevent you from potentially helping someone encounter Jesus for the first time. These are typically some of the most special times during a trip with so much potential to move hearts for Christ.

Testimony Tips

- Take some time before the trip to consider what God might have you share.
- Your testimony should not be your entire life story. It could be a key moment where you experienced God's provision or presence, a problem you overcame with God's help, or something miraculous you witnessed.
- Don't compare your testimony to others. If you have a relationship with Jesus, you have a unique story with the potential to relate to someone else.
- Think about your main point—can you say in one sentence what you want them to walk away with? How does your story support this?
- Share your heart with the students, and speak of emotions that apply to everyone. Don't focus on things that separate them from you (i.e. possessions, money).
- Before you share, calm your heart and listen to the Spirit in case there is a different direction you should go.
- If your testimony is being translated, speak slowly and simply. Stop after every few short sentences for the translator to catch up.
- Tailor your content to your audience. If your story involves mature themes, consider how you can best explain that in simple terms to a younger audience. (Some people have two testimony stories prepared—one for younger audiences and one for teen audiences.)
- Tie in the *Book of Hope* to your story. Hold it up when you talk about the power and truths of God's Word.



I'm Packing for My Trip

Packing Guidelines

We recommend packing at least two changes of undergarments and one change of clothing in your carry-on bag. Plan to carry on any toiletries, medication, glasses/contact accessories, snacks, and other items that you can't live without in case your luggage is lost. Leave a little extra room in your luggage if your team is planning to take gifts. All team members should pack an outfit appropriate for a conservative church setting.

Modesty

Pack clothing items that fit the standard of modesty for the country you will be visiting. Some countries have more formal standards for men and women. Some countries don't allow women to wear pants and require that women wear long skirts and dresses in ministry settings. Ask your team leader for more information about what clothing will be considered appropriate for your trip.

Modesty Standards for Women

- Don't bring anything clingy, revealing, tight, low-cut, or with holes in it. A good rule of thumb: if you can't comfortably move about for active dramas and skits without revealing cleavage, underwear, or midriff, you should leave it at home.
- Shorts and short skirts/dresses are, as a rule, not allowed in any country for ministry. Please ensure that skirts and dresses fall at the knee or below. If you are wearing low-riding jeans or pants, you must wear a shirt long enough to cover your waist area.
- Leggings or yoga/stretch pants are not considered appropriate for ministry, but may be worn within the hotel at your team leader's discretion.
- Shorts and sleeveless shirts may also be worn within the hotel.

Modesty Standards for Men

- Don't bring anything tight or revealing or clothing with holes in it. Many countries consider it rude to wear clothing with holes and tears in them or pants that are low-riding and show underwear.
- As a general rule, men will not be able to wear shorts for distributions or other ministry.
- Shorts can only be worn within your team hotel. Bring pants that can be worn with a shirt that is tucked in and a belt.

Other Guidelines

In many countries, body piercings (other than ears for women) and tattoos are considered taboo, especially for men. In order to be sensitive to the culture you are entering, you may need to remove or cover any body piercings and cover any tattoos that would be a distraction to ministry. Men who have braided/long hair or ponytails may also be considered offensive in certain countries. Please consult your team leader and be receptive to any suggestions he or she has. Bring a pair of closed-toed shoes; this might be requested in some places where sandals/flip flops are too informal. Research the country you are going to, and ask your team leader for more information.

Travel Tips

- Always carry your passport, tickets, and visas (if applicable) on your person.
- Travel as lightly as possible.
- Mark your luggage distinctly so you can locate it easily.
- Pack a foldable bag to bring back any purchases.
- Remove all old airline tags from your luggage.
- Put your contact information inside and outside all luggage.
- Make sure you can carry all of your luggage with no help.
- Pack a photocopy of your passport information page and any inoculations or vaccination records.
- Refer to your airline's current baggage allowances for size/weight guidelines and guidelines for liquids in your carry-on.
- Don't pack any valuables. Put them in your carry-on if you must take them (i.e. cameras, etc.).

What to leave behind

- Expensive or expensive-looking jewelry
- Any valuables that are irreplaceable
- Any unnecessary credit cards, Social Security card, and other routine objects in your wallet that will not be necessary





To Read on the Plane

Working with an Interpreter

One of the most important people you will have with you on your trip is your interpreter. He/she will be able to help you navigate any challenges of communication with the individuals and audiences you will encounter. Here are some tips to help when you speak in front of an audience with an interpreter:

- When possible, go over what you are going to say with the interpreter beforehand.
- Speak in simple thoughts and sentences and at a slower pace than you would normally speak.
- Avoid long words, slang, Christianese, geographical references, and idioms that won't translate well.
- Look at the audience, not at the interpreter.
- Don't speak again until your interpreter has finished with the translation.
- If your translator has difficulty translating a specific sentence or phrase, rework the idea.
- Avoid mentioning specifics like brands, large numbers, monetary amounts, etc.
- Trust your interpreter to translate correctly.

Distributing the Book of Hope

Distributing God's Word in the form of the *Book of Hope* will differ from country to country. In a school setting, you may take books classroom-to-classroom or give them out at a school assembly. In a church or neighborhood setting, distribution may occur after a showing of a film or at the end of an orchestrated program. Remember to be flexible, follow instructions, and above all, have an attitude of servanthood. You are an ambassador not only of OneHope, but also the body of Christ.

Distribution tips

- Look the child directly in their eyes and smile. For smaller children, kneel down to their level.
- Make sure you are placing the book in the student's hands, not throwing it at them.
- Hand the books to each student with the front cover directly facing them.
- Focus specifically on each student.

Presentation tips

- When referencing Scripture, point to the book you are distributing to encourage the audience to engage with their own *Book of Hope*.



Culture Shock

Stages of Culture Shock

Culture shock is a normal part of traveling. It's important to be aware of the "symptoms" of culture shock so you can prepare and adapt your mindset.

Stage 1

- Initial excitement
- More likely to recognize cultural similarities and differences

Stage 2

- Euphoria wears off, some frustration sets
- You may feel extra tired from the adaptation
- Desire for control or desire to make things "go your way"

It's unlikely to reach stages 3 or 4 during a short trip.

Stage 3

- Begin to "settle in" and adjust to the new culture
- Differences are understood rather than irritating
- Gradual understanding of cultural cues

Stage 4

- High level of comfort and routine
- Sense of "foreign-ness" diminishes

Tips for Cultural Adjustment

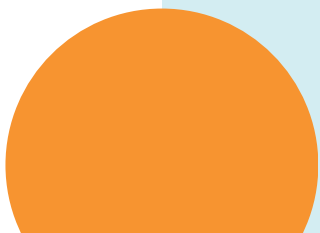
- Travel in a spirit of humility, patience, positivity, and with a sense of humor.
- Do not expect to find things as you have them at home. Remember, you left home to experience different things!
- Keep an open mind. Do not judge others just because of your differences. Different does not equal inferior.
- Don't allow others to get on your nerves or ruin your trip. You've come a long way to learn, enjoy, and be a good ambassador for OneHope, the U.S., and Christ.
- Remember you are a guest. One who treats a host with respect will be treated as an honored guest.
- If you experience frustration, identify the following: What are the situations that confuse or irritate you the most in the new country? Is it necessary for you to remain in this situation? If so, how can you find out more information about this aspect of the culture so you can understand it better? What do you miss the most from your home country? How can you replace this desire with something new?
- If you begin to feel stressed or depressed, ask yourself: What did I expect? Why? Was my expectation reasonable?
- Exercise and eat well to reduce stress.

Tips for Dealing with Homesickness

- Stay busy. Keeping busy helps distract your mind. There's always something to be done!
- Don't spend time on social media looking at all your friends back home. Staying in contact is okay, but constantly wishing you were with them is not.
- Stay social with those around you; be intentional about forming bonds with your team members.
- Look forward to what is ahead, whether later that day or in a few days. Specifically think of upcoming events you can get excited about.
- Keep in mind that your memories of home are more utopian than you remember! You are only here for a short time; don't leave with regrets because you were too busy sulking to take advantage of new opportunities. Homesickness is fleeting, but your experiences, memories, and what God will create in your heart will last a lifetime!

Responding to Hospitality

There may be times when your team is either housed or fed by locals in the city where you are working. Please observe these guidelines to ensure you represent the ministry team well and avoid offending anyone.

- Be understanding and appreciative of what you are provided. It will probably be the best they have available.
 - Learn how to greet and thank people in the native language as soon as possible. Showing an effort to connect with them goes a long way.
 - If you are offered a gift, no matter how small, express your thanks and be appreciative.
 - Eat whatever you are offered, unless it is dangerous to your health (for instance, don't drink unclean water or eat raw food that may have been prepared with the local water supply).
 - Get to know the nationals and allow opportunities for the nationals to get to know you.
 - Bring photos of your family and home, postcards from your city or state, pens with your church name on them—anything you can show them that will help them learn about you.
 - Most of all, be open to learn about and share with others!
- 



Safety

Efforts have been made to ensure that your time will be as safe as possible. While you should not feel anxious about anything unsafe happening, it is always better for you to be prepared and aware of potential threats.

- Always follow local laws as well as U.S. laws.
- While traveling, your most vulnerable time is upon your arrival.
- Don't set down a bag while waiting in line at the airport.
- Keep track of your luggage ticket.
- Wear a money belt inside your clothes for vital documents.
- Don't carry electronics in your back pocket or set them on a table.
- Wear cross-body purses and small bags, and don't wear them on the street side of your body.
- Be mindful of what you put in outside pockets on backpacks.
- In crowded spaces, keep your bag in front of you.
- Watch for commotions in crowded spaces; they could be a distraction for thieves or pickpockets.
- Do not walk alone, especially at night. Always travel in groups.
- Don't wear expensive clothes, jewelry, or accessories.
- Take with you only the cards, money, and documents you need for the day.
- Don't give personal information to locals. Do not invite them to your home. Do not go out with locals you just met, whether alone or in a group.
- Do not accept rides.
- Keep doors, windows, and car doors locked at all times.
- Listen to your gut instincts; if you feel unsafe, remove yourself from the situation.
- Carry a business card from the hotel you're staying at so that if you get lost or separated from the group without knowing the language, you can give it to a taxi driver to take you back to the hotel.



I Just Returned Home

When you get home, people will want to hear about your experience! Reflect on your trip and think through different types of answers for people who will ask about your trip. Some people are being polite, and others truly want to know more about your experience. Preparing answers can help you feel less alienated as you return home. Remember that you have an opportunity to minister to those at home by sharing how you experienced God.

30-second answer

- Example: The trip was great! I learned a lot about the local church and a few Spanish words. I miss the amazing people already.

3-minute answer

- Your feelings about the experience
- Something you will implement in your life now
- How you saw God move through you or your team

10-minute answer

- Your feelings about the experience
- Something you will implement in your life now
- A story of ministry or a child you met that you will remember forever
- An experience that pushed you out of your comfort zone and empowered you to do something new

Extended answer

- Everything you would want to share with the people who invested in your life and your experiences



I Just Returned Home

Things to think through as you return home:

- **Know your identity.** Your identity is in Christ, not in what you do or have done for Christ. (1 John 3:1)
- **Know your home.** This world is not your home—in either place. We are all away from the Lord, from our true home and our citizenship is in heaven. (2 Corinthians 5:8-9; Philippians 3:20)
- **Fight romanticism.** Your trip was not all a bed of roses. Remember the hard times. You may be tempted to romanticize missions and minimize the difficulties you encountered. It is in the hard times that our character is revealed, and we are prepared for what comes in the future.
- **Fight pride.** You did not gain standing with God because you went on a missions trip. We can only stand before God because of the death and resurrection of Christ, not because of what we do for Christ. (Romans 8:3; 1 Peter 3:18)
- **Fight laziness.** As you acclimate to life at home, fight against the temptation to be lazy by neglecting the Word of God and your relationship with Christ. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 4:8)
- **Remember to pray.** In most cases, you will never see again the men and women and the ministry with whom you spent so much time. Pray for them. (Philippians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:3)



- **Live differently.** The only thing that will keep your experience from becoming just “another experience” is you. Only you can determine if you will take what you learned and what the Lord showed you and continue on His journey. (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Take risks.** Stay out of your comfort zone and decide that you are not at the end of your short-term missions trip, but at the beginning of a new ministry. Plan to live in a way that will continue to stretch you and your faith. Seek to hear His voice, to obey, and put into practice all that you have learned. Radical living encourages radical faith! (Philippians 3:8-14)
- **Stay off-balance.** Do you realize that walking actually requires that you set yourself off-balance? As you put one foot in front of the other, you are literally tipping forward—off-balance. If you never took the risk of being off-balance, you’d be stuck in one place. The act of “stepping out” and getting a little off-balance is the very act that allows you to move forward spiritually. Think about the big steps you took in deciding to go on this short-term trip and look how you’ve grown. So, live differently, keep taking risks, follow God’s wild imagination, and be in the place where you will only succeed if you trust in Him and Him alone.

Post-Trip Reflection

- How will you maintain contact as a team after the trip is over?
- How can you ensure that you don't put your experiences on a shelf, but rather use them to deepen your personal and professional life?
- How can you extend this experience into your everyday life?
- How can you make sure you implement your experiences to create lasting change in your life?
- Did the trip meet your expectations? Evaluate how your perceptions and expectations changed after your trip.

Ways to Continue Engaging with OneHope

Learn

Follow OneHope on social media to stay up to date with our ministry efforts taking place around the world. You may even see your team featured! Visit onehope.net/about-us/global-reports-2023/ to sign up to receive the OneHope monthly e-newsletter with testimonies and stories of God's Word changing lives.



@onehopeministry



@onehopeministry

Pray

Pray for the country you visited, the ministry you served with, and the children you shared the Gospel with. Visit onehope.net/contact/text-to-pray/ to sign up to receive a monthly text update with the latest news and prayer needs from OneHope partners around the world.

Advocate

Share your experiences and the OneHope mission with friends, family, and others in your community. Encourage others to explore the idea of going on a OneHope Teams trip.

Give

Consider continuing to impact the destinies of children by partnering with OneHope financially. Visit onehope.net/donate to learn more.



