



# REMM

Romanian  
Evangelistic  
Medical  
Mission



## *Short-Term Missions* *Team Handbook & Ministry Guide*

*Dedicated to serving Christ by serving the orphan, the widow, the poor, the forgotten, the lost, the found, the sick, and the needy.*

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## **Welcome!**

The Romanian Evangelistic Medical Mission (REMM) would like to welcome you to Beius, Romania and thank you for volunteering your time, finances, and gifts to serve Christ and participate in his work here in Romania. REMM has a rich tradition in hosting Christian short-term missions teams from all over the world. The ministry would not be where it is today without the commitment and dedication of short-term mission teams serving REMM since its inception. We pray that your experience in Romania will be life-changing, that you will encounter Christ and his glory in new and exciting ways, that your understanding of the global Body of Christ will be broadened, and that God will use your individual gifts to the fullest!

In order to ensure your experience in Romania bears fruit for you and the ministries of REMM, we provide you this Team Handbook and Ministry Guide as a reference. In it you will find helpful discussion on trip behaviors and expectations; dress, appearance and cultural differences; and answers to many common pre-trip questions. We have also included a Short-term Missions Application for you to fill out and give to your trip leader. We pray this information will be helpful to you, but also know we are available to answer further questions if need be, just send us an email or give us a call. Again, thank you for serving Christ by serving REMM in Romania. Welcome!

Your fellow ambassadors in Christ,

Ana and Peter Lucaciu

## **I. General Behaviors and Expectations**

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility considers others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest but to the interest of others.*

*- Philippians 2:3-4*

*Do not let unwholesome talk come out your mouths, but only what is helpful in building others up according to their needs, that they may benefit from those that listen...Get rid of bitterness rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ Jesus forgave you*

*- Ephesians 4:29& 32*

Traveling on a mission trip can be wonderful experience. It can also be very hard work. There are many pressures { long travel, unfamiliar living conditions, illness, fatigue, changes in plans, etc. } All must be faced with patience and maturity if the team is going to be successful and bring glory to God. The work of missions can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. Mission team members are to maintain their walk with the Lord through fellowship with Him in the Word and prayer. It is only as this Fellowship exists that the fruit of the Spirit will be revealed during times of pressure rather than the works of the flesh. Anyone who serves with REMM in any capacity shall maintain a Godly and peaceful relationship with others. Everyone is to be friendly, courteous, cooperative, and trustworthy. If any conflict arises it is to be settled with humility and free from gossip. All team members are to cheerfully obey and carry out the instructions of those in charge.

It is expected that those traveling and serving with REMM will attend mandatory devotions regardless of denomination. The time and study will be determined by the spiritual leader of the team.

Debriefing meetings are to be held at least every other night. These also are mandatory unless you are late in travel with mission oriented activities. These are extremely important to build as a team. This is where we can share Praises and Joy ! It is also where we can express feelings, difficulties, concerns or other problems.

If your team is going to a church service during the week, it is required that you also attend, unless you have other mission-minded activities. Sunday church is mandatory for all team members.

Be considerate of mealtimes. If you are going to someone's home or have decided to eat in town on your own, then you must give the team leader sufficient notice to notify the

kitchen of your absence. PLEASE be on time to meals! The exception to this is if you are doing a team project and returning late. In this case the kitchen will be notified by the team leader and the meal will be kept until you return.

Sleeping accommodations are usually in very close quarters. You need to be considerate of your roommates. Please notify your team leader before traveling if you need special accommodations. {Ex: Can't climb stairs, heavy snorer } REMM will try to provide for your needs. We will also try and accommodate families traveling together in one unit. However space is very limited and this may not always be available.

People need to be in the compound NO later than 10:30 PM. out of respect for those trying to sleep, lights in the sleeping areas must be out by 11:00 PM

No one is to be in the dining area after 11:00 PM for any reason !

If you cannot sleep and would like to read quietly etc., we ask that you go to the small office on the first floor of the clinic.

## **II. Dress, appearance and cultural differences**

*I want men everywhere to lift up Holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.*

*- 1 Timothy 2: 8-10*

Fads and fashion are as changeable as the weather, but God's standards for decency do not change. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, our dress and appearance should reflect who we are and whom we represent.

Women need to wear skirts or dresses to church. Married women may want to wear a hat or scarf but it is no longer mandatory. However it is still customary in the rural churches. When working in the villages or doing VBS in the church during the week, pants are fine. Shorts in the summer are also appropriate as long as they are not TOO short. Sleeveless shirts for females are okay in the summer. However, NO spaghetti straps and NO tummies showing. Be modest with your clothing ! This is also a good time to remove any hardware connected with body piercing with the exception of simple earrings. Men need to remove ALL hardware connected with piercing.

The villages we work in are very conservative. Watch carefully for traditions in an individual church. For example: If men are all sitting on one side and women are on the

other. Please do the same. Do not impose your views on particular customs on them. Females never get “in” the pulpit, they may stand to the side or in front of the pulpit unless directed differently by the Pastor of the church. Be careful with what you say to another team member in English; many Romanian people understand English, even if they don’t speak it. Frequently when you are in the rural churches, you will be offered food. Please be aware that people have gone out of their way to serve us on very limited incomes. Be gracious!

Gifts need to be kept to a minimum, since feelings can be easily hurt. There are many people behind the scenes that are working very hard. They do not have the visibility that drivers, translators, etc have. Gifts need to be equitable. Talk to your team leader before ANY gifts are given.

### **III. Trip planning Questions**

- **What will it cost?**

Plane tickets are to be arranged by team leaders or by individuals, depending on the arrangements made by your team. REMM does not make these arrangements. Generally, teams find it most convenient to fly into Budapest, Hungary. We can provide bus transportation for your team from there.

\*Transportation to and from Budapest and all transportation while in Romania will cost **\$200.00 per person**. This pays for the cost of fuel, which is triple the price in the US, the cost of drivers, the cost and maintenance of the vans and insurance. It is not recommended that you rent a vehicle

\*All meals and housing while in Romania will be **\$50.00 per day per person**. There are hot showers, linens are provided, and your laundry will be done for you if needed. The staff has two small washers available to do your laundry. They do not have dryers and everything is hung up to dry. Please be courteous and only have your clothes washed if they really need it.

\*Each person will also pay **\$10.00** to help with the cost of the translators during your stay.

30 days before your trip, half of these fees need to be mailed by each person to:

REMM  
P.O. Box 537  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044-0537

The balance of the fees needs to be paid on the first day of your stay in Beius and must be paid in cash. We are unable to cash checks in Romania. A receipt will be written for you at that time.

Credit cards are not accepted anywhere in Beius. We can exchange your American cash for Romanian Lei when you arrive or anytime during your stay if you would like. In the larger cities, such as Oradea and Budapest, credit cards will be accepted. ATM's are also now available in Beius but are not readily found.

\*Other costs while in-country are optional and specific to a given team's mission trip. These costs may include special team activities and meals outside of REMM, donations to special ministry projects, local churches, or other special team activities. Please discuss these with Ana Lucaciu prior to departure.

- **Are there any specific skills required?**

REMM does a variety of things at different times. If you have specific skills, please let your team leader know. However everyone will be utilized regardless of skills. Remember, God formed your team and He has the plan for you. Be open and receptive. AND ABOVE ALL BE FLEXIBLE! Try new things!

- **Do we need to learn the language?**

While it would be fun to know some Romanian, it is not necessary to learn the language. When you are working, you will have a translator available. While you are in Romania we encourage you to take the time to learn some basic words or phrases like "Thank you," "Good morning," "Please," etc. Romanian is a Romance language and thus comes fairly "easily" to those with a background in French, Spanish, German, or Latin. Romanians are honored when foreigners attempt to speak their language. It's fun, don't be afraid or embarrassed to try it out.

- **Should I have health concerns and do I need vaccinations?**

If you have health issues, before you travel it is important to let your team leader know. If you have a health emergency while in Romania, REMM will do everything possible to get you the care you need. You will be responsible for any and all medical expenses. Many teams that travel to Romania get a tetanus shot and also the hepatitis A and B vaccines. However, neither are required.

- **What should we pack?**

International flights will allow two 50-pound suitcases and one carry on. Ask your team leader what your assignments are as far as needs are concerned and what each team will be expected to bring. These items will need to be distributed equally among your team members' suitcases. If anyone on a team is bringing additional bags or boxes, the team leader **MUST** let the REMM staff in Romania know. Space on the vans will allow the two bags per person and special arrangements need to be made for extra luggage. Pack your personal items as carefully as you can. Winters can be cold and wet. Summers are hot. Follow the dress codes provided with this information. Remember that your linens are provided and your laundry will be done for you. You need to bring your own toiletries and any medication you might need. It is always wise to bring additional medication in the event of missed flights etc. It is recommended to put this in your carry on and keep it with you when traveling.

Additional items you might want to bring:

- Alarm clock
- Journal and pen
- Coffee or tea (and coffee filters)
- Peanut Butter
- Granola bars
- Backpack
- Water Bottle (there is filtered water on the REMM premises, you should fill your water bottle there and avoid drinking water outside the compound)
- Soap for bathing
- Liquid hand disinfectant
- Toilet paper (toilet paper is available but if you have any extra space bring some from home)
- Toilet drop-ins
- Bath towel that you are willing to leave behind for others.

- **How do we contact our families and how would they contact us?**

A message tree needs to be arranged in advance by your team leader. Upon arrival in Beius, he or she will email the States to let everyone at home know of your safe arrival. As a general rule, ONLY the team leader will have access to the computer. Computers will not be available to the entire team. A emergency # will be given to you for your family, but we stress that this is ONLY for emergencies. Phone cards can be purchased to make calls. One good reference for calling cards to/from Romania (as well as other countries in Europe) can be found at [www.callingcards.com](http://www.callingcards.com)

- **Will we be joining another team?**

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts: and though all of its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ  
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

Very possibly! Occasionally there are other teams from the United States or elsewhere there at the same time. Be sure to check with Ana Lucaciu so you'll know what to expect. While you are in Romania, you will become ONE team. This is very necessary and that is why it is so important to have debriefing meetings often. Make an effort to know your "new" team members. You will make new and lifelong friends!

- **Is it safe to walk around town on our own?**

Yes, but it's always a good idea to travel in pairs. It is mandatory that teens travel in groups of at least 2 or 3. Feel free to wander in and out of stores and don't miss the market! It's an experience. We absolutely prohibit REMM teams from going into bars. There is to be no consumption of alcohol or tobacco by REMM teams while in Romania. Breaking this guideline can jeopardize the reputation of REMM as a Christian ministry.

## **REMM Short-term Mission Application\***

\*Required unless similar application provided by Church or team leader.

Note: All information on this application will remain confidential and disclosed only to those who need to know in order to fulfill their responsibilities. Please attach additional sheets if necessary.

**Please complete and give to your team leader or bring this with you to Romania.**

### **I. Personal information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

{Please give name exactly as it appears on your passport}

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe what your expectations of this trip are:

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## **II. Spiritual Life:**

Please tell us about your spiritual life and your present journey with God:

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a believer, but I am open to learning and understanding more. Right now I consider myself to be:

- \_\_\_ A skeptic
- \_\_\_ A spectator
- \_\_\_ A seeker
- \_\_\_ Unsure

\_\_\_ I am a believer; I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and right now in my faith development, I am a:

- \_\_\_ new believer
- \_\_\_ growing believer
- \_\_\_ maturing believer

Briefly describe some areas of spiritual giftedness and talents that you feel you have:

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## **III. Other:**

How do you see yourself contributing to this team?

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Are you willing to try new things and work in areas that are not in your comfort zone?

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Do you have any physical limitations that we need to be aware of?

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Please list any medical conditions we need to be aware of, including any medications you feel we should be aware of in case of a medical emergency:

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Please list the names of any one we should contact in case of a medical emergency.

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Please give us your health insurance information:

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Do you have any allergies to medicine / food / animals, etc?

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**PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM FOR TEAM MEMBERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:**

1. In case of accident, illness, or injury, I hereby give my permission for medical attention to be given to my child.
2. I hereby release REMM from liability in case of an accident.
3. I hereby request that the leaders of this trip carry out any discipline deemed necessary for my child. I also agree, to pay the cost of my child being sent home early as a result of disciplinary action.

Signature of team member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be signed by all team members regardless of age

*Fulfill my joy in being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but for each others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

*- Philipians2:2-7*

The goal of this team is not to be perfect but to exemplify the kind of unity and servanthood found in Philipians2:2-7 as well as grow in relationship with Jesus Christ. I agree to submit to the team leadership and abide by specific team expectations (i.e. attending team meetings, participating in mission projects, etc.). I agree to be sensitive to the culture of our host country and to conduct myself in an appropriate manner. Failure to do this could result in my dismissal from the team, requiring me to purchase airfare back to the US at my own expense.

I understand that I am completely responsible for my own health care expenses, and my own conduct while on this trip. I hereby release REMM from any liability in case of an accident.

Signature of team member \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please attach a photocopy of your passport to this application