

# New Life Ministries

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April 27, 2011

Dear Fellow Saints,

We are so excited about your interest in working with us at Camp New Life this summer. The reason we are writing you is to give you a schedule, some of the details for your summer mission's trip in Mississippi, and give you some of the background information about the activities and principles behind our summer programs.

Enclosed you will find a schedule of the weeks activities and how your participants ideally will be involved to maximize your mission experience with us. We are open to other ideas and there is room for some changes in logistical arrangements. We want you to have an enjoyable and fulfilling week of ministry.

After you have had time to review all of the enclosed information please do not hesitate to call us at (601) 847-5433 or my cell phone 601-955-4534 to answer any questions that may arise.

We look forward to your time with us this summer and urge you to begin praying now for a successful mission trip to Mississippi.

Sincerely In Christ,

*Don*

Don Ethredge  
CEO

## **Summary of Your Groups Responsibilities:**

**This is your mission trip; your time to serve Christ on the mission field.** This is a great opportunity for you to share the Gospel of Jesus through your words, the love you are willing to share with others, your serventhood, the relationships you build, your attitudes when things just don't go right, through the teaching, testimonies, and activities you prepare to bring with you.

**This is serious business,** important, and close to the heart of God. Eternity is in the balance and God has chosen you to bring His message of **love, forgiveness, and redemption** to a people who desperately need to receive this salvation from Christ. God has called you to come to Mississippi to you share yourself with young people who have for the most part been neglected all their lives. Our young people have many needs and **you have the opportunity to bring healing** and acceptance that they want so much.

**We at New Life are so grateful and excited** about you coming to Mississippi to work with us in God's harvest. Below is a summary of your mission responsibilities and a few guidelines that will make your time with us more fruitful. Please let us know if these responsibilities are to great for your group. Remember we minister to small groups of youth at a time, 15 to 20 at the most. One-on-one relationships are our goal.

## **Group Responsibilities:**

### **A. Activities that need preparation before you come:**

1. **Two morning devotions and two bedtime devotions.** (No more than ten minutes of teaching but plenty of discussion time. Think of some pertinent questions that will encourage discussion, especially at night.)
2. **Two crafts for twenty young people each.** (Tie-die works great. Research this at your local craft stores)
3. **Testimonies** (2-4) of coming to Christ and how Christ makes a difference in the real world where we live. Please be discreet about the details of your sinful life before Christ.
4. **Worship singing/Camp Songs.** If your group can lead worship we would love you to plan this 15-20 minute time each evening in praise and worship.
5. **(Optional) Skits or other fun activities.** If your group loves to perform then go for it. Prepare some fun skits or other fun activities and **we will** find a place to use them.

### **B. Other Jobs and responsibilities during camp week.**

1. Help **prepare all meals** and help clean up. (Three to five helpers each meal)
2. Help keep the **shower house clean**. (Two helpers each day)
3. Help keep **fishing poles** in good working order. (Two to four helpers)
4. Help **set up and clean up for crafts** and evening service each day. (Everyone)
5. **Horse wranglers needed.** If you have **experience**, we need your help. (We could use up to six each day during the morning hours)
6. **Build relationships** whenever you can: mealtime (sit with the campers), swimming and free time (partner up with a camper and make friends), during chapel and devotions sit with the campers or your new friend. **Relationships are the key to changing a life.**
7. **Supervise kids in the cabin at night.** (Two older volunteers of adults.)

## **Remember these helpful hints in preparing for your mission trip:**

**Pray:** For the kids you will be ministering to, for open hearts and minds with good attitudes. For yourself to continue to grow in the love and obedience to Jesus forsaking all forms of sin.

**Plan:** For your devotions, testimonies, skits, and worship to reach their hearts first not their heads. In other words, **keep it simple** but **powerful** and **relevant** to their world. Skits can be funny but make sure they are honoring to the Lord and edifying to the hearer.

**Pray:** For ways to communicate the way of Christ that can be understood in their world and mindset. Our kids are young (7 – 16) and all come from an urban and inner-city environment

**Produce: Do not wait,** go ahead and give out assignments (testimonies, devotions, worship songs, crafts) and produce your **mission curriculum** early, master your individual curriculum pieces and save time to think through your purpose and goals for each activity.

**Pray:** For your safety in travel and for your time at New Life Ministries. Especially pray for safety while swimming in our lake, time riding horses, and on our challenge course. We have never had a serious injury at camp and we want to keep it that way>>> **SO PLEASE PRAY!**

**Practice:** Practice your testimonies, create your crafts, sing your songs, give your devotions, and **leave nothing to chance**. I assure you the work you put in will be used in your life many times. If you become proficient in these things, God will give you more opportunities in the future to serve Him and that is what life is all about: **Serving Him**. (Also, have dress rehearsals and/or perform before a live audience. Remind yourself **what you are doing is really important**, make it special.)

**Pray:** For those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior, that the Holy Spirit will prepare them, speak to them, make them alive, and grant them faith in Christ. Pray for those who **do know Christ** that they will be draw closer to the Lord, gain a greater understanding, and desire to please our great God.

**Procrastinate? NO, Do not Do It!!!** Pray, Plan, Produce, Practice **now**, not tomorrow and be ready for a **great mission trip**. God will bless your work.

**Pray:** For your **home church** that they will be blessed by your service to Christ's kingdom work. Include them in your preparations by asking them to cover you in their prayers and by asking them for advice in developing your **mission curriculum** and through their **financial support**. It is important for your entire church to be involved in missions. This is your opportunity for everyone to learn the importance of missions and contribute.

**This is a brief overview.** There is a lot more information in this packet. Please read this packet carefully so you will understand everything we envision to make this the best possible mission experience for everyone.

**We are asking every participant to be at the Camp Orientation held at Camp New Life the Monday afternoon before your camp session begins.**

For Church groups arriving Saturday or Sunday: we have ready a **work project Monday morning** at the camp to help us get ready for that weeks camp session or in some way to improve our campus.

## **Costs for your Mission Trip to Mississippi:**

We do our best to hold down the cost for our volunteer groups. We know from experience how expensive it is to travel with a couple of vanloads of young people across the US.

**\*\*\* We ask that each mission volunteer pay for his own food and housing plus an administration fee that covers a small portion of all that is necessary to make this summer happen. The full cost of camp for one just one New Life student is over \$300 a week. Funding our summer camps is difficult since there is no charge to the needy families we serve. If your group have volunteers that want to come but do not have all the funds available then our policy is to try our best not to leave them behind. We do not ever want money to stop a volunteer from serving Christ on the mission field. We believe God will provide.**

**Food Costs: \$15.00 per day or \$6 per meal**

Any meal eaten off campus is the responsibility of the volunteer.

**Housing Costs: \$15.00 per night**

**Administrative Costs: \$25.00**

**(Please try your best to send New Life the housing and food costs before your mission week begins to help us better prepare for you.)**

## **Purpose of your involvement at Camp New Life**

New Life Ministries' entire programming is centered on **“Prayer, evangelism, demonstrating the love of Christ through personal relationships, and disciple-making.”**

We typically focus on small groups of twenty or fewer youth at camp. It is here they have the opportunity to escape the pressures of urban life and sense God's presence.

Your group will have a **chance to impact youth** in many areas. Although your group (ideally) will help with many tasks while at Camp, the priority will be to capitalize on **building Christian friendship**.

Our youth **need guidance** in most areas. The utmost importance for our campers is for them to be aided in developing and integrating a **Christian worldview into all areas of their lives**.

Our experiences have found that this is accomplished most easily through **real friendships**. We expect that camp, combined with continued discipleship will assist them in standing for Christ in the midst of great evil, as well as **developing a passion for God's will** and discerning it.

## **Sleeping arrangements**

We have a two dorm cabins that can be divided into four separate dorm rooms. Each dorm room can sleep 12 to 18 persons. The maximum number of volunteers we can sleep on site comfortably during a week of camp is 35.

We have one large shower and bath facility that will accommodate all the campers.

## Clothing and protection

It can be **very humid and or very sunny**. Wear loose and light colored clothing. (tennis shoes are practically a necessity and boots with heels for all wranglers) You will regret it if sandals are your only shoes you bring. Bring plenty of socks; it can sometimes rain a lot. Bring a light windbreaker.

It is highly recommended you **bring sunscreen and mosquito repellent**; hats help too. We ask that jewelry be kept to a minimum; the youth are constantly being taught that “material possessions” do not bring happiness.

A lack of modesty also is a common problem in many of the youth’s neighborhoods; during swim time we ask that **everyone wear a dark colored shirt to encourage modesty**. At all times try to **avoid short shorts. Tank tops also are not allowed** for anyone. Leave no gap between your shirt and pants/shorts.

Most of our youth are heavily exposed to music and cultural phenoms that are contrary to a Christian worldview. Consequently, we **do not allow any type of electronics** that can be distracting to the kids. Please, however, bring some of your Christian CD’s for our sound system.

**Drink tons of water while here.** A personalized water bottle is encouraged.

## Personal Safety:

**We know your group is very responsible**, but here are a **few helpful hints** to avoid even the possibility of unexpected problems.

1. Avoid all forms of physical contact such as public displays of affection wrestling, hugging, holding hands, etc between **opposite sexes**.
2. **Always stay with a group**, never find yourself alone with the opposite sex, regardless of age.
3. Always have an **escort to the restroom** to prevent an accidental walk-in.
4. Church volunteers **please shower after the campers each night** or before 7:00 AM. Wednesday and Thursday.
5. **No hiking**, swimming, boating, challenge course use, or horse back riding alone you must be with a group at a scheduled time. (We do not want anyone lost or hurt.)
6. **All valuables should be locked in vehicles or Ministry House for safe keeping. Valuables are a great temptation for our young people. New Life can not be help liable for stolen items.**

**Ministry Staff** will be constantly roving (in most circumstances) to handle logistical necessities. We depend on volunteers to handle many of the finer details of each camping activity. Consequently, we have divided responsibilities of volunteers into three main areas:

### **Church Volunteer Responsibilities**

Responsibilities are divided into three main areas:

1. Partnerships and friendships
2. Activities
3. Jobs

1. **Partnerships:** Most of our youth are non-Christians or very young in the faith. Some are just beginning to fully understand the precepts of salvation through faith alone. They have heard the gospel presentation many times. Many can give a reasonable explanation of their hope for salvation. For a majority we are their only exposure to Christianity. Accordingly, they need to be lovingly saturated with basic tenants of the Christian faith.

Each volunteer should pick one or more partner, buddy, friend, etc., from among our youth to spend time with and encourage in every situation possible. Free time, meal time, and chapel time provides many hours to begin a lasting relationship or at least provide much needed encouragement.

You may change buddies with another volunteer if everyone involved agrees. Seek advice first from your group leader to avoid hurt feelings. The main goal is that no camper is left alone for any extended period of time. Of course when certain activities or your assigned job is going on, you may be separated for a minimal amount of time but your friend may help you if he or she so desires and it does not interfere with other activities.

Communication is an extremely important matter. The youth in our ministry are rarely if ever taught by anyone other than us about positive forms of communication. All volunteers need to focus on lifting the youth up every chance possible, as well as explain why they do this. Use biblical references such as James 3:2-12. Example - We never allow the phrase "shut up" and give biblical reverences to back it up. Do not use coarse language of any kind or coarse joking as it will degrade Christ, you, and the camper to whom it is directed.

Our young people have a terrible habit of cutting their peers down without even thinking about it, most are taught that in their culture. Please encourage them to be peacemakers and encouragers.

**Assigned activities and jobs:** We will of course leave it up to your group to decide who is assigned what tasks. We are submitting a list of volunteer staffing needs. All we ask is that by May 1 someone lets us know if all the jobs and activities have been filled.

## 2. **Activities:**

1. **Devotions:** We need someone to lead devotions every night at 10:00 for only 15-20 minutes and every morning for 15 minutes before quiet time.

Keep in mind the devotion topics should be able to be understood by 9yr olds as well as 14 yr old. It also should transcend cultures.

2. **Horses:** This is the activity with the greatest need of volunteers. Ideally we would like to have six volunteers who have experience with horses.

It is necessary for horse volunteers to bring heavy duty shoes such as boots. A personalized water bottle also helps. Any one planning on working with the horses or going hiking may also want to bring a pair of jeans. You may bring your own helmet to use if you wish.

Whoever works with the horses should not be on the kitchen crew since horse riding and preparation for lunch overlap.

**Any one with experience should contact Debi Ethredge as soon as possible at (601) 847-5433 or 601-613-6506.**

3. **Fishing:** Controlling the checking in and out of poles and supplies during appropriate times. Showing how to use poles and bait, lessons on fishing, un-hooking fish, when to keep fish, how to clean fish, etc. One person will suffice; two or more will help greatly.
4. **Basketball court: Checking** in/out supplies, monitoring basketball court, and supervise tournaments (one person can handle this).

### **3. Jobs:**

1. **Kitchen crew-** Prepare meals, wash dishes, clean kitchen, restock supplies, notify staff of depleted food, set out any food to thaw for next meal. Needs at least two, ideally three people.
2. **Shower House-** Clean and straighten up each morning. Needs two to three each day.
3. **Chapel - Staighen** up after each use and especially after youth leave camp. One person needed.
4. **Work projects** can be arranged if your group desires. Let us know!

### **Other activities:**

1. **Chapel Time:** Our theme for the summer is The Free Gospel of love, grace, and mercy from a Holy, Infinite, and Eternal God. Chapel lasts for approximately one hour each evening. Let us know if your group wants to lead praise. Praise should last 15-20 minutes maximum each night.

Our youth know few traditional older hymns but many know contemporary praise and worship songs.

Their most significant need in worship is to be taught why it is important, what is the proper attitude of worship, and what are the essential elements of worship.

2. **Arts and Crafts** should of course be something easy, fun, and inexpensive. Let us know what you would like to do. In the past we have tie-died and painted T-shirts, made candleholders, small games, name tags, bracelets of all kinds, etc.

**Again, we want you to know we are very grateful for your participating with us.** If there are any logistical concerns you may have, let us know. We want this to be a great experience for your group. Lets stay in contact. We all need to be on the same page as to your needs and our needs; your expectations and ours.

**We know our youth will be impacted greatly** by your loving-sacrificial actions and words. Be assured we and our families will be praying for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Don and Debi*

Don and Debi Ethredge

**P.S. I know we have forgotten to tell you something and I am sure you will have questions; therefore, please feel free to call us anytime at 601-847-5433 or my cell phone at 601-955-4534. You can e-mail us at [campnewlife@earthlink.net](mailto:campnewlife@earthlink.net)**