

SHORT TERM MISSIONS





DREAMCENTER

we get to serve

If you are ready to push your limits, grow your faith, and use your gifts and abilities to make a mark on the world, the Dream Center Short Term Missions experience is for you!

In 1994, Pastor Tommy Barnett and his son Matthew founded the Dream Center, a nonprofit organization located in the heart of Los Angeles. Compelled by a vision to reconnect isolated people to God and community, the Dream Center offers support and services that impact the areas of homelessness, hunger, poverty, addiction, education, and human trafficking. Currently, the Dream Center reaches 40,000 people every month through dozens of programs and outreaches.

When you come to the Dream Center on a mission trip, you have the opportunity to be a part of many of the life-changing outreaches that take place daily. From playing with neglected kids in under-resourced neighborhoods, busing hurting people from the streets to church, and handing out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness on Skid Row, you get to play a role in bringing hope and help to the broken of Los Angeles.

With the Dream Center Short Term Missions experience, you will work hard, pray loud and return home a different person. With us, through Jesus, you will have the opportunity to be a part of the miracle of restoration in countless lives around Los Angeles.

- Short Term Missions CREW

ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS...

Your team will meet with a Dream Center outreach leader before leaving for the outreach site. This is your time to receive information about the outreach, get to know your leader, ask any questions you may have, and be challenged and inspired.

In the morning and afternoon outreach sessions, your team will participate in various ministries and outreaches. Depending on the size of your team, you will most likely stay together. As you come here to serve alongside us and be a part of impacting people's lives, you may not be able to choose in what capacity you wish to serve. We always do our best to ensure you have a great experience, but we trust that God will use your gifts and talents in every outreach with which capacity you have the opportunity to serve.

Please keep in mind the Dream Center's daily operation schedule is subject to change.

A few of the ministries you could serve with are...

ADOPT-A-BLOCK

Adopt-A-Block is the heartbeat of the Dream Center, and serves to build relationships and build consistency in the community. Volunteers with Adopt-A-Block have the opportunity to help with the hot dog cart, which serves homeless communities and impoverished areas, as well as participating in random acts of kindness such as picking up trash, painting, sweeping the streets, etc. Our mission is to bring hope and change the atmosphere of the community.

DREAM CENTER CONSTRUCTION

We have a very large facility here at the Dream Center, and we are always expanding. Construction is an ongoing need for us as we are maximizing our space and beginning new ministries. If anyone in your team has experience in this area, please let us know.

DREAM CENTER DISCIPLESHIP

Volunteers will be working alongside our Discipleship Program, serving the community by cleaning up the neighborhood and engaging in various work projects.

FOOD BANK

Through all of our food ministries, we distribute over half a million pounds of food every month. When you serve with the food bank, you will bag up groceries and hand them out to approximately 600 local community members.

FOOD TRUCK

The Food Truck program provides relief to low-income families in at-risk neighborhoods. We serve over 20 distribution sites with our mobile food bank, and in a typical month, serve more than 40,000 people! Handing out groceries to the community gives us the opportunity to share the gospel and other resources available through the Dream Center programs.

DREAM CENTER DINER

Kitchen duty begins early in the morning and gives volunteers the opportunity to help serve breakfast and prepare lunch in the Dream Center diner.

KIDZ JAM

The Kidz JAM program teams up with Adopt-A-Block to provide emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual support to the many youth of the under-resourced neighborhood sites served by Adopt-A-Block. Volunteers can help make a difference in their lives through sports, games, and other activities such as face painting and dancing!

FOSTER CARE INTERVENTION

Here at the Dream Center, we believe that no child should be taken away from loving parents because of poverty. Foster Care Intervention provides food, clothing, diapers, cleaning supplies, appliances, and furniture to insure that homes with children meet the requirements of Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services. In some cases, the simple addition of a bed or crib is all a home needs to welcome back their child. We have the privilege of going into the homes, meeting with the families, and bringing them the items they need as well as connecting them to other services from the Dream Center.

WHAT INCOMING TEAMS NEED TO KNOW...

Cost involved:

Our Short Term Missions program is designed to be a one-week mission trip arriving on Monday and departing on Saturday.

1 Week Trip - \$375/person

6 Days/5 Nights Stay (Monday - Saturday)

Extra Day Option - \$75/person

Many groups stay until Sunday to experience one of our church services at the historic Angelus Temple. This option will cost \$75 extra per person and will need to apply to your entire group.

Both options include the following:

- Housing
- 3 meals a day (DC Diner)
- Administration fees
- Outreach Opportunities

When can I check in?

All teams check-in on Monday between the hours of 1:00pm-3:00pm. Check out is on Saturday. We are flexible and work to accommodate your team's schedule. We recommend that teams stay through Sunday after one of our two morning services for the full Dream Center experience.

Accommodation:

During your stay at the Dream Center, you will share a dormitory room with 6 to 18 people. None of the rooms have showers but most have attached bathrooms. Community showers (one for men and one for women) are located on your floor. During spring and summer, we have a large number of people visiting on a weekly basis, so you may share a room with people from other teams. Unfortunately, we do not offer couple housing or private individual rooms. There is also no Wi-Fi available on campus.

Facilities:

- 24 hour security
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included
- Housekeeping
- Linens and towels included
- Free parking
- Gym (\$15 per week)
- Common room (refrigerator and microwave available)

Policies:

- Credit cards accepted
- Age restriction
- No smoking
- No alcohol
- No weapons
- No drugs

How do I book a trip?

Please visit dreamcenter.org/stm to book your trip. Once your organization books a trip, you will receive further instruction on how to register your individual team members and complete trip payments.

Age policy:

Due to the nature of the program, we must stress that anyone under the age of 15 will not be allowed to attend unless one of their parents or a guardian is in attendance and has been approved by the assigned STM director. Anyone under the age of 18 will also be prohibited from attending our Friday night Skid Row outreach. Younger youth are often not ready for the challenges of the Dream Center environment and outreaches. Please respect our age limit as it is there for your safety.

Transportation:

We ask that you provide your own transportation while you're here in LA. You will need transportation to travel to each outreach site. A leader will either provide directions or ride along to navigate.

**Due to limited space, we cannot accommodate teams with buses.

Church services:

Each team/individual is expected to attend all Angelus Temple services while staying at the Dream Center. You won't want to miss it! We have services every Sunday at 9:15am and 11:00am and every Thursday at 7pm.

Dress code:

While you are here, you are representing the Dream Center and a Christian lifestyle. It is very important that all volunteers/visiting team members dress modestly and in such a way that does not draw attention.

1. No spaghetti straps, midriff, or low-cut tops.
2. Shorts or skirts MUST be at modest length. Basketball shorts are fine.
3. Closed toe shoes must be worn on outreaches and campus work assignments.

Taking it to the streets:

Your team will experience several different areas of ministry. At the Dream Center, a typical week will include outreach ministry and prep work. Prepare your team to give their testimony and pray with many people. Also, learn some Spanish!

How safe is the neighborhood?

Watts, South Central, Compton, Imperial Courts, Nickerson Gardens, and Downtown L.A. are some of the most impoverished areas of this city. During these outreaches, you and your team will be under constant supervision of experienced Dream Center staff that knows the community well. They are there to guide and protect you.

Who should I bring on the missions trip?

Bring people who are spiritually, physically, and emotionally ready for this kind of inner-city ministry. This trip can be an eye-opener for teens or young adults who want to grow and fuel their passion for serving others.

What kind of teams can I bring?

We feel tremendously blessed to have you! Bring adult teams, youth teams, or mixed crew; everybody's welcome and we will do our best to set up a schedule that suits your group.

Do we get to pick which ministries we will be doing?

The Short Term Missions crew will do their absolute best to give you a great Dream Center experience, but you will always work alongside us wherever we have the need. If you do have a preference, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate.

How should I prepare my team for the mission trip?

Pray! Pray, pray, pray! Explain what kind of people they will meet and minister to, go through the rules and information and make sure they're ready for a challenging, stretching, and amazing week.

What are the meals like?

We prepare all meals in our cafeteria, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day of the week. On Saturdays, we only serve two meals: breakfast and dinner. Unfortunately, with the magnitude of people we serve on a daily basis, we won't be able to accommodate those with special diet requests.

Will there be any free time?

Yes, you will have free time: in the mornings between breakfast and ministry assignments, as well as Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. If you're here for the whole day on Saturday, we only offer one outreach, which is Adopt-A-Block. Adopt-A-Block only takes place in the mornings from 8:45am-2:00pm at the latest. We suggest you use this time to communicate with your team, have prayer and devotion, or to plan a fun activity touring the city.

Are there any dates you don't accept teams/individuals?

We are unable to accept teams during Thanksgiving week and the last two weeks of December, as we like to give our staff/volunteers time off to visit with their families. We have events before breaks, such as our holiday giveaways. These events take place the weekend prior to the holidays. Also, if you plan to come during a holiday like Good Friday or Independence Day, be aware that we normally give our full time volunteers the day off.

***PLEASE NOTE** – For spring/summer mission trips, you'll want to sign-up 8-12 months in advance. If it is closer to the date, give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate you!

Can I come as an individual?

Individuals are more than welcome to be a part, as long as you are 18 or older. If you don't have your own transportation, be aware that you may not be able to participate in certain outreaches. Also, depending on the season, you may be housed with other teams.

Packing list:

- Donations** – Shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine products, male hygienics, diapers, baby wipes, baby product, socks, underwear, shoes, clothing, hair brushes, fans, blankets, sleeping bags, twin size beds and anything else you would like to donate. (You can call prior to arrival for a more updated list of needs).
- Personal Hygiene Items** – We will provide 1 towel per person and bedding set (sheets, 1 blanket and 1 pillow) per person.
- Daily Clothing** – Shorts, (please make sure they are a modest length), jeans, sweatshirt or jacket, (it may get cold at night) and T-shirts. Also, bring a pair of closed toe shoes for the ministry and flip-flops for the showers.
- Bible, Pen, and Notebook** – You will have the opportunity to participate in our services. Remember that you will have down time during your stay. You can use these times for team meetings, Bible studies, etc. This is your chance to really connect with your team on a spiritual level.
- Bathing Suit** – Remember you're coming to California! The weather is always perfect for the beach!
- Spending Money** – We have a café at Angelus Temple that sells coffee and snacks, as well as a fitness gym (equipped with treadmills, free weights, and more) which costs \$15 for the week.
- Willing Hearts** – Be prepared to give of yourself and serve others.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Your team must arrive on Monday and depart on either Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Monday

1:00pm-3:00pm Check-in
3:30pm Orientation
4:15pm Tour
5:00pm Dinner
Free Time

Tuesday

7:00am Breakfast
6:00am-9:00am Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
12:00pm Lunch
12:30-1:30pm Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
5:00pm Dinner
Free Time

Wednesday

7:00am Breakfast
6:00am-9:00am Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
12:00pm Lunch
12:30-1:30pm Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
5:00pm Dinner
Free Time

Thursday

7:00am Breakfast
6:00am-9:00am Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
12:00pm Lunch
12:30-1:30pm Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
5:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Service at Angelus Temple

Friday

7:00am Breakfast
6:00am-9:00am Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
12:00pm Lunch
12:30-1:30pm Ministry Assignments
(start times vary)
5:00pm Dinner
7:30pm Skid Row (for those 18 and over)

Saturday

7:00am Breakfast
9:00am Prayer
9:30am-2:00pm Adopt-A-Block
4:30pm-5:30pm Dinner

Sunday

7:00am Breakfast
9:15am Service at Angelus Temple
11:00am Service at Angelus Temple
1:30pm Lunch
6:30pm Dinner

Free Time

You will have some free time during the day and evening, so plan on having team Bible studies or worship. We also have a prayer chapel that you're welcome to visit.

RENTAL PLACES

REMINDER:

During your stay here at the Dream Center, you WILL need a vehicle. We are not able to drive teams to the outreach site and most of the outreach sites are not within walking distance.

We request that you purchase a FAST PASS with your rental vehicle. This will allow for faster transportation to and from outreach sites in case of traffic so that teams can allot more time for outreach.

According to California state law, a commercial driver's license is required to rent a 15-passenger van.

Enterprise

310-649-5400

Reservation Link | Minivans and 15 passenger vans

https://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/deeplinkmap.do?bid=002&cust=3 2W0835

Or, travelers can go to www.enterprise.com.

Airport Van Rental

www.airportvanrental.com

310-670-0510

Hertz

800-704-4473

www.hertz.com

Avis Rent A Car

310-646-5600

www.avis.com

Budget Rent A Car

310-642-4500

www.budget.com

Dollar Rent A Car

800-800-4000

www.dollar.com

California Rent A Car

310-477-9292

cheri@californiarac.com

Another great website to look for car rentals is www.priceline.com/Car-Rentals.

All Rental Companies have Shuttles that can pick you up from the airport.

CONTACT US

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