



TEEN MISSIONS INT'L AUSTRALIA

Parent Information Packet

v1.0 updated May 2019

Dear Parents,

We appreciate you and realize the importance of your involvement in each step of the process of your child going on a summer missions trip with Teen Missions. We want to make the process of learning about our summer program as easy as possible and welcome your input as we seek to improve that process. Below we are offering information specific to parents, as well as a summary of information about program details that can be found on our website.

- Monika Foulkes

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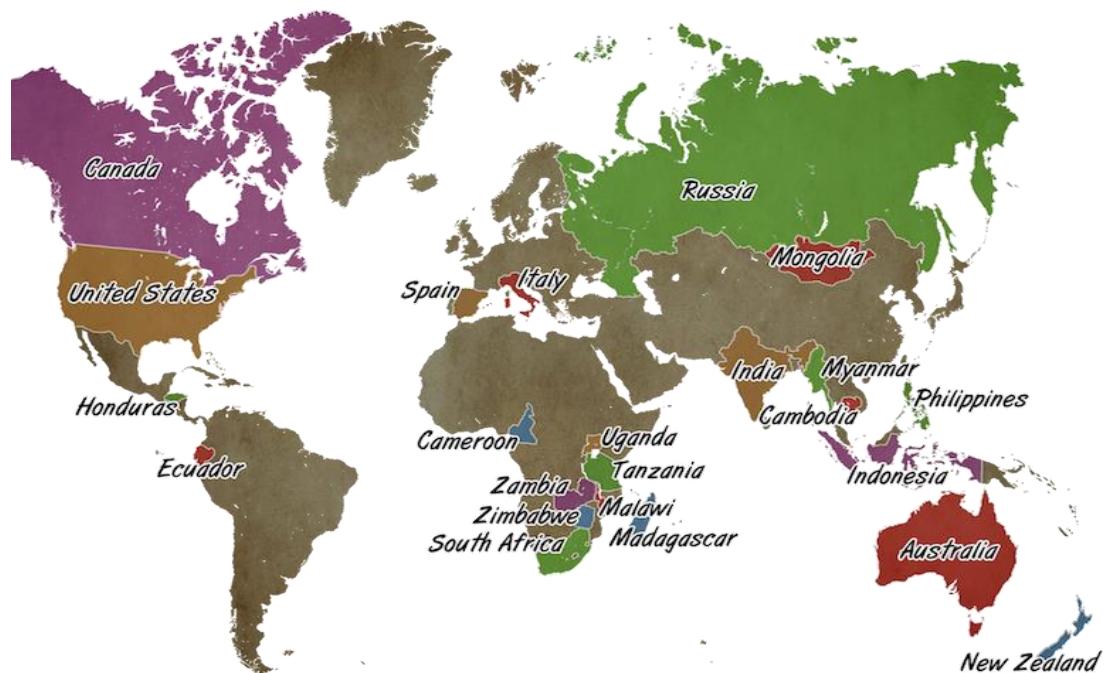


History and Purpose

Teen Missions International, Inc. was founded in Florida, USA in 1970, to challenge, train and disciple young people, exposing them to worldwide missions.

Since that time over 60,000 young people and adults from around the world have experienced missions first-hand in more than 70 countries, by assisting with evangelistic and building projects with established missions.

Teen Missions Australia started in 1987 and Teen Missions New Zealand was incorporated in 1996. Our purpose is to introduce young people between the ages of 13 and 25 to mission work around the world. The goal is to challenge, train and disciple young people and to channel the enthusiasm and energies of youth into mission work projects and evangelism.



Teen Missions is more than a local short-term mission agency: it's a growing mission organization that stretches around the globe, operating 39 National Boot Camps & 24 Bible Schools in 23 countries!

Teen Missions worldwide ministry includes:

- 32 worldwide bases on six continents.
- 39 Boot Camps in 23 countries.
- Over 32,000 overseas team members since 1982.
- 24 active Bible, Missionary & Work (BMW) Training Centres with over 500 students worldwide.
- A thriving AIDS Orphans ministry including 35 Orphan Rescue Units and 8 Matrons Units.
- An exciting Motorcycle Sunday School Mission ministry made up of 12 circuits and 160 Sunday Schools in remote villages around the world.

Each overseas base is bursting with opportunities to serve. A Bible school, an annual Boot Camp and active community outreach are all part of a typical base. Staff and students also take on agriculture projects, raise animals and, in some countries, operate a retreat centre to generate income for the base. All our bases in Africa are heavily involved in AIDS relief programs.

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Meet Our Staff

Teen Missions full time staff missionaries are all self-supported and come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Mike and Rena Reilly



Mike Reilly (from New Hampshire) volunteered for Teen Missions International for a few years before joining staff in 1986. Mike came to Teen Missions in Florida from Denver Colorado where he was a fire fighter and EMT. After joining staff, Mike served in the Print Shop and Leader Placement. Rena (from Illinois) married Mike in 1990 and joined staff. She came from Arlington Texas where she was a children's pastor. They have two children which were raised at the Teen Missions base in Australia. Their daughter Katie is now married to Brandon and living in Texas and their son Michael is attending University in Minnesota. Mike and Rena are currently

based in Australia and Florida. They are involved with Teen Missions bases throughout the world. Mike is the International Operations Coordinator and Rena is the coordinator of the Peanut and Preteen U.S. Boot Camp programs.

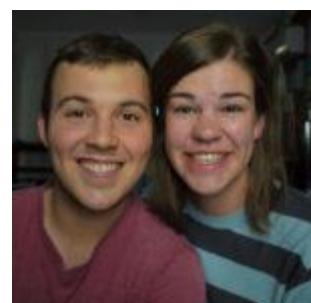
Elizabeth Little



Elizabeth has been living and working as a missionary for God for over 50 years. She resides in her home country of New Zealand. God's call came when she was 12 years old. After nursing training, Bible school in Tasmania, Australia and SIL with Wycliffe she was on her way to Venezuela – single! By the time her first furlough came five years later she had married a fellow-Kiwi husband, Robin, had two little boys and was expecting a third baby.

For seventeen years they worked in literature distribution in Venezuela and during those years, had four Teen Missions teams put up three buildings for the ministry. In 1980 they joined the staff of Teen Missions and with four children, immigrated to Florida. Fifteen busy and fruitful years followed, until Robin became ill and they returned to live in New Zealand. He passed away in 1998 and Elizabeth continues to try to fill a very big pair of shoes!

Tim and Monika Foulkes



The newest staff on the Teen Missions Int'l Australia base, Tim and Monika arrived in February 2019 after leaving teaching positions in schools in Adelaide, South Australia. They have previously led Teen Missions teams to Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Tanzania, the Navajo Nation, Myanmar and Thailand, and have a background in directing various camp and youth ministries. With a passion to see young people live out their faith, Tim and Monika are excited to be involved in discipleship ministry full time. They hope to see the Church in Australia grow, alive and awakened in faith, following Jesus wherever He leads. They were married in 2017, and look forward to their first baby, due to arrive in June 2019.

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What are the basics of the Teen Missions summer teams program?

The summer teams program consists of three basic parts:



Training at the Lord's Boot Camp –

Boot Camp is a primitive, ten-day training camp to be held at the Teen Missions property just out of Tewantin, QLD. It is held just prior to the teams heading overseas to their team projects. It is designed to acquaint young people with conditions and customs on the mission field. Teens and leaders get up early and work hard all day. Classes include construction, puppets, Bible memory, music and evangelism. A timed obstacle course with a rope swing over a moat, Wilderness Wanderings, Elijah's Chariot, Jacob's Ladder and finally a four metre wall, help unify each team and teach team members how to work together. Boot Camp is not all work though, as young people learn to trust God for every part of their lives in the morning Bible Hour classes, the evening rallies and the daily devotions and team prayer times. Boot Camp climaxes with a Commissioning Service as teams depart for their field of service.



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Field Project –

Project (three to four weeks) in the host country conducting various work projects and evangelism using music, drama, puppets & testimonies in partnership with the host church or mission. Teen Missions teams tackle some of the most diverse, remote and challenging projects available. Work teams can lay foundations, raise walls and assemble a roof for a church, orphanage or school.

Evangelistic teams perform open-air presentations (including music, drama, puppets and personal testimonies). All teams are trained in personal and group evangelism during their time at Boot Camp. Work teams do outreaches on weekends and as opportunities arise during the week.



Debrief –

Debrief consists of four to five days where teams fellowship, share testimonies, compete in memory verse quizzes and attend classes preparing them for continued service after returning home.

Teams return to the Teen Missions base in Tewantin, Queensland, for their last few days together. Just as it is important to train young people for their team projects, so it is equally important to train them to go home, where they will face the many pressures of today. Sessions deal with ‘how to come down from a spiritually high mountain’, and ‘how to help the local youth group and church’.

Team members are encouraged to actively contribute to their own church and perhaps begin a ministry to youth in their schools or community.



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How can a Teen Missions trip benefit your son or daughter?

Spiritual growth

A clear presentation of the Gospel — Each team at the Lord's Boot Camp attends the evening rally for cheers, announcements, worship and a message from God's Word delivered by guest speakers and our own full-time missionary staff. The message of salvation, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, is clearly presented (especially during the first few rallies) and an opportunity is given to respond and take that first step as a new believer in Christ. All teens are also encouraged to lay down any hindrances to their spiritual walk and/or summer ministry. Our trained full-time missionary staff and leaders are available afterward to offer encouragement, counsel, Scripture, and prayer.



Daily personal devotions — One part of the daily schedule never changes throughout Boot Camp training, travel, field service, and Debrief. Each morning, all summer, all activities stop for 30 minutes of private personal devotions—a time for reading God's Word and prayer. We hope this will help to set a pattern that becomes a life-long habit.

Bible memory verses — Team members learn a Bible memory verse each day and recite it word-perfect to a leader. Team members learn 40 of the most useful memory verses for youth and for outreach. Each weekend the team enjoys memory verse quizzing as a fun way to review what they have learned. Those who struggle with memorization can receive one-on-one assistance in learning all the memory verses.

Faith grows — Most teens see their faith increase as they see God provide support, answer prayer, and use their efforts to make a difference for God's kingdom.

Establishing better habits



Getting 'unplugged' — Today's world is FULL of distractions, many of them might even be 'good' things. During the summer, however, each young person agrees to part with electronics (video games, mobile phones, iPods etc), sports, movies, dating, etc. This helps reduce distractions and encourage relationship building with the entire team as well as nationals in the host country.

Discipline — The entire summer program involves policies that are necessary for safety, team unity and a positive Christian testimony in transit and while overseas. Leaders are trained to teach and enforce proper discipline. Through the summer, team members learn self-control, respect for authority and the value of order and discipline.

Teamwork — Training at the Lord's Boot Camp is tough and requires teamwork. When one falls or becomes discouraged, others come alongside to encourage and support. Learning to work with others is a valuable life skill in both work and ministry.

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Diligence, hard work & potential — During the summer, each team is given a significant project that many require new skills. Both work and evangelistic assignments will involve hard work and patient determination to see each task through to its completion. Character and confidence are built as the team members learn the truth of Philippians 4:13 (I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.)

Thankfulness — We take much for granted. Each day we have a roof over our head, clean water, parents who provide for our food and clothing... wash our clothes. We enjoy our music and other material comforts. Most of the world does not live like we do. Most team members return home much more thankful for the ‘little’ things that really aren’t that ‘little’ after all!

New Talents and experiences

Many team members don’t realize that their personal talents and interests are very much needed in the work of the Lord. We present them with many different aspects of mission work and ministry, realizing they might discover, for the first time, how God might lead them in future ministry.

Below is a partial listing of the hands-on training and ministry experience offered over the years during the summer mission trip program. (*Note: Not all of these areas are offered every year.*)



Music ministry - voice	Basic steel tying	Motorcycle missions
Music ministry - instrumental	Basic concrete mixing	Well drilling (water)
Drama	Truss building	Presenting the plan of Salvation
Puppet / children's ministry	Building layout	Basic carpentry
Teaching English as a Second Language	Maturity	Medical missions
Basic blocklaying	Servanthood	Orphan ministries



Increased vision and understanding of world missions

Improved understanding about our world — Teens will learn about other languages, customs, and cultures. They will also experience the beauty of God’s creation as they visit some of the world’s most famous and beautiful landmarks.

Increased awareness of the needs of missionaries and of the unreached — John 3:16 says “that God so loved the WORLD”. Your teen will likely have a better ‘global’ burden for the opportunities to serve and pray for the lost worldwide. Our teams have built remote jungle airstrips

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for missionary pilots, life-saving bridges in the African bush, a frontier hospital in Papua New Guinea, and hundreds of churches, schools, and orphanages, (often from the ground to a closed in roof) before departure. Our teams partner with local youth and churches to conduct open-air evangelism and one-on-one witnessing. These efforts have resulted in thousands of decisions for Christ and in some cases, new churches were born due to the success of these efforts. When the summer is completed, the teens realize that God can use them NOW to do things they never before dreamed possible while heightening the realization of the needs and possibilities for future mission involvement and support.



Where will the money come from?

We highly encourage that your teen be actively involved in this process. We do not want support raising to be a burden for you to shoulder as a parent on behalf of your teen – but rather, your involvement be that of working with your missionary-in-the-making, encouraging them and offering your practical support and wisdom as you journey towards this summer together. Your skills, abilities and opportunities as their parent will help enable them to carry out support raising plans – and together, you will be able to see the Lord provide for and bless your labour.

Support raising

It is easier than you think. Since your teen is helping missionaries, they may ask for and receive missionary support. When their registration form and fee are received, a support packet is sent out. This contains a copy of a support letter and a supply of prayer cards to give to friends, relatives, church people and youth groups, to help them pray for your teen.

Trusting the Lord and seeing Him provide is a great spiritual blessing and faith-building experience. The team cost, plus the registration fee, is donated to Teen Missions to cover the expenses of the team involvement. These include Boot Camp training, flights, surface travel, food, accommodations and Debrief. Any extensions or changes to the travel schedule could alter the cost of involvement. Updates are sent out regularly from June, and you would be notified in the event of this occurring.

Fundraising

Fundraising can be a faith-building experience for your teen and their communities; it can also be lots of FUN! Encourage your teen to be creative in their planning – and to think about how they can use their own gifts and passions to raise funds. Together, look for different avenues within your church or school communities for ways that your teen can raise awareness of their summer team and raise funds. Fundraising doesn't need to be complicated: often, supporters just need an opportunity of any kind to give them confidence in giving towards a team.

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A variety of specialised equipment is required for the summer (beginning with a pair of boots!) – consider ways that you could share these needs and allow people to donate items/equipment.



Donut Fundraiser: Think about having a display for people to read with information about Teen Missions, the summer team projects, and how people can help and pray!

In the event that your teen cannot raise sufficient funds to cover the team cost, they will have an opportunity to change to a cheaper team (if possible) towards the end of the year.

Now what?

If you haven't already, read about the team projects with your teen. These can be found on our website, at www.teenmissions.com.au

Choose and agree on a team together.

If you have any questions at this point, continue reading on to the 'Frequently asked questions' on the next page. If you cannot find your question there, please feel free to contact us via email (info@teenmissions.com.au) or call the TMIA office in Tewantin QLD on (07) 5449 9765 during office hours (Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm).

The registration process is completed online, by submitting a registration form (found on our website), sending in a photo for your teen's prayer cards and signing a Specific Limitations form.

After this, a registration packet and support packet will be sent to your nominated email, with further information about the policies and preparation needed for the summer ahead.

You may want to do some research about the needs for prayer in the country where your teen will be going, and begin to develop your own heart for the project God has laid before your teen this summer.

Monthly updates will be released from June, with more information and updates to help you all prepare.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can't see your question here? Email us at info@teenmissions.com.au

Teen Missions affiliated with any specific denominations?

No. Teen Missions is not a denomination but is interdenominational. Teen Missions staff, leaders and team members come from a wide range of evangelical denominations.

What is Teen Missions policy on doctrine?

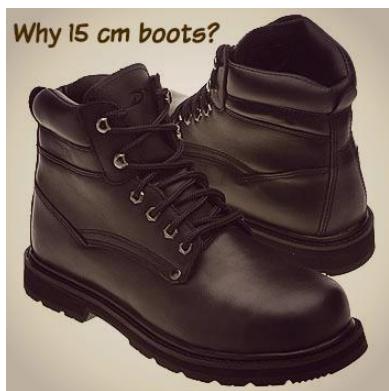
Teen Missions does not discuss or teach the doctrines that divide the body of believers. Teens asking questions of specific doctrinal issues are directed to their parents and/or pastors. Doctrines included in the Teen Missions Doctrinal Statement are taught.

What is the Teen Missions Doctrinal Statement?

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible and authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in the three persons: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood and His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His tangible return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the body of the saved and lost — they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in Christ.

Does Teen Missions screen team members?

Teen Missions does not require recommendations or referees before team members are assigned to teams. Teen Missions does, however, have a strict screening process for its leaders and requires them to undergo the Teen Missions' Leader's Seminar before they are permitted to lead a team.



Why 15cm boots?

For safety reasons, 15cm construction boots are required for all team members and leaders throughout the duration of the team. Besides the obvious safety advantages for a work project site and rugged terrain, these boots protect against disease caused by human and animal waste found on and in the ground in some places overseas.

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What is the purpose of the Obstacle Course?

A timed obstacle course is used to unify a team and to teach them how to work together and to prepare the team for situations which may be encountered while overseas.

Does my teen have to run the Obstacle Course?

All team members are required to participate in the Obstacle Course to the best of their ability. In the case of a medical condition, a doctor's note is required to be excused from doing the obstacles. In this case, team members will walk the course, so they will be involved as much as possible with the rest of the team.



What about Special Diets & Medications?

Any special medications or diet restrictions are reported to Teen Missions on the Health Status Forms. Appropriate measures are taken by the team leadership to ensure the proper care of each team member while under their care. Medical conditions are reported to Teen Missions during the registration process and occasionally may limit mission trip choices to destinations that allow for suitable care.

What is done in the case of serious illness or injury?

At Boot Camp, a nominated First Aider is available 24 hours a day. All leaders are trained in First Aid. While on the field, if a team member is sick for more than 24 hours, they will visit a doctor, clinic, or whatever medical facility is available to be seen by a health care worker. The location of these medical facilities and doctors is determined in advance so that no time is wasted in getting team members proper care.

What happens in the event of political unrest, natural disaster or other safety issues while the team is overseas?

Teen Missions monitors all the locations of teams, and is in communication with the missionaries that the teams will be working with. In the event of any political unrest, natural disaster, or other safety issues arising, Teen Missions will transfer a team from its project to another site. We will do whatever necessary to ensure, to the best of our ability, the safety of each team member and leader.

Can I send my teen care packages?

We ask that no care packages be sent to team members while on any part of their summer team. In many cases, packages sent to team members arrive after the team has left, and it becomes the responsibility of the full time missionary on the field to pay for any customs and taxes that the country charges out of his or her own finances. In most countries, packages cannot be returned to sender, and MUST be claimed by the missionary.

Will I receive news updates during the summer?

Each team member is required to send a letter home once a week. Team members are also permitted a phone call home (time permitting) prior to departure overseas and upon return before the beginning of Debrief.

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We receive regular reports from teams while on the field, and post as many updates and photos on our Facebook page and website as possible, to share with friends and family at home.

Does my teen need a passport?

All team members and leaders are required to have a passport that is valid for 6 months after the dates of involvement for the coming summer.

How are the funds raised by teens spent?

The Project Expenses that team members raise are dispersed by Teen Missions to cover the expenses of the team transportation, food, building supplies and operational expenses.

Can my teen arrive at Boot Camp late or leave Debrief early?

Sorry, no. Boot Camp training commences mid-December, and the teams leave for the field around Christmas Day. Participants spend three to four weeks on the field with the team of their choice. Returning to Tewantin for Debrief, teens conclude their training together. Involvement in the summer program requires that each teen sign a statement saying they will stay through to the end of Debrief. If your teen's schooling year is not finished in time for the commencement of Boot Camp, or returns earlier than 'Go Day' at the end of Debrief, please seek release for your teen to miss these days of school. We cannot accommodate for special family events during the time of the summer program. If your teen will be unable to stay for the whole time, it would be best not to sign up. Sorry, there are no exceptions for this.

Can I spend Christmas Day with my teen?

We do not cease the Boot Camp or summer program to return home for Christmas. The dates of each summer change each year, and thus, Christmas occurs at different times during the program. Some years, teens will be overseas already.

While you will not be able to visit your teen during Christmas Day, as their commitments of training and preparation for the field continues, the 2019 Commissioning Service which concludes our time of training at Boot Camp is on the evening of 25 December – Christmas Day. Parents, family and friends are welcome and encouraged to join us for this ceremony and time of celebration together. While this may not be a traditional Christmas celebration, sharing this time together can be equally special, if you are able to join us. More information about this is released closer to the time. All teens on all teams have the opportunity to share in a 'Pizza Party' after the service to celebrate this time together.

How can I offer feedback about the Parent Information Packet?

Email us at info@teenmissions.com.au – we are always seeking to improve communication and resources available to teens and their families, and welcome your input.