

## All Souls Wet Foot trips

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Wet Foot is our short term mission scheme which provides 2-3 week opportunities, usually outside the UK, for members of All Souls.

Wet Foot aims to

1. Serve the host community by partnering with them in ministry activity that benefits their own on-going ministry.
2. Provide members of All Souls church with an opportunity to
  - serve God, perhaps in new ways
  - partner with and learn from Christians in another part of the world
  - learn more about God's will for their lives through cross-cultural mission.

A Wet Foot trip will usually be:

- Primarily for those with no previous cross-cultural mission experience.
- Team with age range usually from 20s to 50s, mostly professionals or students.
- Typically 2-3 weeks long (so that it can be done during annual leave)
- During weeks from mid July to end August

We usually run 2 or 3 teams each year. As well as being able to join the other teams, university students may have a dedicated trip (varies year to year). We sometimes have a team which includes members with some previous cross-cultural experience. We have also received requests for projects that are suitable for families or for the older (50+yrs) members of the congregation. When requested, we can often recruit people with specific skills, although we like to offer places to anyone willing to get involved as needed, to learn and to serve.

We follow the Global Connections (part of the UK Evangelical Alliance) code of best practice in short-term mission. This includes standards of:

- **Selection:** A careful selection process involving application form, references, interview and CRB check.
- **Training:** A weekend away plus a course of four 2-hour sessions.
- **Support:** A link person to support and pray for them, as well as good financial and prayer support from the whole church.

**Fundraising:** Teams put a lot of effort into fundraising. They aim to raise both the cost of their own trip and the costs of any materials required for the project.

In considering suitable projects we look for the following:

1. A project that will clearly benefit the host. We prefer to work with local Christians to further the mission they are already involved in. This might be to initiate something new that will be followed up after the team leave, or to act as a 'catalyst' to give some momentum to an existing ministry.
2. A project that the All Souls congregation will be able to engage with.

3. Opportunities for individuals to learn and serve God through evangelism practical activities and fellowship with local Christians.

Wet Foot teams have no set pattern, and we are keen to discuss with the host what would be useful for them to engage in. This might include :

- a central, general project which the whole team can get involved in, e.g. simple building or decorating where no specialist skills are needed.
- children's ministry e.g. helping at school assemblies or running a kids club. The team could prepare activities with a bible theme as well as craft activities, games etc
- opportunities to engage with the local church and share in their ministry, e.g. working with the church in evangelistic outreach, sharing in times of bible study and prayer with local Christians, leading or taking part in services (which might provide opportunities for drama, music, sharing of testimonies or even preaching).
- Different activities shaped around the particular skills of the team members e.g. teaching (English, basic IT skills, basic budgeting), medical service.

In making a decision about a host project we often ask the following questions:

1. Is it a project that will really benefit the host and one that the All Souls family can engage with?
2. Which of the above activities (or others) could the team be involved in? A variety of activities is ideal.
3. Will there be opportunities for the team to engage with local people and learn something of the issues of their context?
4. Are there English-speakers on site? Will there be people able to translate when the team is there?
5. What sort of accommodation will there be - e.g. hostel, hotel, homes? (Any of these are fine but it's good to know before we confirm the trip.)
6. What will travel arrangements be? - e.g. cost of flights, transport and distance from the airport, internal transport.
7. What would the main costs be? Is the project dependant on the team raising some funds for materials? If so, how much?
8. What is the political and security situation like in the country concerned?
9. How big should the team be? (Our preference would be 12-15).
10. Who will be the point of contact at the host end? Is good, regular communication in English going to be possible (e.g. good email access)? Will that person be in a position to liaise with us over practical arrangements both before and during the trip?

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. If you would be willing to explore the possibility of hosting a Wet Foot team further, we would love to talk with you. If it doesn't work out for this year, we are also interested in possibilities for future years.