



His Healing Hands Project Behavior Code Standards

His Healing Hands is a Christian organization that is invited by Christian host organizations to provide spiritual, medical, and other humanitarian aid to their indigenous peoples in various cross cultural situations all around the world. Standards of behavior that might be common and acceptable in the United States may be neither common nor acceptable in other cultural situations. As a matter of practice all HHH missionary team members are expected to honor and respect these cultural differences and to behave at all times during a project in a manner that reflects the standards of the host culture and to refrain from behavior that might bring discredit to HHH. Typical areas of difference are described but are not limited to those listed below:

1.0 Dress Standards

Dress codes in the United States have become more casual and more revealing over the past 20 years. It is not uncommon to see people in churches, at work, evening events, and other similar venues dressed just as they might dress at play or on the weekends. Most other cultures require a more formal dress at functions in these venues. This is especially true of what is the expected dress for women. HHH missionary team members are expected to dress at all times in respect of the local customs for the activity being performed. The team leader will provide each team with the necessary guidelines for acceptable dress during a specific project.

2.0 Language Standards

In the past 10 years, the language standard in the United States has become more vulgar and less respectful than ever before. Words and phrases that were once considered profane are now common place even among Christians. Sarcasm is the standard tone in almost all casual social conversations. Most other cultures find this type of language and method of communication both offensive and immature. HHH missionary team members are expected to control the words they use in communication and to adopt a positive and respectful method of speaking to others on our team and to host personnel. This is especially true when addressing older people or someone who by virtue of their community position is deserving of respect.

3.0 Alcohol consumption

Many Christians feel that Alcohol consumption is neither bad nor good on its merit alone. They have adopted the Biblical position that what comes out of someone's mouth is more spiritually important than what goes in. As a general rule HHH accepts this freedom as an individual choice and, short of drunkenness or overindulgence, are agnostic as to the theological foundation for permitting or

restricting alcohol consumption. However, some Christians are much more conservative in their view of alcohol consumption. In order to not cause our "Brother to Stumble", all HHH team members are expected to refrain from any alcohol consumption while with team members or project host personnel during a project period.

4.0 Smoking

Most areas within the United States have enforced smoking restrictions in public places. As a result many U.S. citizens have stopped smoking altogether. Besides the obvious health advantages this is also a good social practice where others might be offended. Unfortunately, many cultures, especially those in South East Asia still allow smoking in almost all areas. Many of the people, including Christians, in these cultures do smoke heavily. However HHH expects all team members to observe the general standards acceptable in the United States, by not smoking in any public place or while in close proximity to others.

5.0 Proselytizing

Many countries that we visit forbid proselytizing or evangelizing by foreigners. This does not mean that we are forbidden from witnessing to anyone who asks us about why we believe as we do. As a result we rely heavily on our Christian hosts in these countries to do any overt outreach activities because they are allowed to do so. HHH will inform team members on each project what is and what is not allowed for us in that culture. We do not require anyone to witness who is uncomfortable in so doing.

6.0 Local Laws

HHH expects all project team members to observe, submit to and obey all local laws and legally constituted authorities.

7.0 Daily Devotional Meetings

HHH team leaders will organize a devotional meeting each day. This meeting is for the purpose of debriefing the previous day's events and for prayer and meditation on the upcoming day's programs. It is an important time of spiritual growth and team fellowship. HHH expects all project team members to attend these daily meetings and encourages active participation for those wishing to do so.

8.0 Donating Personal Money

On every project, team members have been approached by indigenous volunteers asking for financial help. This comes in many forms, and our generous team members feel inclined to give from their personal funds since the need is so apparent and so great. As benevolent as this may seem on the surface, we have found that it can cause many unnecessary problems during the project and later. As

a matter of policy, HHH discourages all types of this personal giving. We budget an amount for each project in advance that is given to the team leader to use at his or her discretion for emergency medical purposes, and to assist in situations that might occur. If a team member feels inclined to add to that amount, they should do so through the Team Leader who will coordinate the distribution of it with our host.

9.0 Personal Host Gifts

We expect that each team member may develop a strong friendship with one or more host volunteers. This is natural and is highly encouraged. Many of these friendships last long after the team member returns home. Quite often the host volunteer will give a small personal gift to a team member on parting as a token of remembrance. Since this is likely to happen team members should come prepared to give the host volunteer a gift in response. These gifts are best if they are personal in nature and brought from home. Examples might be a personal tee shirt from your home town or school, your own personal costume jewelry, your personal Bible; something that you have personally made or drawn, a framed picture of yourself with a personal note, or anything else of this nature. The more personal from you the better, however do not give money.