

# MERGE

## Mustard Seed missions Trip

This has been an exciting year at MERGE! When we started this year, our leadership team felt that Jesus was leading us to be missional. We sensed that Jesus was challenging us to be salt and light in our schools, neighborhoods and homes. As we've answered that call, we have seen an incredible move of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our students! We are seeing our students take bold steps of faith by sharing the Gospel, inviting their friends to bible study and seeking God's hand of healing for one another! They are making a kingdom impact! And God is not done!

I am excited to share with you that MERGE will be headed to Calgary in the first week of July for a Missions trip to the Mustard Seed church! We are asking for 15 students who are in grade 8 and up, to join 3 of their leaders (including me) on a missions trip geared to serving the least of these. Jesus has a large heart for the marginalized people in our culture. He is asking us to be His hands and feet by serving them and loving them the way He does! This trip will include serving, meal prep, clothes sorting, biblical teaching on Social justice and even a full day where our students will experience life on the street. We have been given good news, and that news needs to be heard through servant hearts! Being missional for us doesn't end in our school hallways or our living rooms. It continues to the least of these! Below you'll find a list of details including cost and upcoming deadlines. It is also our desire to fundraise for this event to make it that much more affordable. Please be praying with your child to see if this trip is right for them. We believe that Jesus has the right students already in mind!

1. DemoCrew is a five day, four night inner-city street experience available through The Mustard Seed in Calgary. June 30th -July 4th, 2019.
2. Cost \$250. This includes transportation to Calgary.
3. It will be expected that your student plan to attend all training and fundraisers (June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> )
4. You must be in Grade 8 and up to attend.
5. **Applications are due April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Thanks so much to all of you this year for partnering with us in reaching students for Christ! We have seen the fruit of your prayers and support. Jesus is using you as much as your kids, in building the Kingdom! I pray that the rest of this year will be significant as you apprentice with Jesus!

## Short Term Missions Application

Thank you for your interest in serving, learning and growing as a participant in God's mission locally, nationally and globally. As part of our vision for living and equipping others as apprentices of Jesus, we strive to effectively screen and prepare volunteers. At St. Albert Alliance Church, we are excited to help support, advise and prepare you for this journey.

This application is for those intending to serve for a period of less than 6 months.

Short-term missions can play an important role in supporting God's Kingdom growth and the spiritual growth of StAAC members. Our aim is to help build an empowered global Church that is transforming its community. Therefore, our view of short-term missions may differ from some other organizations.

We begin by recognizing that **local believers have the most at stake, and the most to contribute**, in bringing about transformation in their communities. They live and cope with the challenges, and have the time and relationships that are essential to sharing God's love and developing their communities.

We're convinced that when it comes to addressing material poverty, **real transformation is a long-term process of empowering leaders**. Local people, equipped to be leaders, use their knowledge and relationships to positively affect their churches and communities in ways that outsiders could not. We don't want to weaken local initiative and create dependency on outsiders, or have visitors do for people what they can do themselves.

This way of **growing apprentices of Jesus is hard work that requires cultural insight, resilience and flexibility, along with some helpful skills**. It's not easy to affect deep-rooted local issues as a short-term volunteer. Imagine a scenario where a stranger arrived at your workplace eager to help out in any way they can for a week or two. However, they are unfamiliar with the area, don't speak the language and will take a long time to gain an understanding of the work you do. This illustrates how some short-term volunteers can struggle to be effective.

Effectively serving in an international context takes forethought and preparation. Whether you're interested in a short-term trip or a medium/long-term volunteer role, serving in God's mission is a significant undertaking. Authentic connections require visitors to come as more than observers or helpers – but to prayerfully befriend, listen, learn and partner.

Our prayer is that through this experience, you will grow deeper in your own apprenticeship journey with Jesus, catch His heart for his Church around the world, and return more committed than ever to living in the now-available Kingdom of God.

Please thoughtfully consider your answers to the questions below, and ensure that you have committed adequate time to preparing yourself for your trip.

Completed forms may be submitted at the Reception desk at St. Albert Alliance Church or scanned and emailed to Pastor Dan MacGillivray at [dmacgillivray@staalliance.org](mailto:dmacgillivray@staalliance.org)

## Individual Application Form (All Volunteers)

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed trip dates: 30/06/2019 - 04/07/2019  
dd/mm/yyyy dd/mm/yyyy - dd/mm/yyyy

### Personal Information

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Information

Please tell us about your interest in a volunteer mission/service trip.

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Please describe your present involvement at church:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever shared your testimony of faith in Christ with a non-believer or in front of a group?

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\_\_\_\_\_

Other volunteer organizations or ministries you have been involved with, and your role or activities:

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Please describe any cross-cultural experiences/activities in which you have participated or are currently involved.

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What skills, talents, training or gifts do you have that might be useful in this context?

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What are your expectations or personal goals regarding this project/mission?

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Preparation for your short term trip and post-trip debriefing will require a significant time commitment. Are you willing to attend all required team meetings?  Yes  No

Are you willing to participate in all required team fundraising activities?  Yes  No

If you answered no to either of the questions above, please explain.

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Do you have any health, medical, or dietary concerns or restrictions that could affect you while on a short term trip? If so, please explain.

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Have you undergone any traumatic event in the past 5 years with which you are still dealing, or which might affect your emotional response to working with people in a cross-cultural context, or those in crisis, illness, family distress, bereavement or poverty?  Yes  No

If yes, please elaborate. Have you undergone counselling? Do you feel prepared to cope with the stresses you may encounter during this trip? Please explain.

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How do you respond in situations where you are under the responsibility, authority or direction of others? Rate yourself on a scale of 1-5 (1- battle with submitting to authority, 5- willing & glad follower ). \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have difficulty with accepting guidance, constructive criticism or following restrictions that you would not normally observe, in order to preserve relationships and respect others? Please be honest in your self-assessment, as this question will play a key role in your enjoyment and success during this volunteer experience.

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Volunteers should be flexible, cooperative, and strive to maintain a positive attitude. Do you agree to cooperate at all times with local host ministry leadership and/or your Team Leader?  Yes  No

Various cultures hold different attitudes toward certain behaviours. Most Westerners find other cultures more conservative in terms of styles of dress (particularly for women), touching or communication between sexes, etc.. Do you agree to follow the guidance of others in matters such as appropriate attire, displays of wealth or affection, and to refrain from the use of alcohol and tobacco while on the volunteer mission?  Yes  No





**References**

**Pastoral staff member or ministry leader who knows you at St. Albert Alliance Church:**

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

**Friend at StAAC:**

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

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**I grant permission to StAAC to contact my references:  Yes  No**

**I will be sending a photo of myself by email within 1 week:  Yes  No**

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