

## **Dress Code for Mission, Training, and Ministry:**

As ambassadors of our faith, we embrace the responsibility of stewarding not only our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19) but also our witness (Matt. 5:16), striving to live above reproach (Ephesians 1:3-5) in all aspects of our mission work, training, and ministry.

Recognizing the diverse cultures we encounter, whether in a new country, state, city, or someone's home, we approach each setting with a heart of understanding. We acknowledge that others may not have the same freedoms and luxuries that we do. Our communication and presentation during missions hold significant weight in how we share the Gospel (Eph. 5:15). While we won't nitpick your speech, conduct, or attire, our emphasis is on safety and advancing the Kingdom of God. Our aim is to embody grace and mercy throughout our missions.

In certain countries, societal norms dictate strict views on appropriate attire. To effectively share the Gospel, we strive to meet people where they are, dressing in a manner that aligns with and respects their cultural norms. Failure to do so could jeopardize our safety and impact our ability to effectively witness to those we seek to serve. As representatives of Faithbridge, we are mindful of our role in mission trips, endeavoring to represent ourselves, our ministry partners, and, most importantly, God, with distinction.

Collaborating with ministry partners is integral to our mission. We value and uphold the leadership and guidance of our partners, including their rules and dress requirements. Our commitment to respecting these guidelines is a testament to our dedication to serving the people in the communities we visit.

While it may seem like we are passing judgement, our primary intention is to prioritize your safety and, above all, honor God in all we do. We aim to create space for His Word to resonate more deeply. In instances where cultural sensitivity requires more conservative attire, such as closed-toes shoes, pants, or long-sleeve shirts, we will gladly adhere. We acknowledge that these rules may not have been strictly enforced in the past, but we feel called to embrace a level of discomfort, believing it will afford us a greater opportunity for impact in sharing the Gospel wherever we go. Please refer to apparel guidelines below.

### **GENERAL:**

- Clothing should not promote inappropriate material, such as alcohol, drugs, sex, innuendoes, etc.
- All shirts and tops must have sleeves (no tank-tops, muscle shirts, etc.)
- Underwear must always be covered by outerwear (i.e., no boxer shorts hanging out or bra straps showing).
- No tight fitting or revealing clothing. Spandex-based sweatpants, yoga pants, leggings, etc. are often too tight.
- Close-toed shoes at worksite and in the kitchen
- Shorts must have 7" inseam or longer for boys, and 5" or longer for girls
- Swimsuits must fit appropriately. No speedos, bikinis, or tankinis

*\*for both guys and girls, some ministry partners may require pants. If so, this information will be included on your packing list*