



SHORT TERM MISSIONARY COLLEGE CREDIT INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKET

Those applying for college credit must also separately apply to serve as a short term missionary at a Family Retreat.



2008



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Purpose

The purpose of the Joni and Friends Family Retreat Short Term Missionary College Credit Program is to provide immersion education in disability ministry and provide college credit for participation.

For 2006, the pilot year of this program, participation is limited to 25 students. Expansion is planned in 2008 with facilitation transferring from the National Director to local Field Staff.

Service and Benefits

Joni and Friends sponsors multiple Family Retreats each summer at locations throughout the country. Each week is designed to provide families affected by disability hope, and a break from the challenges of everyday life.

Short term missionaries are assigned to a particular family or age-level program throughout the retreat. They assist the family according to the specific need in the family unit. They enjoy meal times together, provide a listening ear, and serve as a companion to help people get involved in the activities of Family Retreat.

Specific placements are based on individual strengths and gifts.

Each short term missionary receives:

- Educational resource CD-ROM and Field Guide to prepare for the retreat
- Family Retreat t-shirt
- Experiential, on-site disability awareness training and team building
- Five days of immersion education in disability ministry
- Evening debriefs with Retreat leaders and Short Term Missionaries
- Chance to make friends that will last a lifetime
- Opportunity to make a difference in the life of a family affected by disability

The Purpose of Short Term Missionary Training

The purpose of the short term missionary training, which takes place both via CD-ROM and on site sessions at the Family Retreat, is to:

- Review policies and expectations
- Provide general disability awareness training and overcome fears and misconceptions
- Prepare for the specific disabilities each short term missionary will face during the coming days
- Develop teamwork and build unity
- Strengthen relationships between leaders and short term missionaries

Course Objectives

1. The student will be equipped to reach out as a friend to a family affected by disability.
2. The student will understand God's heart toward people with disabilities.
3. The student will be introduced to the diversity of the disability community.
4. The student will begin to develop a theology of suffering.
5. The student will be introduced to philosophy and methodology of disability ministry in the local church.

Texts

The student is responsible to obtain the required texts:

1. The Holy Bible.
2. *Barrier Free Friendships: Bridging the Distance Between You and Friends With Disabilities*. Tada and Jensen (Zondervan, 1997).
3. *Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities*. Pierson (Standard, 2002).
4. *Special Needs Special Ministry for Children's Ministry*. Pierson, Tucker Jones and Verbal (Group Publishing, 2004).
5. Short Term Missionary Field Guide and CD-Rom, Joni and Friends.
6. *When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty*. Tada and Estes (Zondervan, 1997).

Assignments

1. Study the information provided in the Short Term Missionary Field Guide and CD-ROM, provided by Joni and Friends. The articles provided on the CD in PDF format provide valuable information. However, the student is not required to read these articles to complete the course. Read *Barrier Free Friendships: Bridging the Distance Between You and Friends With Disabilities* (Tada and Jensen, 1997). Describe your experience with people affected by disability and discuss the principles you believe are important in developing a friendship with individuals who are disabled. The paper should be typed, two to three pages, and formatted to your school's specifications. Complete this assignment and submit it one week prior to your arrival for Family Retreat.
2. Journal or blog your experiences, feelings and insights as you prepare for, participate in and reflect on the Family Retreat experience. Do not use actual names of the individuals to whom you refer. There is no minimum or maximum number of pages for this assignment. If typed, it should be to your school's specifications. Note your insights regarding God, people with disabilities, ministry, yourself, etc.
3. Read through the Gospels noting Jesus' interactions with people with disabilities and their families. Discuss His approach, methods and language and the implications of such for disability ministry today. The paper should be typed, three to five pages, and formatted to your school's specifications.

4. Read *When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty* Section Four (Tada and Estes, 1997). Based on this material and your own experience write a one to two page philosophy/theology of suffering typed and formatted to your school's specifications.
5. Read *Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities* (Pierson, 2002). Note in your journal or blog the date you complete this reading.
6. Read *Special Needs Special Ministry for Children's Ministry* chapters 1-12 (Pierson, Tucker Jones, and Verbal, 2004). Contact a local church with a disability ministry or a ministry from *Exceptional Teaching* pp. 229-233 or *Special Needs Special Ministry* chapter four. Write a paper, three to five pages typed, and formatted to your school's specifications that discusses:
 - a. The mission/vision/purpose statement for the ministry
 - b. The various age groups and disabilities they serve
 - c. The percentage of segregated vs. inclusive programming and the rationale for each
 - d. Outreach to parents, extended family, and siblings
 - e. The ministry's strengths and weaknesses
 - f. The ministry's accessibility
 - g. Future opportunities for growth
7. Final project: Choose an individual with a disability and their family (if they have one). It could be the family you worked with at Family Retreat or someone else you know. Design a ministry plan detailing how the church can best reach out to meet needs the individual and their family may have, as well as facilitate the individual's and family's inclusion in the body life of the local church. Write a paper, six to ten pages typed and formatted to your school's specifications, citing a minimum of seven sources. The paper should include a description of:
 - a. The disability and its possible causes and characteristics
 - b. The individual's strengths and weaknesses
 - c. Potential barriers (include attitude, program and physical access) to the individual's participation in the life of the church and recommendations
 - d. d. Potential needs of the family
 - e. e. A potential ministry opportunity for the individual and recommendations to facilitate it

Policies and Procedures

1. The program is open to anyone who is accepted as a short term missionary at a Joni and Friends Family Retreat and is eligible to receive credit at a Christian institution of higher learning.
2. Complete and return the Joni and Friends Family Retreat Short Term Missionary College Credit Application at least six weeks prior to the start of the Family Retreat for which you are registered.
3. The student is responsible to complete the enrollment process and make financial arrangements for the course at their school, and financial arrangements with Joni and Friends for the cost of their service at Family Retreat.

4. Privacy and confidentiality are important features of the Joni and Friends Family Retreat experience. Therefore, students should not use the real names or initials of the individuals to whom you refer outside of the scope of the assignments for this class.
5. The student is bound by their school's code of ethics and behavior and their policy on plagiarism.
6. Joni and Friends will provide a facilitator who is experienced in disability ministry to assist you in completing your learning experience. Please contact your facilitator with any questions or concerns you may have. It may be helpful to send an introductory e-mail to your facilitator and occasional progress reports as you proceed. Your facilitator is:

Jerry Borton
 Joni and Friends Greater Philadelphia
 215-380-2485 phone
 215-723-6608 fax

Grading

1. The first assignment is due one week prior to your arrival at Family Retreat for short term missionary training.
2. All other assignments are due eight weeks after the final day of your Family Retreat.
3. Grading:

CD-ROM, <i>Barrier Free Friendships</i> , experience paper	10 points
Jesus' interactions with people with disabilities paper	10 points
Philosophy/theology of suffering	10 points
Read <i>Exceptional Teaching</i>	5 points
<i>Special Needs</i> Ministry and paper	10 points
Journal or blog	5 points
Final project	50 points

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69

COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM | Application

Applicants to the College Credit Program must also apply separately to serve as a Short Term Missionary at Family Retreat.

Location and Date for which you have applied to serve	Date you sent your application mo day yr
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Name Male Female	Date of Birth mo day yr	
Street Address		Daytime Phone (including area code)
City	State	Zip
Email		Cell Phone (optional)
		Fax (optional)

The above address is a temporary school address valid from ____ (month) ____ (day) ____ (year) and ending on ____ (month) ____ (day) ____ (year). *If checked, please provide a permanent address and contact information that may be used throughout the summer months.*

Street Address		Daytime Phone (including area code)
City	State	Zip
Email		Cell Phone (optional)
		Fax (optional)

I would like to audit this program without earning college credit. I understand all assignments, policies, and procedures still apply. (Option to audit may be based on limited space available.)

I have read and understand the syllabus, policies, and procedures for this course and agree to abide by them. I have submitted my application to Joni and Friends to serve as a short term missionary at Family Retreat and I have made arrangements with my school to receive credit for this course.

Student (print name)

Student Signature

Date

Submit Application and School Information forms together to:

Director of Family Retreats
P.O. Box 3333 | Agoura Hills, CA 91376-3333
818-707-5664 | familyretreats@joniandfriends.org

COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM | School Information

*Include this form with your Application and send to:
 Director of Family Retreats, PO Box 3333, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-3333*

Student Name			
Name of College, University or Seminary			
School Contact Person		Email	
Street Address			Daytime Phone (including area code)
City	State	Zip	Fax (optional)

The above named student is eligible to receive credit from this school for the coursework and service associated with Joni and Friends Family Retreats.

 School Representative (print name)

 Title of School Representative (print name)

 Signature of School Representative

 Date

For use by Joni and Friends Facilitator

	Date	By (initial)
Short term missionary Application Received		
Field Guide and CD-ROM sent		
College Credit Application received		
College Credit Application reviewed		
Student accepted and notified		
Final Grade Sent to Student		
Final Grade Sent to School Contact Person		

Total Points	
Final Grade	

 Signature of Facilitator