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For me, it began at the end of the dry season, a dusty November day in Choma, Zambia. The sun shone hot outside the windows, but inside the hardened mud walls of the bedroom, it was dark and cool. We stood quietly in a circle around the bed, asking questions, and straining to hear as Mary spoke quietly through cracked lips, lying very still on her mattress.

Though we had only been on the ground for few days, I had already spoken to many Zambians who were sick. Many asked for money, food, water, or some favor that I was not able to offer. But Mary asked for nothing from those of us gathered around her bed except prayer and a song. It was all we could do, but it was something; our spiritual act of worship together with the tangible sounds of our singing brought comfort and peace even in the face of death.

I have since thought about that day many times. Even though I have encountered countless others who were sick or dying, Mary’s face is always clear in my mind. Not because she was different or her situation special, but because something was happening in me in that moment. God was teaching me that the Gospel must be experienced as well as heard, that He has given us gifts of creativity and industry that make more plain the Good News.

It was her face and her story that I brought home with me. It was the few precious moments we shared just days before her death that gave birth to the idea we now call Poetice International. Even now, a decade and many trips later, it is her story and the stories of countless others that keep me coming back. Some are stories of tragedy and unconscionable injustice; others are stories of joy and new-found freedom that have no equal.

A story is being told in Zambia, in Southern Africa, and all over the globe as the Spirit of God continues the work that Jesus Christ began more than two millennia ago. Through his faithful followers, lives are being restored and hope is breaking out as the Word of God takes root in tangible acts of justice. For me, it was a prayer and a song of hope in a dark place – what will it be for you? Consider this your invitation to join the story.

MICAH KEPHART
CEO & Founder | Poetice International
We exist
to empower the Church to fight for justice. Through transformational development, we pursue physical and spiritual restoration for the widowed, the orphaned, the vulnerable, the exploited, the sick and the poor.

We envision
a just world where the true identity and vocation of the lost and least is restored. Our goal is to see impoverished communities become spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, physically and socially healthy.

Our identity
originates from merging the beauty of a poem with the action of justice forging a new word, “POETICE”.

We believe...
We believe Christ is the transformer of culture.
The message of the Gospel is woven into the fabric of everything we do.
We believe where righteousness and justice converge, peace prevails.
We believe all humanity reflects the image of a creative God.
We believe music and the arts inspire dreams.
We believe the future has to be imagined before it can be created.
We believe stories are powerful, especially when they are personal.
We believe listening is crucial for effective problem solving.
We believe education is necessary for individuals to pursue healthy and productive lives.
We believe quality insight is more important than quantity.
We believe that our success is measured through development that is truly transformational.
We believe that transformational development works within the context of broken relationships.
We believe in indigenously inspired and locally led programs.
We believe transparency is the key to accountability.
Preparation

“Somehow I have to trust that God is at work in me and that the way I am being moved to new inner and outer places is part of a larger movement of which I am only a very small part.” - Henri Nouwen

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

In the coming weeks and months, it will be important to remember that although this journey will be demanding in many ways, the most important work that must take place is internal—both in you and in those you encounter. Habits of prayer and a love for God’s Word are vital. This necessary spiritual work is not something that anyone can do for you. However, we have put together a few resources to supplement your own prayer and study.

ONLINE RESOURCES

This material is not required but is highly recommended to help prepare your heart and mind for this experience. These sessions can be done in 1 week, 1 per week, or at whatever pace works best for you. Find these resources online at poetice.org/go/resources

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- LIVE JUSTLY by the Micah Challenge
- FOREIGN TO FAMILIAR by Sarah A. Lanier
- GENEROUS JUSTICE by Timothy Keller

TRAVELERS INSURANCE

Poetice International purchases International Volunteer Card basic travelers insurance for all international program participants. Your IVC ensures coverage and 24/7 assistance while traveling internationally. It also offers assistance in case of lost luggage or travel delays and gives you access to discounts at hotels, restaurants, and businesses worldwide. You will receive a digital copy of your card prior to your departure. Please print and include with other travel documents. Please visit www.volunteercard.com for more information.

*Opting out of IVC will not reduce the cost of your trip.

DOCUMENTATION

Below is a list of documents that we need from you as soon as possible. Acceptable file formats include: .png, .pdf, or .jpg. Please email each to your team leader.

PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

Make sure this is a clear, high-resolution image. We also recommend that you carry a photocopy of your passport, and email yourself a digital copy that can be accessed in case of emergency.

PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORD

Please submit this to your team leader after you have received all your immunizations necessary for the trip. This must be submitted at least 8 weeks prior to your departure. See ‘Recommended Immunizations’ for more information.
IMMUNIZATIONS

No instruction or information given here is intended to take the place of professional medical advice. You should be up-to-date on all routine vaccinations, and travel vaccinations required for the country you are traveling to. All immunizations must be administered 8 weeks prior to departure.

We suggest that you determine which shots you may need by consulting your physician or travel health specialist and by visiting the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and/or the World Health Organization.

After receiving all necessary immunizations, please do the following:
• Get immunization record updated and signed by the physician
• Email scanned PDF of immunization record to trips@poetice.org

TRAVELING WITH A MINOR

If you are traveling with a minor (including your own child) you will need extensive documentation for the child and from both parents- even if one of the parents is present with the child throughout travel.

If your team is flying through Johannesburg, South Africa (JNB), please visit the link included below, and carefully read what documentation is needed in order for minor to travel. Depending on guardianship traveling with the minor, documentation may include Unabridged Birth Certificate (long form including parents names) for each minor, Birth Certificates of both parents, Notarized Affidavit from each parent (included in link below), among other pieces of documentation. **If ALL documentation is not present at the airport upon arrival, this child will not be permitted to travel.**

CLICK HERE FOR REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
CLICK HERE FOR PARENTAL CONSENT AFFIDAVIT FORM

REMINDE OF AGREEMENTS

I UNDERSTAND that I will not be able to communicate with family and friends regularly.

I UNDERSTAND that I am responsible for my airfare and trip cost as communicated to me by Poetice International as well as obtaining a passport and necessary immunizations, completing a waiver release form, providing up to date immunization records, and adhering to Poetice deadlines.

I UNDERSTAND that if I do not raise and submit the necessary funds by the final due date, my flight will be cancelled and I will not be able to participate in the program.

I UNDERSTAND that, should I need to withdraw from this trip for any reason, I am still responsible for any expenses that have already been incurred on my behalf by the date of my withdrawal and that, because funds CAN NOT be returned for any reason, any remaining funds that were donated on my behalf will be disbursed to other trip participants and/or programs at the discretion of Poetice International.

I UNDERSTAND that all donations that are given to Poetice by me or on my behalf CAN NOT be returned in any form for any reason. In the event that I raise more than is necessary to fully cover the cost of my own trip, funds will be dispersed to other trip participants and/or programs at the discretion of Poetice International.
PACKING LIST

Before you start packing, keep in mind that your primary areas of ministry are not the stereotypical African bush. While it can be quite dusty and a bit hot, it is very unlikely that you will ruin any of your clothes. Be comfortable but presentable. Dress modestly, but dress like you!

HELPFUL HINTS

• You are allowed to bring one checked bag and a backpack.
• You can wear normal clothes like you would in the USA on most days. We spend many days on base or in town. Jeans/pants are great! You don't have to wear a skirt every day.
• What not to wear: leggings, yoga pants, shorts, short skirts/dresses, crop tops, spaghetti straps, revealing clothes. If you question if a shirt or skirt is appropriate, it probably isn't. Err on the side of modesty.
• When we go into the communities or villages, women will need to cover shoulders and wear a long skirt or chitenge (fabric to wrap around your pants).
• Africans dress well when they go to church. Bring nice clothes. Guys: black pants/nice khakis and nice button-ups are great. Ladies: a dress or skirt below the knee is perfect.
• It’s **cool** in Zambia in the mornings and evenings in June, July & August. You will need sweaters, jackets, beanies, etc. Days will be warm enough for short sleeves, but the temperature drops quickly with the sun.
• It’s **hot** in Zambia in October, November, December. Be prepared for this as you pack.
• You will be able to do laundry while in Zambia.

CHECKLIST

CLOTHING

- Casual clothes for 3-4 days (Women, cover all skin at and above the knee. Pants, jeans, capris, skirts, dresses, may be worn. Men. Casual pants, jeans, shorts.)
- Church/ministry appropriate clothing for 2-4 days. (Women, skirt/chitenge, covered shoulders, no athletic-style t-shirts. Men: button-ups, polos, clean t-shirts (no athletic style t-shirts), black or khaki pants)
- Shoes (1 pair of sturdy/walking shoes, 1 pair of casual/everyday shoes, 1 pair of church shoes and 1 pair of flip-flops/sandals)
- Light jacket/sweatshirts/sweaters/other long sleeved layers
- Modest sleepwear (it gets cold during the night)
- *during U.S. summer months: June, July, August*

RECOMMENDED ELECTRONICS

- Power adapter (UK/Hong Kong, see photo on right)
- Phone/camera + charger
- Headphones
- Flashlight
CHECKLIST (cont.)

TOILETRIES/PERSOANL
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shower necessities
- Deodorant
- Laundry soap (optional)
- Sunscreen (optional)
- Bug spray (optional)
- Hand sanitizer (optional)
- Feminine hygiene products (not something you want to buy in-country)

ADDITIONAL
- Bible
- Journal/notebook and pens
- Sleeping bag * pillow
- Towel
- Water bottle
- Cutlery (plate, mug, bowl, fork, spoon, knife)
- Spending money for souvenirs/snacks ($50-$100 is plenty to have on hand. ATMs are accessible. Be sure to call your credit card company to alert them you will be in Zambia)

MEDICAL
Check with your doctor for any medications/supplies you may need, such as:
- Epipen for allergies
- Inhalers/medications for asthma
- Diabetic supplies
- Medicines/medical supplies not found in common first aid kit
- Prescriptions in original containers and corresponding documentation in your name
- Avoid bringing illegal substances not permitted in Zambia. The list of ‘Narcotics and Illegal Substances’ can be found at http://www.deczambia.gov.zm. Note that at the time of compilation of this document, this list included Benadryl.

ITEMS TO PACK IN YOUR CARRY ON
- Passport, boarding pass, itinerary, drivers license
- Personal spending cash / credit cards
- Laptops, phone, charger, other portable electronics, etc. Avoid checking anything that is valuable.
- Extra change of clothes
- Toiletries for travel
- Essential medications

DO NOT BRING
- Hair dryers or hair appliances that require 110V
Raising Support

“God has created me to do some special service; God has committed some work to me which has not been committed to another. I have a mission.”
- John Henry Newman

Perhaps the most important thing to remember about raising support is that it is an opportunity, not a problem. It is an opportunity for you to accomplish something that you may never have done before and to grow your faith and your perception of what is possible. It is an opportunity for your community—people whose investment in you goes well beyond financial—to support and encourage you. Fundraising is not something standing between you and your journey; it is part of it! We’ve been there before; and we want to help you!

FUNDRAISING INSTRUCTIONS

ONLINE PERSONAL FUNDRAISING PAGE

Instructions to set up your personal fundraising page can be found here: poetice.org/howto/

All of your fundraising will be tracked online on a personalized fundraising page provided by Poetice International. You will be able to share this page with your supporters to accept online donations. You will also be able to edit the content on this page and view your fundraising progress.

This page will be updated as we receive funds on your behalf. If you do not see a donation reflected on this page, then we have not yet received it. This will be your only source of fund tracking, so if you have any questions about how to access or use this page, please ask. On this page you will be able to see the following information:

• Profile Photo and Biography
• Total Trip Cost and Total Amount Raised
• Names of Supporters and Itemized Donations
• Payment Due Dates
DUE DATES
It is essential that due dates be met as indicated on your fundraising page. We must follow these deadlines in order to purchase airfare and ensure that necessary expenses are covered prior to your arrival.
• If you will be unable to meet a due date, please inform your Poetice contact at least one week prior to the due date.
• If all fees are not paid within 30 days of your departure, you will not be able to participate in the program and will be forced to withdraw from the trip.
• If you are forced to withdraw from the trip, no funds previously raised can be refunded (see Reminder of Agreements for details).

EXPENSES DUE
The total expenses due cover:
• Lodging
• Meals In Country
• Transportation
• Flights
• Program Expenses

The total expenses due DO NOT cover:
• Passport or visas
• Immunizations/medical expenses
• Meals En-Route
• Laundry soap/ facilities
• Personal hygiene items
• Pocket spending money

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS
All donations are tax-deductible and will be receipted by January 31 of the following year by Poetice International.

ONLINE DONATIONS
• All online donations should be made through your personal fundraising page

MAIL-IN DONATIONS
• All checks should be payable to Poetice International.
• All checks should include your name on the memo line or on a separate note.
• Checks should be sent to:

POETICE INTERNATIONAL
ATTN: TRIPS
201 W WASHINGTON AVENUE
SUITE 121
ZEELAND, MI 49464
MINDSET/HEARTCHECK

The key to making fundraising (or just about anything) happen is the positive mindset that is born out of a faithful heart. If you struggle with even the thought of asking others to help you financially, ask yourself why and ask God for guidance. Often our hesitancy comes from either a lack of belief in ourselves or a lack of belief in what our God is capable of. Most often it’s a little of both since they are tied together. Once we have come to an internal peace about what God has called us to, we can go to our friends and family with both confidence and humility.

1. IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU.
All too often we focus on ourselves and wonder what others will think of us when we share this need. The truth is that God has something for you and for those you are going to serve. He is using the trip, including the fundraising, to show you who He is and bring glory to His name.

2. LET THE CHURCH BE THE CHURCH.
As one is called to be sent, others are being called to send, to pray and to support. You have felt the call to be sent, now let the Church send you. Not all of us will be called to go, but all of us are called to engage in this work together. Everyone is called; let this be an opportunity for others to be faithful to their call as well!

3. THIS IS AN INVITATION.
This is your chance to invite others to be a part of what God is doing in and through you on the other side of the world. As you ask for support, remember that you are inviting others to be a part of work and life transformation that they would not otherwise get to be a part of. This is a beautiful invitation and great privilege; don’t deny anyone the opportunity to be blessed!

4. PEOPLE ACTUALLY WANT TO GIVE.
You’ll be shocked by how many people want to support you. The joy of generosity is a universal experience, and its practice is essential in following Jesus Christ. People want to give for your sake as well as their own walk with God. It’s amazing when we get to see our friends and families come around us and show us love through giving to us!

5. WE LEARN TO RECEIVE.
Once funds start coming in, it is common to feel that we are not worthy of the money that people send our way. This state of humility is a beautiful place to be as you prepare for your trip. It brings to mind the greatest gift of all that has been given to us in Jesus Christ, one that cannot be received without humility. This posture of grateful humility is one you will want to take with you as you prepare to encounter others who are also in need of God’s love.

6. PRAYER IS POWERFUL.
Prayer cannot be an afterthought. In every stage of this process, it is important to commit the whole trip to the Lord. Ask God to provide the finances, the words for your support letter, and the names of those you should ask for funds. Ask Him to stir their hearts to give if that is His will for them. Ask Him to show you the power of prayer. This is His trip and He will not miss an opportunity to grow you and your community in faith. Prayer is an act of devotion that will keep you in that posture of humility, giving full control back to God and tuning your heart and mind more closely to His will.
STEPS & (TIMELINE)

1. START NOW (RIGHT AWAY)
The greatest piece of advice we can give you as you being fundraising is to start now. Sooner is always better. This will take the pressure off of you and allow you to be faithful to what God called you to give out of your own pocket.

2. ASK GOD (RIGHT AWAY)
Raising money is a beautiful opportunity to be dependent on the Lord and increase our faith in him. Ask Him how He wants to raise this money with you. Learn his heart for this process!

3. BRAINSTORM FUNDRAISING IDEAS (RIGHT AWAY)
Be proactive with fundraising. This isn’t going to happen without hard work. Brainstorm different ideas to raise funds. A couple of those are support letters, game nights, craft sales, a dinner party, chili cook-off, etc. Make this a party–get people involved and excited!

4. CREATE A PLAN (RIGHT AWAY)
Give yourself deadlines and goals of how you want to reach these goals. Be aware of payment deadlines listed on your statement and figure out a way to meet them!

5. IDENTIFY CONTACTS (RIGHT AWAY)
Try to create a list of 100 people to engage in your fundraising & send a support letter. It’s a great idea to send a support letter to everyone. Then, if you are holding any fundraising events, ALSO invite them to a fundraiser. It’s helpful to engage people more than once!

6. WRITE YOUR LETTER (5 MONTHS OUT)
Everyone should send a letter. Letters not only raise money but also let people know what you are doing. They create a support system and help to create a team of prayer warriors. Here is a guide to writing an effective letter:

- Introduce who you are, where you’re coming from and what you are doing, give a quick summary of the trip.

- Give background to the place that you will be going, the organization you will be going with, and what they are involved with, in-country.

- Explain why you want to take this trip or why you believe God has called you. DIG DEEP! Resist the temptation to stay at surface level; don’t just describe where you will go and what you will do, talk about your hopes and aspirations for the trip, what you would like to see God do in and through you. Tell them some of your story and how you got here.

- Make it personal. Tell each recipient that you cannot do this without them. Let them know how they can be a part of this either through prayer or by giving.
• Make it simple. Communicate clearly how they can give either online or by mail. Know your stuff so that you are able to explain it clearly.

• Include a timeline stating clearly when funds are due.

• How you say it is just as important as what you say. Texts, emails, and social media messages are fine for keeping up with friends but asking for support from your community—both spiritually and financially—requires a more personal touch. Receiving a physical letter in the mail stands out to your recipient far more than a message in their inbox.

7. EXECUTE YOUR PLAN (3-5 MONTHS OUT)
Put those fundraising ideas into action! Make plans and follow through. Get your friends and family involved to help you. Let them know your goals for your event and invite people into your story in more ways than just giving money. Get your aunt who loves planning parties and your neighbor who loves baking involved. Have fun!

8. FOLLOW UP (3-4 MONTHS OUT)
It’s always good to follow up with anyone you contacted. If you sent them a letter and haven’t heard back, send a quick email or phone call reminding them you are raising support. There is serious power in a phone call! People often want to give, but they forget to follow through. Don’t worry, you aren’t being a pest; you’re reminding someone that you need them.

9. RESPOND TO YOUR SUPPORTERS (2 MONTHS OUT)
When someone gives, call them! It is crucial that people know you appreciate their support and don’t take their prayers or financial gift for granted. When someone indicates a willingness to support you financially or by prayer, you MUST at least send a thank-you note. This will allow them to know you received their support and that you appreciate their sacrifice! After the trip, report back to these supporters. Tell them how your own life was impacted and how you saw God move on the trip. Invite them to the reunion party and remind them that they were a huge part of allowing God to act through you and in you on this trip.
Travel

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE
Check in to your flight online 24 hours prior to departure. Verify the check-in baggage quantity allowed, size and weight restrictions, and any fees that might exist on your airline’s website. Poetice is not responsible for any additional fees you may encounter at the airport, so make sure you know what is allowed on your flight.

Verify that your baggage has been checked all the way to the final destination. You may need to collect and recheck your luggage in Johannesburg. Please inquire with airline or airport attendants.

Arrive at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

ON THE PLANE
It’s very important to correctly fill out the customs declaration form that you are handed on the plane into Zambia. The example below includes all information that MUST be filled out accordingly. The remaining blanks are to be filled out by you.

Occupation: VOLUNTEER
Purpose of entry: BUSINESS
Address In Zambia: MOCHIPAPA ROAD, CHOMA ZAMBIA
Type of Accommodation: GUEST HOUSE
Duration of Visit: These days must be accurately listed
ARRIVING IN ZAMBIA

One of our staff members will be awaiting your arrival. However, there are several things you will need to do before exiting the airport.

PURCHASE VISA

Citizens from the USA, Canada and most other nations (unless your citizenship is with a nation listed here) are required to pay $50 for a Business Visa to enter Zambia to serve with our organization. Business Visas can be purchased upon arrival in Zambia. Follow instructions below upon arrival to purchase your visa.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will go through customs, where you will have your passport stamped and pay $50 USD (in cash) for your Visa. Set aside this $50 USD before you reach the front of the line, and present only this amount.

Find your way to the non-resident customs line. Put your completed declarations form and $50 inside your passport and hand it to the customs officer. Kindly confirm that the officer is granting you a Business Visa.

COLLECT LUGGAGE

Make your way to baggage claim, and wait for all of your baggage to come through.

If you do not receive all of your luggage, you will need to ask an airport attendant to direct you to the baggage claim counter. Fill out all necessary forms to claim your missing baggage. Use the following information to complete the form:

Address: Poetice Zambia - Mochipapa Area, Choma Zambia
Phone: Jeremy Emert | +26 097 914 9640

EXIT AIRPORT

Once all baggage is received (or claimed), make your way through the exit of the airport where you will find one of our staff members. From here you will be driven to where you will be staying that night.

Don’t worry about exchanging money or making arrangements for your phone at the airport.
LODGING
You will be staying on our missions base in Zambia. It is within one mile of the town center. It has running water (sometimes hot!) and electricity (most of the time). You will have a bunk to yourself in a room with 1-10 other individuals of the same gender. You will have access to a community-style bathroom.

If you are participating in camp during your trip, you may spend several nights at the campsite. Accommodation during camp may vary greatly. You will either be in a tent, cabin, chalet or dorm-style building. We request that you mentally prepare for this and remain flexible and grateful. We suggest that you prepare for this by bringing a warm sleeping bag, and warm sleeping apparel.

WATER
The water from the tap on our base is safe. When going out, all water must be boiled or filtered before consumption. Be sure to bring a water bottle.

FOOD
One of the most exciting elements of culture anywhere is the food! Prepare yourself to embrace this and be thankful for what is put in front of you. We will eat simple breakfasts and lunches, and often have Zambian cuisine for supper. This can be challenging as meals can be repetitive or different than we would choose, but this is an essential part of the immersion experience.

LANGUAGE
There are 73 tribal languages spoken in Zambia. Nine are official languages. English is often used in urban areas. You will be able to communicate fully in English with our in-country staff, as well as many other people you meet in Zambia. The two other languages that you will hear most often in the areas where we minister are Tonga and Nyanja. While English will be understood by almost everyone, Zambians appreciate it when we take the time to learn even a few phrases in their native tongue.

COMMON PHRASES IN NYANJA AND TONGA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>TONGA</th>
<th>NYANJA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thank You</td>
<td>Twa-loom-buh</td>
<td>Zee-komo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is the morning?</td>
<td>Mwa-boo-kah-boo-ti</td>
<td>Mwa-oo-ka bwanjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is the day?</td>
<td>Kwam-wamba</td>
<td>Moolee bwanjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine/well</td>
<td>Ga-bow-too</td>
<td>Bweeno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GIFTS & DONATIONS

While it feels instinctive to give material things to those with such great need, it can be very damaging if handled incorrectly. Always keep in mind that the best gift you can give someone is the gift of your presence with them. However, we do understand that gifts and donations can certainly bless and/or benefit people with whom we are ministering. If you feel led to give, please first discuss with our field staff so they can distribute the gift in a manner that will best support our in-country relationships and programs. If you plan to bring a large quantity of items, please inform/ask your contact person at Poetice International before taking them to Zambia. If you would like to make a monetary donation to our in-country operations or to any individual staff, please speak to a Poetice International staff member first. It is crucial that all funds are distributed to the organization on the field through Poetice.

AVOID

In every regard, it is very important to avoid making promises to anyone with whom you are ministering in Zambia. Be aware that suggestions, agreements, or ideas can be understood as promises. What you say may be taken in very literal ways, and you will be expected to follow through with a perceived promise. Promises should not be made on behalf of yourself, your group, Poetice International, or the organization on the ground.

DO’S & DON’TS

PLEASE DO
- Ask questions and share concerns with your team leaders or field staff.
- Remain flexible, patient, and understanding. Expect that you will have to wait around, that you will feel frustrated, irritated, hot and uncomfortable. It is important to combat all of these feelings with trust in the field staff and trust in the Lord.
- Try new food! Zambians will be grateful and enjoy sharing their culture with you.
- Speak clearly and with diction to be understood well by English-speakers.
- Take extra time to greet, introduce and talk with your Zambian friends.
- Smile often!
- Carry your passport if you leave the base.
- Respect and encourage the field staff. They work long and hard, and our words can go a long way.
- If a problem arises, notify the field staff before taking action.

PLEASE DO NOT
- Go anywhere by yourself (this includes leaving for walks or jogs). Always let the staff know where you and team members are going.
- Touch animals (even dogs and cats) as they often do not receive vaccinations and can carry diseases.
- Give out your address, phone number, email address, or Facebook info to those with whom we are ministering. You may be opening yourself to correspondence asking for money. If the situation becomes awkward, simply ask for their information instead of giving yours out.
- Tip or give money or gifts to field staff including our drivers, cooks, etc. We do not want teams to represent dollar signs, as this can damage relationships.
- Make promises on behalf of yourself, your church, your group, or Poetice International. We strive to be consistent in what (and how) we provide.
PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography gives us the power to connect people from all walks of life through the language of visual understanding. We must never forget that it is an honor and privilege to be in the position where we can represent the underrepresented, and give voice to the marginalized.

ATTITUDE

Our attitudes impact both our subjects and the outcome of the work. Attitudes govern actions. Attitudes shape the "what" and "how" we create, even the "why."

ACTION

The way in which visual content is created directly impacts both our subjects and the outcome of the work itself. Photographers and videographers must be mindful of the person and the picture.

OUR POLICY

Taking photos is getting easier and more accessible. As the photographer, we are generally becoming desensitized to taking photos whenever and wherever. It is crucial that when we are acting on behalf of Poetice, representing the Church and our nation, we approach individuals and communities in a way that creates a relationship that leaves a positive lasting impact on our field staff and future travelers. We must be extremely mindful of our own posture as we enter homes and communities and for the sake of the subjects of the photos. This has led us to create boundaries for teams.

Poetice International requires teams to nominate a photographer. This photographer will be the only individual who has access to taking photos during the various ministry opportunities. This photographer will intentionally capture photos by and for the whole team.

SOCIAL MEDIA

When you share photos on social media, we encourage you to consider what the picture communicates about the subjects and country, as well as check your intentions for sharing the photo. We want to celebrate with you as you celebrate the trip, and we encourage the use of the following hashtags to trend with all our trips!

#PITrips2018
Zambia

Zambia is located in Southern Africa, landlocked between Angola, Congo, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, & Mozambique.

POPULATION (JULY 2015 EST)
15,066,266

CAPITAL
Lusaka

TERRAIN
Zambia is made up largely of high plateaus with some hills and mountains. The country is recognized worldwide as home to Victoria Falls, one of the 7 Natural Wonders of the world. The falls are at the end of the Zambezi River. Lake Tanganyika is also a major landmark in Zambia, which is the second largest freshwater lake in the world by volume and depth.

Zambia is ranked 7th out of 187 countries for HIV/AIDS prevalence amongst adults.
NATURAL HAZARDS
Zambia is known to suffer periodic droughts and is susceptible to tropical storms during November through April.

DEMOGRAPHICS
Zambia has a very large, young population as a result of the high birthrate (fifth in world) and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. 46% of Zambians are younger than 14, 51% are between 15 and 65 years old and just 2% are older than 65.

LANGUAGE
Zambians speak 73 tribal languages in addition to the 9 languages officially recognized by the Zambian government. The predominant languages are Bemba (30%), Nyanja (10%), Tonga (10%), Lozi (5%), Chewa (5%), Nsenga (3%), Tumbuka (3%), Lunda (2%), Kaonde (2%), Lala (2%) and Luvale (2%). Most urban-dwelling Zambians and many school-age children are fluent in English.

HISTORY
The territory of Northern Rhodesia was colonized by the South Africa Company beginning in 1891 until it was taken over by Great Britain in 1923. During the 1920s and 1930s, advances in mining spurred development and immigration. The nation’s name was changed to Zambia upon its independence in 1964. Elections in 1991 brought an end to one-party rule, but subsequent elections saw blatant harassment of opposition parties. Edgar Lungu has been president of Zambia since January 25, 2015.

ECONOMY
Zambia’s economy has experienced strong growth in recent years, with real GDP growth between 2005-2011 more than 6% per year. Its primary exports are copper, cobalt, sugar cane, electricity, tobacco, and cotton. In the 1980s and 1990s, declining copper prices, economic mismanagement and a prolonged drought hurt the economy, but privatization of government-owned copper mines in the 1990s greatly increased copper mining output and profitability. In 2005, Zambia qualified for debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative, consisting of approximately US$6 billion in debt relief. Despite its regionally strong economy, Zambia remains a relatively impoverished country, largely due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the disproportionally high youth population.

WEATHER
Zambia has a tropical climate modified by its various altitudes. The rainy season is from November until April. During this season, it is hot and humid during the day (80º- 100ºF) and warm at night (60º-80ºF). The dry season can be divided into three sub-seasons. From April-May it is dry, hot, and sunny during the day (70º-90ºF) and cool at night (60º-70ºF). In June and July, it’s dry, cool and cloudy during the day (45º-70ºF) and cold at night (40º-60ºF). From August until November it is very hot and sunny during the day (80º-100ºF) and warm at night (70º-80ºF).
FOOD

The staple food in Zambia is a semi-firm mush, made from corn meal, called nshima (pronounced shee-muh). It is typically eaten with relish which can consist of meat and/or vegetables in gravy. Common vegetables are collard greens (locally called rape), cabbage, okra, eggplant and potatoes. Common meat is chicken, beef or fish. The best part about Zambian cuisine? You eat it with your hands! While staying at the guest house, you will get to try many Zambian dishes.

CULTURE

It cannot be stressed enough that time spent in Zambia is highly relational, and the purpose of the immersion trip is to immerse yourself in the culture. Spend as much time as you can really getting to know the Zambian people. They are known for being friendly, peaceful and proper, so be polite and follow the lead of a Zambian nearby. Do not be abrasive, aggressive or demanding. Body language is key, so seek to communicate what is in your heart with your facial expressions and gestures. Greetings are very important, so take time to shake hands with everyone, inquire about family and health, etc. Chit-chat is seen as polite and never considered a waste of time.

Zambians take great pride in their hospitality. When offered something from a host, always accept with gratitude—it is impolite to refuse. Carefully think through your words and actions: Zambians are attentive to our reactions and will take them to heart, so try your best to be aware of the comments you choose to say aloud. Zambians have very high moral standards for Christians. For this reason, it is very important that there is no consumption, use, or mention of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, no use of profanity or innuendos, and very minimal displays of affection between members of the opposite sex.

Time in Zambia is much slower-paced than in North America. Daily schedules are event-based rather than clock-based. For instance, rather than worship starting at 10:00, worship starts after prayer. It is crucial that you anticipate changing schedules, waiting around and vague time frames, even for ministry that is very important to you.

Around 75% Christian

the remaining 25% are Muslim & Hindu
After the Trip

FOLLOW UP
Follow up with your supporters. Show them your appreciation with a phone call, celebration event, thank you note, gift from your trip, or email. Let them know HOW you were changed. Let them know HOW God moved and what He did. Let this be another part of your ministry—speaking truth and sharing about your experience.

PROCESS
With God: Map out times with God to intentionally reflect on your trip, thank Him for all you have seen and learned, and to leave any burdens or unsettled thoughts with Him.
With other people: It is life-giving to connect with others who have experienced something like this before. Whether this is a mentor, a missionary, or a member of the team who was with you—find someone who cares about you and can help you through some of the tough stuff when you return.

PREPARE
It is so important to prepare for the times when people will ask you how your trip was. The first thing to remember is that you will need to be patient with others who have not seen experienced all that you have. Use this opportunity as a chance to share a testimony of what you saw God do. It is powerful to have a story or testimony ready to share, something tangible that happened on the trip. Depending on how much time or interest the person asking has, it’s good to have a few versions ready for this:

- 30 seconds: share a quick summary and 1-2 words that describe the trip. This is for passing/small talk.
- 3 minutes: this is for a friend or family member that cares but doesn't know how to relate to what you are saying. They DO care. So give them something real that you experienced and would love for them to hear.
- 5-10 minutes. This is for someone who takes interest in what you are saying and is intentional to listen to what you’re saying. Tell them a couple stories or life-changing perspectives that God brought before you.

RESPOND
Take time to reflect and find ways to be proactive in your response to what you just experienced. Discipline takes time, and creating a plan with just 1-2 items that you can take away from this experience that impact your life is a way to grow yourself into these things.

CELEBRATE
Take time to thank God for what He did. We spend so much time in prayer asking and seeking him before we do things. This makes it such a joyful thing when we get to celebrate Him and the things He did during our time abroad!
Emergencies

IN THE CASE OF A STATESIDE EMERGENCY DURING YOUR TRIP, PLEASE CONTACT

MARGIT DE JONG
616.403.8499 / MARGIT@POETICE.ORG

LISA SCHOONVELD
616.337.4314 / LISA@POETICE.ORG

Margit de Jong is your emergency contact person while you are abroad (unless otherwise advised). Those in the United States can call Margit if they must get ahold of you while you are in-country. For an in-country emergency, our field staff will contact Margit, who will get in touch with your family. Also, in the case of an emergency during travel (including missed or cancelled flights), Margit will make all necessary calls and possible arrangements to solve the issue. Please contact Lisa ONLY if Margit is unavailable and you are in an emergency situation.

IN THE CASE OF AN INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY WHILE ABROAD
Should an emergency occur while you are in-country, please notify a staff member on the ground immediately. It is important that you allow indigenous staff to handle any unplanned situations.

1. Alert in-country leadership
2. Contact US Embassy

US EMBASSIES

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