

Dear Parent

I am excited that your son or daughter is considering taking part in one of Power to Change's Global Missions Projects. Our experience over many years running these trips is that they are life-changing experiences for all who participate in them. They are given a wonderful opportunity to experience a new culture, as well as develop skills and leadership abilities as they step outside their comfort zone. These skills and abilities are all part of building the foundation of who they will become in the years ahead.

Our desire is that you, as their parents, would be informed about our trips and what they involved. We want to support you, as a parent, in your role as a guide and guardian for your child, and encourage you to explore the information below. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

About Power to Change

Power to Change is a not-for-profit non-denominational Christian organisation, originally founded in the USA and established in Australia in 1967. In Australia, we work with university students, high school students, churches, families and film to connect people to Jesus and each other. You can find out more about Power to Change here: powertochange.org.au

Safety

Your son's/daughter's safety is our priority, and while no one can guarantee the complete safety of anyone, we do take appropriate precautions to reduce the risk of danger to those participating in Power to Change activities. All participants in our mission trips are given training and orientation, both in Australia and in-country, including sessions on safety and what to do in the case of an emergency. Each location has its own policies to maximise safety.

How do I know these trips are safe?

Safety is a high priority on our overseas trips. Each location is consistently monitored both in the lead up to the trip and during the trip, and evaluated for political stability, recent and previous history, as well as any national issues that may have the potential to escalate. We are in consistent communication with our leaders in those locations, as well as an international emergency evacuation and information service (SOS International – the world's leading crisis response consultants) to ensure we have up-to-date, accurate and relevant information about the situation in the location. We also closely follow Australian (DFAT) and, where relevant, American security briefings on our locations.

The mission trip leaders are training in basic areas of crisis management, and they will work with local leadership to ensure the safety of our teams. If at any point during the preparation process a location becomes unsafe, we will cancel the trip to that location and all affected team members will be offered an assignment to a different location where possible.

What happens in the case of a natural disaster or other unforeseen emergency?

If conditions were to become unsafe during the trip itself, the appropriate emergency protocol for that location will be followed. Our team in Australia will be notified and we will contact the emergency contacts of all our students to update them on the process being followed.

Each participant on one of our Global Missions Projects will be signed up as a member of SOS International, our emergency evacuation and information service. With this service comes medical referrals, advice about medical facilities around the world and immediate on-the-ground assistance in case of an emergency. This service is available to the Projects 24/7. All participants are also required to have top level travel insurance, provided through Power to Change's travel insurer.

In the case of an emergency, or if you simply have a need or concern, while your student is overseas, feel free to contact me directly.

Leadership

On a typical Global Missions Project with Power to Change, there will be two Power to Change missionaries who will oversee all administrative operations, scheduling, logistics, teaching and training. They will be responsible for the care and safety of the team, and have all received specific training in how to carry out those responsibilities on a Global Missions Project.

Finances

All students who go on a Global Missions Project with Power to Change are encouraged to find people who will partner with them financially for the Project. This gives them an opportunity to trust God to provide for their needs in a very tangible way, as well as inviting others to be a part of what God will do through them during their Project. Every year we see God provide hundreds of thousands of dollars towards the cost of roughly 200 students going on one of our mission trips, whether domestically or internationally. Our students are all given a coach who will encourage and help them throughout the process of finding people who will partner with them.

The amount each student raises will cover the cost of their international airfare, their training and debriefing, in-country accommodation and transport as well as all meals. It is expected that students would take their own personal money for incidental items like snacks or souvenirs.

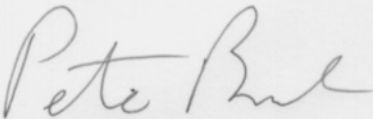
Communication

Once your son or daughter is accepted, they will receive further information from their Project leaders regarding their trip. Since each location is different, the leaders for each location will have the most current and specific information about their location. If you have questions or concerns, then please ask me, and I will put you in touch with their Project leader.

How do I communicate with my son or daughter while they are overseas?

Each location will have different access to communication, but it is expected that some internet access will be available at different points in the Project. We would encourage you and your daughter/son to investigate ways to communicate using the internet while they are overseas, as this will be the simplest and most affordable method to use. We do encourage participants to connect with their parents as appropriate, and when both the schedule and the technology allows.

Yours,



Peter Brook

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Power to Change

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