



Louisiana Hurricane Relief

**Acceptance Packet for
Ovilla 2022**

In Partnership with Real Impact Missions

Mission Trip Acceptance Packet
Copyright © 2022 by Real Impact Missions

All rights reserved. No part of this packet may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the author.

YOU MADE THE TEAM

Congratulations!! Real Impact Missions and Ovilla have accepted your application to serve as a missionary to Louisiana We're looking forward to aiding in hurricane relief and showing the love of God to the local community.

We are thrilled that God has called you to GO! On every RIM trip, we help you explore God's heart for the world through **strategic partnerships** with local contacts, **intentional evangelism** that helps build up existing churches, and **experienced leadership** who pour into your life.

We also provide training and coaching to ensure that YOU, as an individual missionary, have daily opportunities to do **ministry that matters**. You won't just watch other people on your team share the Gospel, build relationships, pray for healing, or finish community development projects. YOU yourself will be intimately involved in every part of the process, and our leaders will challenge you to get out of your comfort zone and walk in all that God has for you. By the time you return home, you will have personal stories to tell about how God worked through you to build His Kingdom around the world.

What you need to do next... Read through the entire **Acceptance Packet**, and then post a copy of the **Trip Checklist – Cheat Sheet** (page 5) on your refrigerator. This will help you stay on track with your forms and fundraising deadlines. Remember, you can access all of the important info, links, forms and fundraising resources for your trip at www.realimpact.com/ovilla. You can also reach RIM Monday to Thursday, 9-5 EST at 1.800.774.6746.

IT'S GONNA BE AWESOME!!

Scott & Cara Boss

Founders of Real Impact Missions

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Getting Started (RIM Contact Info) 4

MUST READ THIS: Parent Cheat Sheet (DON'T SKIP!!) 5

About RIM (Statement of Faith, Team Structure, Safety, Note to Parents) 6

Important Info (Insurance, Immunizations, Training, Travel) 8

Financial Info (Deadlines, Refunds, Receipts, How to Add Funds) 9

Pre-Trip Preparation 11

Student Accounts (Tracking Donations and Forms) 12

How to Create your RIM Funding Page - Public Profile 13

Fundraising Guide 14

Sample Support Letter 17

Donation Coupon 18

*****ATTENTION PARTICIPANTS & PARENTS*****

If you don't do anything else with this packet...

READ THE TRIP CHECKLIST

Bookmark www.realimpact.com/ovilla

Everything is there, all you need on one page, check it out!!

If you have any questions, RIM is available by phone 9am-5pm EST, Monday through Thursday
at 1.800.774.6746 or by email anytime at GoInfo@realimpact.com.

GETTING STARTED



Throughout the next few months, we hope that you will contact RIM if you have any questions or need help with something. We're here for you and want to do anything we can to help you go to the mission field. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

RIM Contact Info:

- **1-800-77-GO-RIM**
- **1-800-774-6746**
- **GoInfo@realimpact.com**
- **PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503**

On the next page is a 1-page, checklist for everything to do...

YOU MUST READ THE NEXT PAGE

And visit realimpact.com/Ovilla to add funds and submit paperwork!!

Near to your trip start, you will also receive:

- LODGING INFO** – So your family members will know exactly where you are
- EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO** – So your family can reach RIM and be put in touch with you in the event of an emergency that occurs at home while you are gone

PARENT CHEAT SHEET

REALIMPACT.COM/OVILLA

June 18-25, 2022 - \$1395

Application Process

- Apply Online** – Application link is open at realimpact.com/ovilla

Immediately

- Verify Immunizations** – Up-to-date Tetanus vaccination required
- Create your RIM Funding Page** (see p. 13) & plan several dates for fundraising on social media
- Send Support Letters, plan fundraisers, etc.

Due 2 Weeks After Acceptance

- Deposit Deadline** – Submit \$95 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot

May 26th

- Final Deadline** – Make sure your account is 100% funded (\$1395)
- Paper Form: NOTARIZED CONSENT FORM** – Print, notarize and mail original physical copy to RIM, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503 (Received by May 26th.)

During May

- Receive instructions for Travel Day, updated packing list, etc.

June 2022 – Click **LIKE** on our FB page to see updates: facebook.com/realimpactmissions

Real Impact Missions

About Us

Real Impact Missions is a multi-denominational Christian organization that mobilizes individuals and groups for short-term missions. We value strategic partnerships, intentional evangelism, exemplary leadership and ministry that matters. Our heart and passion is to bring the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the hurting and broken around the world!

Read more at www.realimpact.com!

On the trip application, participants signed to verify they read and understood RIM's policies and values. You can find our Statement of Faith, values, leadership structure, safety measures, and FAQs at: Realimpact.com/about-us.

Team Structure

Teams consist of 20-30 students who minister together throughout the trip. Each team has male and female Team Leaders (TLs) as well as several Mission Advisors (MAs) who remain with them during the entire ministry schedule. Multiple teams may be deployed to each country. In addition, RIM Project Directors (PDs) provide spiritual and logistical oversight for the entire trip and rotate between the teams during outreach.

Discipline

Be advised that RIM and your group leaders have partnered to establish behavioral guidelines for the trip. These rules ensure the safety and well-being of each team member and help teams to maintain the highest degree of Christian integrity so that they can minister effectively in a cross-cultural setting. RIM and your group leaders may send any team member home that shows disregard for rules and regulations. **THE TEAM MEMBER'S FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN SENDING THE TEAM MEMBER HOME.** This may include, but is not limited to, international airfare, hotel room and meals.

Rules

Breaking the following rules while on a RIM trip will result in a “Bon Voyage” or “BV” – Students who break these may or may not receive a warning, and then **they will be sent home:**

- No possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products
- No smoking, including e-cigarettes or vape
- No use of someone else’s prescription drugs
- No fireworks, firearms or other weapons
- Never be outside of the lodging complex alone or without a leader in your group
- No romantic involvement of any kind during training or on the mission field
(No new relationships with teammates, translators or people you meet in country, and any pre-existing relationships on the team must be placed on hold with no alone time or PDA.)
- No entrance into opposite gender living quarters
- No stealing
- No pornography

If a student breaks any other church/school rules or trip rules while on the mission, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action by RIM staff and/or the group leadership. Students must not be involved in any kind of behavior that jeopardizes the mission or is a negative witness for the team or their own personal relationship with God. They must participate and actively engage with others during both ministry and team times.

Dress Code

All church/school rules regarding dress apply during the trip. In addition:

- Shorts and tank tops may not be worn during ministry (for all participants)
- Close-toed shoes (and sometimes pants) are required for work projects
- **SWIMWEAR:** Girls must wear one-piece suits or have a dark-colored t-shirt over a two-piece. Guys must wear t-shirts to/from the pool/beach.
- **CHURCH CLOTHES:** Outfit appropriate for church, no strapless shirts



IMPORTANT INFO

Immunizations

RIM places a high value on keeping participants safe and healthy! For this reason, we require the vaccinations listed below. Our requirements are based on August 2021 Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations as well as information from our partners who live in each location. All information is subject to change, so we do recommend that you contact the CDC, your local health department or your physician closer to the trip.

All trips require:¹

- **Up-to-date childhood immunizations** (required)
- **Up-to-date Tetanus** (required)

Health Insurance

RIM requires all travelers to have adequate health insurance coverage for medical expenses, including out of network coverage. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip will be the sole responsibility of students and their parents. Students and parents are also required to promptly reimburse Real Impact Missions or Ovilla for any amounts that are required to expend on the student's behalf for any medical care, transportation, additional costs, damages, or loss incurred while participating in the trip.

Travel Days

Detailed instructions for Travel Days will be provided prior to departure date.

COVID-19 Information

For all Up-to-Date information regarding COVID-19 and how it may affect your outreach, you can look at <https://www.realimpact.com/covid>. Please note, information and protocols are subject to change.

¹ *Questions about required immunizations?* Please call RIM at 1-800-774-6746.

No waivers for Tetanus are available for trips that include a service project or construction element.

Financial Information

The cost of the **June 18-25, 2022**, Ovilla mission trip is **\$1,395**.

Fundraising Deadlines

Funds can be added online at realimpact.com/Ovilla:

- \$95 non-refundable deposit due with registration
- Make sure your account is 100% funded (\$1395) by May 26th, 2022

Students are encouraged to fundraise as much as possible and to begin the process early. If a fundraising deadline arrives and a student's account is short, they will be required to make up the difference by adding personal funds. If the same student later raises excess funds, no refunds are available per IRS regulations.

For WAIT LIST students (if applicable):

- The above payment deadlines apply to you as well
 - You have 3 DAYS to catch up on deadlines that have already passed
 - You may not fundraise through RIM until you are officially accepted
 - RIM will not secure airfare until payments have been received and processed

Missed Deadlines & Airline Surcharges

Missed deadlines can result in a \$35 late fee for each deadline. If you are concerned about a particular deadline, you must call RIM before the deadline to request an extension.

Refund Policy

All donations received by Real Impact Missions go toward project expenses and are non-refundable. To receive a tax deduction, donations cannot be designated to a specific individual. Each individual is a fundraiser for the RIM project and the funds raised go toward project costs and participation. Funds are non-transferable.

Trip Withdrawal

If an individual is unable to participate in the Real Impact experience, the funds he or she has raised, less deposit, incurred expenses and administrative fees, can go towards a future project within the next year. Participants should notify RIM of their interest in applying for a future project. Please note the closer the withdrawal is to the trip; the more funds have been expended. 30 days before the trip, 100% of funds have been used toward the project and therefore cannot be applied toward future projects or trips.

Extra Funds

If you make a donation and/or raise funds in excess of the amount needed for this trip, RIM cannot return that money to you or to your donors. However, you can request to use that money on a future RIM/Ovilla trip or standard RIM trip that you sign up for within one year of your current trip. (1 - 4 weeks long, see realimpact.com for outreach opportunities!)

Tax-Deductible Donations

Real Impact Missions (RIM) is a registered 501(c)3 organization and all donations to RIM are tax-deductible. All financial activity is filed annually on a Form 990 Corporate Federal Return. **Checks should be made payable to *Real Impact Missions*. In order to receive proper tax credit, the name of the RIM missionary may NOT appear anywhere on the check.** When sending in checks to RIM, please use the donation coupon (p. 18) or a note with the participant's full name and trip. RIM sends out donor receipts in January according to IRS requirements.

Receiving Donations & Adding Money to Your Account

Your donors may give towards your portion of the project using any of the following methods:

- **Mail a check** to Real Impact Missions, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503
**Include a card with the participant's name and trip, but do NOT write their name on the check itself*
**Make checks payable to Real Impact Missions*
- **Give online at realimpact.com/donate/** – Enter the participant's name and trip
- **Click GREEN DONATE BUTTON on an individual's public profile link** – See page 13
- **Visit realimpact.com/ovilla** and click "donate" near the bottom of the page

If you prefer to collect the checks yourself and then send them to RIM in a group:

- Mail the checks in at least once a month so donors don't wait long for them to deposit
- Include a RIM donation coupon (final page of your packet) or a note w/your name & trip
- Donations must arrive before fundraising deadlines to be counted toward that deadline

Processing Time

Below are the normal processing times for various types of donations. Near to a fundraising deadline or year-end giving, please allow additional time for donations to post to your account.

- **Checks** – Mailing time + 2 business days
- **Online Giving via realimpact.com** – 2 business days
- **Online Giving via Public Profile** – Added immediately in real time, no processing needed

Note: Business days for Real Impact Missions are Monday to Thursday, 9am-5pm EST

PRE-TRIP PREPARATION

The following is a list of things you can do to better prepare you for your mission trip:

- **Pray** – This is by far the most important part. Begin to pray for the city, the people, for divine appointments, for your team, and for the finances to come in for your trip.
- **Research** – Research your city as much as possible; the people, history, major religion(s), culture, economic challenges, etc. Google searches can give you a good feel for the city.
- **Read** – Read Christian books that encourage you in your walk with God.
- **Read Your Bible** – Especially read books like Romans and John, that can help you while witnessing. Memorize relevant scriptures that you can use in personal evangelism.
- **Prepare Your Testimony** – Practice sharing your testimony, approximately 1 to 2 minutes long. It can either be about your salvation experience, a miracle God has done in your life, a healing, or God’s provision that you’ve experienced. Make sure it’s personal. Your Project Directors and Team Leaders will continue to help and coach you.
- **Learn the Four Spiritual Laws** – The following principles are a great tool as you share the gospel message. These are not meant to be memorized and recited. Rather, they are great principles and Scriptures for you to study before your trip so that you have information to draw from as you build relationships and have spiritual conversations!
 1. **God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with Him.**
John 3:16, John 17:3
 2. **Man is sinful and guilty before God, who is perfect and just. Sin has separated man from God and the relationship between them is broken. We must repent.**
Romans 3:23, 2 Thess. 1:8-9
 3. **Jesus Christ is God’s solution for man’s sin. Through Him alone you can have a personal relationship (He died in our place, rose from the dead and is the only way to God).**
1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, John 14:6
 4. **We must each respond and ask Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord.**
John 1:12, Romans 12

Student Accounts

Upon acceptance, every student will receive access to their own personal Managed Missions account. These accounts are a helpful tool for students and parents to track fundraising, paperwork, goals and tasks. Please take advantage of this tool. It makes life easier!

Getting Started

Each participant will receive an invitation to Managed Missions by email once his or her application has been processed by RIM. This email will come from **GoInfo@realimpact.com**. Please add this email address to your “safe list” so that you don’t lose it in junk mail or spam.

- **Step One:** Receive email invite from RIM
- **Step Two:** Click bottom link in the email and choose a password for your account
- **Need Help?** Call RIM at 1.800.774.6746 from 9am-5pm EST, Monday-Thursday

NOTE: This email goes to the email address a student chose on their registration form and cannot go to multiple addresses. If you want to change the email address, just contact RIM.

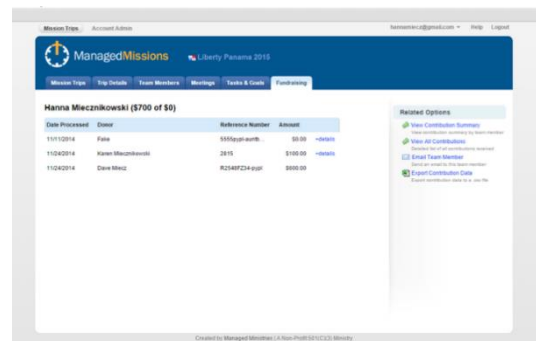
To Login

Visit <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com> and enter the student email address plus the password you selected during “Getting Started” above. Then select **[Ovilla Louisiana 2022]**

To Check Your Balance

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Fundraising** tab
- View your payments and donations
- Click **+details** for additional donor info



Date Processed	Donor	Reference Number	Amount
11/12/2014	Faye	5578491-wash	\$0.00
11/24/2014	Karen Miecznikowski	2815	\$100.00
11/24/2014	Dana Miez	821487234-ajp	\$600.00

To Check Deadlines

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Tasks & Goals** tab
- View upcoming deadlines and check if you’ve met fundraising goals/submitted forms

To Create a Public Profile

****EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: THIS IS AN AWESOME TOOL!! DON’T MISS OUT!!****

Keep reading on the next page to find out how this works...

How to Create a RIM Funding Page (Public Profile)



It's called SOCIAL GIVING... Real Impact Mission's public profiles are one of the most effective tools we provide to help you raise money for your trip, and you receive **100% of the funds donated through this page** (unlike other

fundraising sites that charge a fee). The power of peer-to-peer fundraising when combined with modern technology is incredible! For example, we saw one student raise \$1,314 in 9 days and another raise \$2,400 in two weeks!

How to Create a Public Profile

- Login to <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com>
- Click **[Ovilla Louisiana 2022]**
- Click **Edit my public profile** (top right)
- Write a note to supporters
- Add a picture (clear, just you, not goofy)
- Click **Submit for Approval**
- Notice your personal **Public Profile URL** link
- Run several campaigns (ex. once a month)



How to Run a Campaign

- Choose a specific financial goal (ex. \$900)
- Choose a specific set of dates (ex. 3 days the weekend after you're accepted)
- Post updates several times a day each day about your trip that includes your link
- The first few updates should tell people that you're going on a trip and need their help
- Subsequent posts should give updates about how much \$ is raised between posts
- At the end of the time, post thank you messages and final results
- Encourage your close friends and family to SHARE your posts throughout the days
- Repeat this once a month between now and your trip
- Consider using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, etc.

**Note: It's important to post multiple times per day because of social media algorithms.*

Getting the Finances...

Often, this feels like the biggest obstacle to people as they prepare for their mission trip, but it is also the greatest opportunity to experience God's provision and miraculous intervention! Here are some practical tools and biblical encouragement as you work to raise your funds:

- **God will supply all of your needs.** Read Philippians 4:19. It's a promise! Cling to this... If God has truly called you to go on this trip, He will provide all of your needs.
- **Missions is God's heart.** He is the One who told us to "Go into all the world." God would not instruct us to do this if He didn't intend to help us complete the task.
- **Pray.** At RIM, prayer is the foundation that we build our mission experiences on. Pray for God to multiply your efforts, increase your finances and bring you prayer partners.
- **Make a list of prospective partners.** Fundraising is less about money and more about relationships. God has given us relationships for a variety of purposes. He uses relationships to reach the world! Good stewardship of your relationships means including people in what you are doing in the outreach. Think of all the people you know that can join with your trip either financially or in prayer. Write down names of friends, relatives, church members, local businesses, business owners, etc. that you can send a support letter to. In addition, begin to think of ways to use social media to tell even more people.
- **Prayer Partners.** Choose 5 people and ask them to commit to pray for your trip. Provide them with the schedule, country information, your personal needs (like finances) and have them pray especially for ministry effectiveness.
- **Write a letter for support.** This is a great way to let people know what you are doing and what God is doing in your life. Send letters to at least 30 people.
- **Follow your letter with a phone call.** We know this sounds scary, but it is actually really fun! 2 weeks after you send your letters, make a personal phone call to each person. Ask if they received this letter. Take this opportunity to explain more about your desire to go. Ask them for prayer/financial commitment.
- **Create a Public Profile and plan social media campaigns.** See page 13. Social media allows us to connect with people who want to join what God is doing around the world!!
- **Be creative.** Think of some different ways to get money... Check out page 15 for ideas!
- **Trust God.** Once you have done all that you know to do, look to God to do the rest. He'll do "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

Creative Fundraising Ideas

If you find yourself at a loss for ideas, try these:

- **Sponsor a Day** – Divide your trip cost by the number of days you'll be gone. (ex. \$2,095 trip divided by 15 days = \$140 per day) Ask people to choose a date (ex. August 2nd) and sponsor the entire day. Keep track of who sponsors which day. After the trip, show them your pictures and journal entries of what happened that day.
- **Per Mile Traveled** – Have people pledge to sponsor you for a certain number of miles (that you will travel from your home city to your ministry). Example, if your trip is \$2,095 and your journey is 4802 miles, people can sponsor you for \$0.44/mile.
- **Youth Sunday/Special Offering** – Ask your pastor if your team can share during one of the services and then take up a special missions offering.
- **Sell Stuff** – Bake sale, garage sale, jewelry sale, t-shirt sale, candy sale, flower sale...
- **Serve People** – Car wash, babysit, yardwork, walking pets, cleaning houses, painting...
- **____-a-thon** – Host a walk-a-thon, bowl-a-thon, rock-a-thon. Get sponsors for a 5K, etc.
- **Media Fast/Sugar Fast/Caffeine Fast** – Choose one of these to give up between now and your next deadline. Have people sponsor the number of days you go without TV or chocolate or soda or coffee. Show them you're committed to this trip!
- **Local TV/Radio/Newspaper** – See if they'll support you, interview you or write an article about what you're doing and how others can get involved.
- **Tournament** – Host a golf tournament and invite local business men to participate for a \$100 donation as their entrance fee. Consider other spots and hosting a 5K as well!
- **Concessions** – Sell candy and soda pop at special events.
- **Stadiums & Theme Parks** – Find out about opportunities for your whole group to clean up after a game and/or run a concession stand for a whole day in exchange for a donation.
- **Design** – Create custom hats, t-shirts or wrist bands and sell them.
- **Sponsors** – Ask a local business to match other donations you receive dollar-for-dollar.
- **Auction** – Live or silent. This could be a good one to do as a group!
- **Music** – Ask a local band or drama team to do a benefit performance.
- **Coffee** – Host a coffeehouse or sell lattes after church. Why not dessert too?
- **Collect Change** – Label mason jars for your trip and have people collect spare change.
- **Recycle** – If you live in a state that encourages it, there may be money to earn from this.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Have people donate handmade items and sell the donated items.
- **Get a Job!**

The opportunities are endless... Be creative. You can do this! Trust God and work hard!!

How to Write a Support Letter

The most important thing to remember in writing your support letter is that you are not just asking a bunch of people for money. Rather, you are giving people an opportunity to go on your trip with you... to share in the experience of proclaiming God's love to people who may never have heard the Gospel before. You are giving people who can't go on a mission trip themselves a chance to be an active participant in the Great Commission!

Basic guidelines for writing your letter:

- **Share your heart.** Explain what God has done in your life to bring you to the point of going on a mission trip. In a few sentences, describe why you picked this particular trip.
- **Tell about the place.** Write several facts about the location you will serve, the ministry you will do, and how long you will be gone.
- **Relate the need.** Explain the cost of the trip and your financial need. Communicate what you will be doing on your own to help with the cost (odd jobs, babysitting, carwash, etc.).
- **Invite people to participate.** Ask potential supporters to join your team by giving or praying or both. Be sure to let them know that all donations should be made out to Real Impact Missions and are tax deductible, but they should not put your name on the check.
- **Explain how to give money.** Provide them with details about giving online through your personal Public Profile URL or realimpact.com/donate or by sending a check to RIM.
- **Close with thanks.** Let them know how much you appreciate them and thank them for their involvement. Encourage them to pray about how God would have them give.
- **Include a self-addressed envelope (stamped if possible)** and a commitment card for your supporters to send back. Make it easy for people. Do most of the work for them!

See! This isn't as hard as you thought it would be... If you need any additional help, feel free to call Real Impact Missions at 1-800-774-6746 or to email us at goinfo@realimpact.com.

We're here to help!!

VERY IMPORTANT:

Be sure to tell your supporters that your name cannot appear anywhere on the check they send or else their gift will not be tax-deductible. They should fill out the commitment card you provide or just put a note with their check explaining who it's for and what trip.

Sample Support Letter

Dear Uncle Bob & Aunt Janet,

In the past few weeks, our youth group has been studying missions, and God has showed me His heart to reach the lost. My youth group is going on a mission trip to Chicago this summer with Real Impact Missions (RIM) this summer, and I have decided to join the team.

We will be serving in a multi-ethnic neighborhood where much of the population is low-income, under-employed and living in over-crowded housing. Our team will partner with a local church to increase their outreach efforts with at-risk children, abandoned seniors, and the homeless population. Each of these groups needs to see the love of Christ tangibly modeled.

My youth group will be responding to this need through both service projects and relational ministry. Our trip is March 12-19 and costs \$995 per person. I am babysitting and doing odd jobs to earn part of this money, but I need help reaching my goal. Please consider sponsoring me with your tax-deductible financial gift and, most importantly, prayer. My next fundraising deadline is February 15th, and 100% of the money is due; so, if you can help me, please consider dropping a check in the mail today or giving online at {insert personal profile URL here or realimpact.com/donate/}.

*Your gift would be an investment into someone's eternal life. Please pray and do whatever God leads you to do. To receive a tax deduction, it is very important that you **do not put my name on the check**. Instead, include a note or commitment card with my name and ministry location. Make your check payable to Real Impact Missions and mail it to: {insert your address or RIM's: PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503}.*

More than anything, I ask for your prayers concerning this trip. You can see updates while we are gone on www.realimpact.com (click "BLOGS" and find my trip) and on their Facebook page [facebook.com/realimpactmissions](https://www.facebook.com/realimpactmissions). I sincerely appreciate your concern for the cause of Christ. May God bless you as you pursue Him and the establishment of His Kingdom. Together we can make a difference around the world!

Pursing Christ,

{Your Name}

