

## **Security and Behavioral Expectations for Missionaries, Volunteers and Guests of the Melanesia and South Pacific Fields**

Obviously there are real dangers that take many forms, in these countries we are privileged to serve in. The following guidelines are for the protection of both the individuals and the overall mission work itself. They have been developed from collective experience over very many years. When a negative 'incident' occurs it affects many people, community relations and the mission as a whole. 'Incidents' have at times caused alarm for affiliated ministries and churches or sending groups, sometimes making them less likely to support volunteers and teams who desire to come to the Field.

Even if you feel there are risks that you would personally be willing take yourself... for the sake of everyone else, the mission, and out of respect for our brothers and sisters who reside in the countries in which we serve, while you are affiliated with the Melanesia or South Pacific Fields of the Church of the Nazarene, either as a missionary, volunteer or guest, we ask that you comply with these guidelines.

The following expectations have been developed by the 'Security & Crisis Management Teams' of each country.

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### **Security Guidelines**

1. We expect that all women and girls, when outside of a building after dark, will have adult male accompaniment on or off the Mission Stations or Compounds, unless in a vehicle.
2. For visitors or new residents:
  - a. Any off Mission Station or Compound travel, whether by foot or vehicle, must have the knowledge and clearance of a representative of the 'Security & Crisis Management Team' (contact info below).

- b. When going off of the Mission Stations or Compounds by foot, the party should include at least one adult male per every 2 ladies, preferably with a minimum of 2 adult males, and should include at least one permanent resident missionary of the country, who has an understanding of the local culture and language for the area that is to be entered.
  - c. Check with an experienced missionary resident regarding what items to take/wear to towns.
3. For experienced permanent residents, familiar with areas, language and culture:
  - a. Please notify a member of the 'Security or Crisis Management Team' or Field Office staff of any off-station travel plans (approximate location and expected time of return), whether by foot or vehicle, and again when you return, so that we can know when and where to begin looking if something goes wrong. (contact information below).
  - b. Hikes or walks off of the Mission Stations or Compounds, including walks to rivers and bush churches should include at least one adult male and when practical, 1 male per 2 ladies. All trips of this nature should be done only in broad daylight hours.
  - c. For Papua New Guinea - female missionaries, who are permanent residents and familiar with the Kudjip Market area, language and culture (or other similar areas), may use their own discretion in going to the market with or without a male accompaniment, preferably in groups. The Kudjip Market area should be avoided after 4:30 pm due to the potentially volatile nature after that hour.
  - d. For Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga – female missionaries, who are permanent residents and familiar with public areas known to be safe, may use their own discretion in visiting those areas with or without male accompaniment. Preferably in groups.
4. For all:
  - a. For hikes planned further away from our Mission Stations or Compounds, prior arrangements should be made with local people and with Nazarene church members in the area. It is advisable to have reliable local guides. A missionary who is familiar with the area should make these arrangements. Hikes should

only be to locations known to be safe and with guides who are well known and trusted by missionaries or by local Nazarene leadership.

- b. Overnight camping trips in the bush are discouraged except when accompanied by an experienced male missionary and approved by the Security & Crisis Management Team.
  - c. For vehicle travel off of the Mission Stations or Compounds, missionary and volunteer ladies must have an adult male in the vehicle.
  - d. Ideally, a vehicle should not be left unattended anywhere in most of the towns of Papua New Guinea. This only applies to certain areas of certain towns in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.
  - e. PMV or any public ground transport travel should be done in groups which include at least one male, and when possible, local church members. This should only be done in daylight hours.
  - f. Judicious use of both vehicle and mobile (and boat) VHF safety and security radios (in countries where currently available and allowed) is expected when you are on the road or at sea, along with immediate communication of any concerns, security or safety threats or other problems. Also cell phones are highly recommended on all ocean or land trips and hikes with adequate charge up and minutes of credit.
  - g. For trips beyond VHF radio and cell range, satellite phones are available in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. For Vanuatu and Tonga, please contact the FSC if trips are at any time consistently being made beyond contact.
5. Parents are 100% responsible for the safety and for the behavior of their children at all times.
  6. In genuine 'Emergency Situations' - under the direction of the FSC, the designated 'Security & Crisis Management Team' for a given country has the full authority to initiate, change and implement any security measures deemed appropriate by them, effecting any or all personnel affiliated with the Melanesia or South Pacific Fields.
  7. In an 'Emergency Situation' - anyone affiliated with the Melanesia or South Pacific Fields, is expected to immediately fully cooperate and comply with directives issued from the 'Security & Crisis Management Team'.

### **Behavioral / Cultural Sensitivity Guidelines**

8. It is expected that there will be no use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, yaqona (kava), or buai (betel nut), while serving as a missionary, volunteer or guest with the Church of the Nazarene on the Melanesia or South Pacific Fields, either on or off the Mission Stations or Compounds.
9. A man and a woman who are not married, or are not relatives should not be alone together in a house, nor alone together outdoors after dark, except when meeting the expectation of #1 above.
10. Please be sensitive about public displays of affection in some of our cultures, as there may be potential to embarrass or offend. When in doubt, ask a tenured missionary.
11. Co-ed gatherings that do not include married people, would ideally be concluded before 11:00 pm.

### **Communication Guidelines**

12. In the event of any kind of 'Incident' or 'Emergency Situation', do not ever communicate off Field beyond the Asia Pacific Regional Office, until the 'Security & Crisis Management Team', which includes the FSC, has cleared all communications.
13. Regarding all potential public communications (newsletters, blogs, Facebook, public speaking, emails, etc.):
  - a. Exercise appropriate denominational and cultural sensitivity, realizing your communication will likely be read or heard by those who have invited you, and those you're invited to serve. Also, remember there is a real sense in which you represent all of us who serve through the Church of the Nazarene.
  - b. Political opinions or statements of any nature whatsoever, cannot be expressed while a person is affiliated with the Melanesia or South Pacific Fields of the International Church of the Nazarene.

## **Additional**

We highly encourage any of our families or couples to please include our single ladies as often as possible, especially in activities that take you off of the Mission Stations or Compounds.

Thanks for your cooperation and consideration of the above guidelines. Again they are designed for your safety and our continued effective Kingdom work on these great mission-fields.

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