

## Phone Policy

The Family Missions Company policy requires that as soon as you encounter our missionaries or travel to your post, you must turn off your cell phones. However, you may use your phone for logistical purposes once arriving at your mission post until finding an FMC missionary/missionary transportation to your post. At that time, the trip has started, and you'll need to be "unplugged".

### Why?

Whether we realize it or not, we move and communicate at a pace that often keeps us from hearing and acknowledging God. This pace is not least of all set and kept moving due to our over-use of communicative devices. Additionally, the busyness of our lives often keeps us from really encountering and engaging one another. For example, when we encounter the poor, we want to fully engage them and not seek to take pictures of them; we want to give the FMC missionaries our full attention and learn as much as we can from them; we want to freely engage our teammates and support each other as we process the journey of missions without any distractions.

As we know, there may be no greater distraction from the present moment than our cell phones. Mission trips provide a special time with our Lord, who desires to encounter us, every moment, truly and fully in each other and especially in the poor we serve. To be fully open to this encounter of Jesus, we must make ourselves available to receive the fullness of grace which He is offering. For this reason, we must "cut the cord," so to speak, of our ongoing addictions to our devices.

### Rest Assured...

We do have cell phones at all missionary posts, as well as people in regular contact with our home base in Abbeville, Louisiana. The FMC missionaries are willing and able to use their phones when necessary.

If you are worried about documenting all of the awesome mission moments you will most certainly witness, know that your camera is welcome! Additionally, the leaders on the trip will be taking pictures that you will receive via email upon your return to the US.

### In Summary

- You may bring a camera wherever you go, but not necessarily a phone wherever you go.
- Phones are permissible for travel logistics, but may be confiscated if they are seen being used for any other purpose during your mission trip.
- The policy begins once you've encountered FMC missionaries and begin travel to your final destination.
- Mission leaders will be taking pictures that will be shared after the trip.
- Melissa's office: (337) 893-6111 (ext. 110). (Phone calls to Melissa's office number are also forwarded to her cell phone during mission trips.)

**MISSION TRIP PHONE POLICY**