

To Begin:

1. Determine dates of travel. Confirm travel dates with mission office.
2. Get Passport
3. Letter of recommendation from pastor and background clearance-mailed or emailed to mission office

#### 2-3 MONTHS BEFORE TRAVEL

1. Reserve dates of travel with airline
2. Complete Invitation/Information Application and email to mission office
3. Scan face page of passport and email to mission office in Modesto
4. Apply for Russian VISA AFTER you receive response to Invitation Application in step 2

Cost:

Air Fare – Korean/Delta Airlines Round Trip Vladivostok, Russia (including tax) (Continental to Korea, then Russian Domestic Flight to Vlad can be up to \$600 savings)	\$1600-1900
Russian VISA	\$150-180
FedEx Fees x 4 (share of cost among team)	\$30
Overnight accommodations – *Most Holy Mother of God Parish Rectory \$55 per day x 13 nights	\$715
Includes: (Room, meals, Host/Interpreter/Translator fee, Invitation & Registration fees into Russia)	
<b><u>Approximate maximum cost of Mission Travel</u></b>	<b><u>\$2825**</u></b>

- \*These costs should be collected by the mission team leader upon arrival in Vladivostok once everyone is settled in the rectory.
- Please provide the collection to Fr. Myron only (not to host or others).
- Please no "tips" for the hosts or others no matter how much they may deserve or seem in need. Fr. Myron provides payment to those who help with the travelers equally. Refraining from giving money to others keeps everything fair and everyone in Russia honest.

\*\*Information will be provided to you for a additional pilgrimage stop in Seoul, Korea. Travelers have to stop there anyway on the way to Vlad. You may visit the Cathedral, tomb of martyrs, border between North and South Korea and much more. The additional cost is minimal, especially if arrangements can be made to stay with the Franciscan Order house in Seoul.

If this is agreeable, we ask that one of your team members' check in bag be used for personal luggage and one check in bag for donations. We found with some teams, the carry-on and one personal bag allowance is enough for personal luggage and the two check in bags can be used for donation transportation. Mission teams carrying over donations are the only way we can get donations to the mission. We would be very grateful for the help!

To make this the most spiritually and temporally rewarding experience, may I suggest your team meet at least two times per month to pray together, form a bond (as you will be working closely and living together), learn about the mission (watch the DVD and PowerPoint together), go over paperwork together, get to know one another over coffee or BBQ, and discuss questions that each one has. I found it a priceless investment of everyone's time after having traveled with teams who spent time in formation and bonding together vs those who did not. In our formation, we even had priests speak to our group about the call to serve as missionaries and about vocations. We also had a counselor come to speak about how to handle personal and others' stress, under unusual environmental changes and disaster situations - another priceless investment. You don't have to go as far as the later two suggestions, but they came in handy on a number of occasions. All in all, the team meeting regularly is very important.