

# SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES: SENDING TEAMS OVERSEAS

Planning prior to sending teams overseas is imperative. Following are practical steps a church should follow when sending a team not officially sanctioned by a national Open Bible program:

1. Search the state department web sight at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), to discover any known dangers of traveling to the chosen country.
2. Prepare specific waivers of liability (for persons who have reached their majority) or parental permission forms (for persons who are minors) detailing the dangers of travel in the chosen country.
3. Bring a picture of each traveler along on the trip with you. Keep another photo of each traveler at your local church.
4. Add at least three proof of life questions to the application. Before dealing with kidnappers, you will want to know the person is still alive.
5. Know all medical conditions and necessary

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medications of all team members.

6. Warn all travelers of the danger of carrying illegal drugs into or out of foreign countries. Bring proof of all necessary medication carried into the country.
7. Have a trained crisis management team available to assume complete control of all crises. Provide proper crisis training to all team leaders. Crisis Consulting International, 9452 Telephone Road #223, Ventura, CA, 805-642-2549, is a great training resource.
8. Check with the church's liability insurance provider to insure it will cover liability for teams traveling outside the country. (Get the company's answer in writing.)
9. Discuss safety and security concerns with the team and immediate family members prior to the trip, explaining the process to be followed in the event of an overseas crisis. This can help avoid secondary crises from escalating the original crisis.

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