

ON TRACK PLUS Commitment

In applying for a placement with the Interserve *On Track Plus* programme, participants recognise that for the duration of their time with On Track Plus they are part of the family of Interserve and agree to share our commitment to:

- The Purpose and Vision of Interserve
- The Aims and Purposes of On Track Plus
- Accountability and Placement Procedures
- The Basis of Faith of Interserve (see Appendix 1)
- The Values and Operating Principles of Interserve (see Appendix 2)

The Purpose and Vision of Interserve

Our Purpose

“Our purpose is to make Jesus Christ known through wholistic ministry,
in partnership with the global church,
amongst the neediest peoples of Asia and the Arab World.”

Our Vision

“Lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ”

The Aims and Purposes of On Track Plus:

The *OnTrack Plus* programme in fulfilling our vision of “seeing lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ” seeks to:

Serve the Sending Church by

- Providing a way for the sending church to experience and learn of missions first hand in another culture
- Facilitating high quality individualized placements
- Helping participants grow in faith and increase in maturity.
- Raising the profile of missions in the sending church
- Building bridges with other cultures

Serving the Receiving Church and local community by

- Providing service, support and encouragement
- Building bridges with other cultures
- Making professional and spiritual contributions in the host country

Serving Interserve in its task of ministry by

- Contributing to the long-term work and strategy
- Encouraging current partners
- Leading to potential prayer, financial support and long term partners with Interserve
- Providing a bridge between short-term and long-term service for On Track Plus participants, through increased support in prayer and finances and advice for the next step.

Accountability for OnTrack Plus

An Appropriate Lifestyle:

Participants agree to be guided by the ethos, policies and strategy of Interserve in their conduct and activities throughout the period of their placement with the On Track Plus programme, which also includes any holiday time within the Country

Accountability to the Country Leadership

Participants are ultimately accountable to the Interserve Country Leader. In practice they are accountable to the Country Coordinator for On Track (CCOT) and to the person responsible for the project to which they are assigned. They are responsible for telling the CCOT when they are travelling away from their placement and other significant changes.

Arrangements for Financial Support

On Track Plus participants are normally expected to finance all aspects of accepting a placement from their own sources. This includes: return airfare, visas, immunisations, insurance, contributions to Interserve international and country costs and the annual conference costs, living expenses on location and any holiday travel or activities. Usually the receiving project will be responsible for any work related expenses, and some projects provide food and accommodation. We encourage all participants to raise a percentage of their financial support by developing a team of prayer and financial supporters who will partner with them in the mission task.

Placement Procedures for OnTrack Plus

Arrangements for Confirming a Placement

When accepted as a suitable candidate for On Track plus, participants agree that

- they will accept the location offered on the basis of their stated interest, except where personal or family illness, financial difficulties or major change in circumstances prevent their participation.
- they acknowledge and understand that Interserve acts purely and solely as their agent for the purpose of placing them in the project and that they undertake the programme at their own cost, expense and risk, and they further declare that they will not at any time now or hereafter make any claim for damages, loss or for any financial or legal reason whatsoever arising out of the programme.
- they accept that all placements offered by Interserve with On Track Plus are subject to the availability and granting of visas and the absence of war or major civil disorder in the country of placement.

Adequate Preparation before arriving on Location

Participants agree to give time to prepare themselves for living in the country of their placement. This will include reading about the country, the project, the principles of Christian mission, as well as communicating with their home church to encourage prayer, pastoral support and financial support.

Orientation

Participants will be expected to attend the National Office orientation programme before leaving for service. They are also expected to participate in our International Orientation programme, E2S (Equipped to Serve) at some time during their time of service and they are encouraged to attend the annual conference in their country.

Reporting on Return to Home Country

Participants agree to submit a written report to the National Co-ordinator of On Track (NCOT) at the conclusion of their programme. They may also report to their home church and other groups concerning their experience. In all that they say, write or publish outside Interserve they agree to abide by Interserve's guidelines on security in order to safeguard the ongoing ministry overseas of local and expatriate Christians.

I commit myself to:

- Live and act consistently in a manner worthy of the Lord and in keeping with the Statement of Faith, Purpose, Vision, Values and Operating Principles of Interserve.
- Respect and submit myself to the leadership of Interserve by being open, accountable and teachable .
- Pray for others in the Interserve Country Team.
- Be flexible and responsive as needs arise, especially in relation to the fulfilment of the strategy for the country in which I work.
- Contribute time, gifts and energy to the fellowship of Interserve.
- Abide by all that is written in this document.

In signing this On Track Plus Commitment, I am declaring that I intend, by God's grace, to live as part of the Interserve family, by these values and principles, in a spirit of service and unity .

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Appendix 1

- **The Basis of Faith of Interserve**

The work of INTERSERVE is conducted in accordance with the following doctrinal basis, to which each participant must subscribe:

'We believe that there is one God who has revealed Himself to be three eternal persons whom we confess as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth and He so loves men and women that He sent Jesus Christ to save them from condemnation and eternal death. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became fully human and by His sacrificial death on the Cross and by His resurrection from the dead, provided the redemption which saves those who come to Him in repentance and faith. The Holy Spirit continues Christ's work of convicting of sin and creating faith. He imparts unity amongst God's people and to them He gives power and love as well as gifts for different kinds of ministry.

We accept that all men and women are by nature spiritually unresponsive to God and are disobedient to God's will. Each person needs to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit in order to receive eternal life.

We acknowledge that the Church is God's instrument for mission and evangelisation. The local congregation in its worship, sacraments and fellowship, together with its evangelism and social care witnesses to the love and justice of God.

We affirm that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the uniquely inspired Word of God and is the only and wholly trustworthy test of faith and conduct.

We confess Jesus Christ to be the only Saviour and Lord and we affirm His deity, virgin birth, incarnation, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension and personal return.'

Commitment to this basis of faith does not mean a uniformity of belief that excludes different points of view on areas that are not part of this foundation statement. It is recognised that personnel come from churches of many denominations and emphases, but the points on which we differ are less important than those on which they are united.

Appendix 2

The Values and Operating Principles of Interserve

Values: Core beliefs that govern our behaviours as a Fellowship.

Inclusivity: We embrace a variety of Biblically-based Christian spiritual traditions. We welcome a rich diversity of cultures, providing opportunity for growth and learning. Gender inclusivity is very important to us. Women and men share in the full range of ministry and leadership roles.

Integrity: We strive for excellence and integrity in every aspect of our lives. We seek consistency between our public and private lives. We do our work as ministry, for the glory of God. We aim for transparency in leadership and communication.

Humility: We are in the process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ, learning and growing together. We respect and accept each other and those who we are called to serve. We do not seek recognition for ourselves or the name of Interserve.

Relationship:

Inward: We are a family, bound together by relationships of mutual accountability. We celebrate individuality whilst honouring the responsibilities of belonging to community. As a Fellowship, we are committed to pray, care for and respect one another. We are committed to excellent standards of support, pastoral care and personal development. Relationship provides the platform for leadership and decision-making.

Outward: A commitment to relationship shapes the way we work. Where there is breakdown of relationships in society (individuals and communities) we pray and work for reconciliation.

Service: Our call is to enable others to experience the Kingdom of God and live as Jesus' disciples. We do not seek our kingdom or our disciples. Leadership is exercised as service.

Operating Principles: Ways of working, based on our purpose and values.

Prayer and Worship:

Prayer, worship, scripture and listening to God are the basis for ministry, growth, innovation and unity within the Fellowship.

Wholistic:

Our ministries are whole and integrated. Proclamation, service and fellowship contribute together to our witness. We hold together different dimensions, such as word and action, personal life, professional skills and our contribution to building the church. Each of us combines these in different ways according to our situation, gifts and stages in our life and ministry.

Flexibility:

We work to enable individuals to discover and use their call and gifts while ensuring that this is done in an appropriate way. We are open to new ideas, possibilities and ways of working. We are interested in working principles and open processes.

Locally Led:

We practice devolved decision-making, enabling those affected by decisions to be involved in the process. We believe this allows us to be responsive to local needs, conditions and opportunities.

Partnership:

We are committed to co-operation with others in reaching common goals through shared vision and values. Partnerships take place at every level within and with those outside the Fellowship. It defines our relationships with churches in both sending and receiving roles.

Discipleship:

We aim to grow as disciples and enable others to do the same. Discipleship takes place in the context of relationship and community. Our desire is to enable individuals to fulfill God's call, grow and use their gifts. Being disciplined and discipling others is practiced intentionally.