

# **Radical Journey**

## **Information Packet**

[http://mennonitemission.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/Serve/RadicalJourney\\_InfoPacket.pdf](http://mennonitemission.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/Serve/RadicalJourney_InfoPacket.pdf)

June 2010



Greetings!

We are glad you are considering spending this next year with Radical Journey. It is an experience that carries with it the potential for you, in a deeper way, to see God at work in the world around you, and to imagine ways you can become a part of that love in action. This year holds the potential to be both challenging and deeply rewarding. Every year we are amazed by young adults' willingness to take on this life-changing experience and embrace the call of God in their own communities and around the world. Please read the following information carefully, and share it with those who will walk with you through this year.

Blessings to you on the journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Gascho".

Darrell Gascho  
Radical Journey Director  
Mennonite Mission Network

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Janzen".

Gordon Janzen  
Facilitator for Worker Recruitment and Resourcing  
Mennonite Church Canada Witness

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# Program introduction

## Mission statement

Radical Journey provides young adults cross-cultural experiences that create space for intentional formation.

## Vision

With a focus on shalom and what it means to live in right relationship with God, ourselves, others and all of creation, we strive to see individuals and the church transformed through the love of God, to live as examples of God's love in the world. We encourage young adults to see what God is doing in the world around them, and to begin imagining ways they can become a part of that love in action. Through conversation, study, service and reflection, young adults continue their journey grounded in an Anabaptist understanding of an integrated faith.

**Age range:** The program is open to 18- to 26-year-old young adults who are willing to be vulnerable, flexible and open to God's continued formation into lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

**Length of term:** One year

## Program overview

The first month of **orientation** in an urban setting is designed to set the background and expectations for the ongoing conversations, study, reflection, service and spiritual practices that will continue throughout the year.

Radical Journey is an intense and formative experience; participants must be willing to take initiative, remain flexible, and carry a desire for transparency and conversation. The month of orientation is a time for both participants and staff to discern the readiness of teams for the challenges of the immersion phase.

The second phase of the experience is a time to join with local, missional, Christian faith communities in building and creating mutually beneficial relationships. We call this time **immersion** and it is approximately 10 months. It is a time of learning and ministering alongside those in the cross-cultural setting, taking initiative in creating opportunities for serving, and building relationships within the wider community. During this time, Radical Journey staff members maintain communication and support around topics of formation and reflection for participants. We invite participants to engage mentors in each location to reflect on how together they live out faith in life as followers of Jesus Christ.

The third phase of the experience begins with a few days of retreat before participants return for a month to their home congregations or community. This **reorientation** is a time to integrate what has been learned during the **orientation** and **immersion** phases and discern together how God has been at work in participants' lives as they continue to grow on this journey of faith. We desire to see young adults continue looking for where God is at work, and imagining ways to engage. As participants develop ways to connect and integrate their experiences, we hope they are able to influence others to also imagine ways they can join in what God is doing in the world and their own communities. We pray that each participant will continue living out God's call on a lifelong journey of formation and growth.

# Application and preparation process

Radical Journey is a program for both Canadian and USA participants. Included in this information packet will be information that reflects the specific needs of each participant.

## Canadian

- Look on the Mennonite Church Canada website at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/serve](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/serve). Then write or call the human resources office at 1-866-888-6785.
- The human resources office will:
  - Provide you with an application form.
  - Provide a copy of the Radical Journey Handbook for Mennonite Church Canada participants.
  - Send out, receive and review references.
  - Conduct an interview with you.
  - Request a police background check and psychological screening as part of the discernment process.
  - Discern with the International Ministries team about recommendation to Radical Journey for placement.
- Receive affirmation from Radical Journey and Mennonite Church Canada .
- Applicant and Mennonite Church Canada engagement staff work to form advocacy team.
- Applicant and Mennonite Church Canada Witness international ministries staff develop participant budget.
- Radical Journey provides information in preparation for orientation and assignment.

## USA

- Visit the Radical Journey website at <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/RJ/Pages/Home.aspx>
  - Fill out the online application form <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/Pages/Apply.aspx>
- The program human resources office will:
  - Provide information for participants to obtain references.
  - After receiving four references, schedule and conduct an interview with you.
  - Request a police background check screening as part of the discernment process.
  - Discern the recommendation to Radical Journey for placement.
- Receive confirmation from Radical Journey Program.
- Radical Journey will mail a letter informing the applicant's pastor of the step the applicant has taken, providing information about Radical Journey, and presenting the opportunity to provide ministry support for the potential participant.
- Radical Journey provides information in preparation for orientation and assignment.

## Forming an advocacy team

### What is an advocacy team?

*It is important to realize that you are not in this alone. Radical Journey believes it is important for you to have others to walk along side you on this journey. An advocacy team is a vital link between you and your supporting home congregation and community. This team is usually a group of three to four people with an interest in mission and service, and in you, the Radical Journey participant.*

Members of your advocacy team agree to:

- Encourage and counsel you in seeking the Lord's leading.
- Assist in communicating with supporters.
- Communicate to others what God has called you to do.
- Assist in raising financial support for your team expenses.
- Mobilize prayer support for you.
- Keep the relationship between you and your home congregation strong and healthy.

### **Starting the advocacy team**

As a potential participant who is discerning direction about your call to mission and service, you should:

- Seek the counsel of congregational leaders, family members and trusted friends about this experience.
- Begin inviting your advocacy team after being confirmed for service with Radical Journey.
- Find someone to serve as your advocacy team leader.
- Begin meeting with the team for conversation around expectations, building relationships, and support.

### **Who is on an advocacy team?**

*The advocacy team can be made up of people from your congregation, family, friends and community. Include at least one person from your congregation's leadership team (youth pastor, pastor or other leader).*

Key players on an advocacy team:

- **Leader:** Makes sure the team is functioning effectively, leads meetings, and connects with Radical Journey staff members throughout the year.
- **Prayer facilitator:** Circulates your prayer requests, and leads the prayer network in praying for you regularly.
- **Finance coordinator:** Makes sure contributions are channeled properly.
- **Church coordinator:** Ensures that communication flows smoothly between you, your home congregation, and other members of the supporting network.
- **Spiritual mentor or director:** Someone you trust and feel confident will be able to walk with you through the theological and faith questions, as well as assist you with possible culture shock upon returning. You will need to meet with this person at least four times during **reorientation**.

### **When you are confirmed**

After you are confirmed to a Radical Journey immersion location and you have formed your advocacy team, you will need to meet with them to:

- Share about your immersion location.
- Make plans to share information about your immersion location and team with the congregation and other supporters.
- Consider whether a congregational commissioning service would be appropriate.
- Begin raising the needed financial resources for your team.

## **During the assignment**

*It is essential that you and the advocacy team stay closely connected.*

Participant responsibility:

- Communicate program information (e.g., information packet, reorientation expectations).
- Communicate frequently with the advocacy team about your experiences. (This can be done primarily through the use of blogging, which will be addressed later.)
- Pass along any prayer requests you have and what you are seeing, hearing, feeling and learning.

Advocacy team responsibility:

- Communicate with you to provide encouragement and to help you share your experience with the broader church.
- Encourage people to subscribe and enter into dialogue with you on your blog.
- Share about your ministry with the congregation and other supporters.
- Circulate information and prayer requests through the sending congregation.
- Monitor pledged contributions, and assist in further fundraising if necessary.
- Pray for you while you are at orientation, immersion and reorientation.

## **Returning from the assignment**

The advocacy team helps you reconnect by:

- Taking time to listen to stories and personal growth experiences.
- Helping you understand the home environment again by sharing experiences and changes in the community/congregation.
- Helping your home congregation and family cultivate an attitude of openness to what you have learned and the ways you find to share this and inspire others.
- Helping you successfully re-engage in congregational and community life.
- Arranging opportunities for you to share in small or large groups.
- Helping to arrange housing and transportation (if needed).

## **Advocacy team communication**

Radical Journey provides young adults with space for intentional formational growth, which includes the emotional, spiritual, intellectual and personal self, through cross-cultural experiences within community. Our hope is that in this experience with the wider global church and the formational process, you can find a connection back to your home congregation and community. Radical Journey is convinced that this personal growth does not happen alone, and invites others to walk with you. We believe that your experiences and perspectives are valuable for the further spiritual growth of all of us. Our dream is for you to connect your experience directly back to your home community in a way that can also inspire others to imagine how they can become part of God's mission of shalom within their communities. For this reason we ask that you develop a method that works for the participant and the advocacy team to ensure good communication. Our hope is that your advocacy team would be open to the ways in which God can use you and your experiences and reflections to call your supporting congregation to see what God is doing in our communities and around the world, and ways we can become involved. Radical Journey also wishes to be a part of this story telling with the wider church. With your permission, we desire to use your stories and photos to inspire others in this journey of faith.

# Community life

*Part of the vision of Radical Journey is that participants intentionally enter this journey within the context of Christian community. Below are some guidelines that have helped keep this community healthy.*

## **Cars**

Personal vehicles are not permitted at the training center during orientation. Public transportation is easily accessible. You are expected to stay on location for the time of orientation and to leave only if arrangements have been approved by Radical Journey staff prior to the beginning of orientation, during the first week, or in case of emergency.

## **Death in the immediate family**

In the event of the death of an immediate family member, you will be provided support from your team leader, immersion coordinator and program staff in making travel and other arrangements. Immediate family is defined, for purposes of the Radical Journey program, as a biological parent or stepparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent; in some cases, a close friend as well. You are entitled to five days' absence from the immersion location and are encouraged to contact your family and congregation for funds to cover these expenses.

## **Early termination**

**Dismissal:** If it is found that, for any reason, it is not in the best interest for you and/or Radical Journey to complete your entire term, a decision shall be made in consultation with the local coordinator and Radical Journey staff. A variety of alternatives may be explored, including that of dismissal from the program before the completion of your term.

**Request to terminate:** If you want to terminate early, it will be expected that you discuss the matter with your local coordinator and Radical Journey staff. An attempt will be made to find alternatives to termination. If none are found, efforts to transfer your responsibilities to other team members should be made prior to your departure. It will be your responsibility to advise the local coordinator and Radical Journey staff of your desire. It is also your responsibility to pay for travel costs home.

You are expected to put forth all efforts to complete your Radical Journey commitment. If there are any circumstances known that may lead to early termination, you must inform your local coordinator and Radical Journey staff as soon as possible.

## **Exclusive relationships**

Radical Journey is committed to encouraging healthy relationships. As part of a community and team, you are discouraged from developing exclusive relationships that separate you from the community as a whole. Establishing a romantic relationship or dating, either within or outside the team, has been significantly distracting for participants. We strongly discourage such relationships. Because of the variety of cultural expectations, it is advised that social interactions with those in the immersion location happen in the context of a group setting.

Radical Journey recognizes that sexuality, dating and relationships influence community life. Radical Journey encourages open and honest dialogue about these dynamics within the team community, seeking to affirm Christ's call to wholeness for individuals and for the community. Relationships and commitments outside of the Radical Journey community can be healthy and life-giving. We acknowledge that you may already be in an exclusive romantic relationship and that this can take time and energy. Care should be given that this does not distract from your ability to be present to the experience. The Radical Journey program discourages you from dating someone on

your team. Married couples have participated together in the Radical Journey experience. It is expected that you will pursue a style of living that embodies integrity, respect and caring.

### **Personal money**

All the costs directly related to the program, including food, lodging, travel to and from immersion locations, documentation allowance, and team activities, will be covered by the financial resources raised by team members. Each team will be given an amount of money per person per month during your immersion to be used for personal items. You are responsible for any additional money to cover personal items, personal activities, souvenirs or snacks you may choose to purchase beyond what is provided. We encourage you to spend carefully and wisely, recognizing that many of the people with whom you will be in relationship with will have varying degrees of financial resources. It will be important that you live out an awareness of this and your commitment to a simple lifestyle as a follower of Jesus Christ.

### **Team Retreat**

Teams are expected to take an extended weekend (3-4 days) trip partway through their immersion experience. You are expected to be present and participate in planning for the trip. This trip ideally will include intentional conversation, learning and reflection as a team on individual ministry work, and team dynamics. Costs for this activity will come from the retreat budget for each team.

### **Sexual harassment**

In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission declared sexual harassment to be illegal, and issued the following definition:

1. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when
2. Submission to or rejection of that conduct is used as a factor in decisions affecting an individual's employment or education (in some states, accommodations or public service); or
3. That conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an offensive, hostile or intimidating environment for work or education.

If allegations of sexually harassing or abusive behavior are made against a Radical Journey participant, the Radical Journey program will:

1. Work to maintain the safety and confidentiality of all the parties involved.
2. Ensure that contact between alleged perpetrator and accuser is minimized or completely terminated while a thorough investigation is implemented.
3. Work with all parties, including the Christian service department director and Mennonite Mission Network human resources staff members toward appropriate and reasonable closure and discipline based on results of the investigation.

If a Radical Journey participant makes allegations of sexually harassing or abusive behavior against an individual in his/her service assignment or other context, the program will provide advocacy for the participant in following established protocol within the respective context.

Individuals may contact:

- Darrell Gascho, Radical Journey program director – [DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net)
- Lyz Weaver, Radical Journey assistant program director – [LyzW@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:LyzW@MennoniteMission.net)
- Del Hershberger, Christian service department director – [DelH@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:DelH@MennoniteMission.net)

## **Substance abuse**

From a desire to see Radical Journey teams and all people experience and live out the reconciling love of God, the following policy regarding substance and alcohol abuse has been developed. We recognize you as a representative of Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Mission Network, Radical Journey, and most importantly of Jesus Christ. You are encouraged to talk together as a team about these issues. How we live as examples of God's reconciling love is important. You agree to be accountable to your team and community. The desire is for all to commit to a healthy lifestyle, indicative of Christian witness. Sensitivity to the goals of each team, our partners in the immersion locations, and the broader Radical Journey program should be exercised.

The use of illegal substances (as defined by law) and the abuse of any substance that would be hurtful to personal growth and group living, or which jeopardize the effectiveness of the service program and witness in the community, are unacceptable as both a matter of personal health and the well-being of the entire team.

With respect to alcohol, it should be recognized that differing participant ages and specific team contexts also lead to differing local tolerance policies. However, under no circumstances will the abuse of alcohol be tolerated. You will be held accountable for your actions whether it is abuse of drugs or alcohol.

## **Technology**

We recognize that technology is important. During the orientation and immersion time, we will intentionally be practicing personal and spiritual disciplines. Too often, we fill our time with cell phone calls, texting, television and Internet explorations that limit our ability to listen for the still small voice of God in our lives. You will also be living in a group situation where sensitivity to the other people you live closely with will be important for group unity and building positive relationships. We encourage you to balance your use of technology with the formational and relationship building aspects of the program. During orientation, you will have access to a computer with access to the Internet through the local library. During immersion, you will have Internet access through Internet cafés and possibly with host families. The purpose of this is to provide you with a way to stay connected to family and friends back home. Having Internet access should in no way take away from team and community life experiences. Time spent on the Internet should be limited so that you are able to build relationships and be present to your location. Each team will discuss Internet usage during orientation.

While personal laptop computers, DVD players, cell phones and pagers are permitted, these bring concerns for the community as well. Taking time to practice building relationships face-to-face will be stressed over texting, online conversations, etc. We live in a culture that is being formed and shaped by technology, and we want to take a serious look at the effect of technology on our lives. You should know, too, that past experience indicates those who bring laptop computers feel a great deal of pressure to share personal computers and the Internet connection with others. We specifically provide each participant with the ability to connect and use the computers at the neighborhood library. During the first week, we will have several conversations together as we discern how we will choose to live in regard to the use of technology during orientation.

## **Personal Vacation**

Each participant is given 10 days' vacation during your term of commitment. These days may be utilized in any manner desired; however, you are encouraged to take at least five days consecutively, in an effort to minimize the periods of time away from your immersion work. You are encouraged to use these days to explore the countries in which you are living or to spend time with family and friends who might visit.

Vacation time must be prearranged and agreed upon by immersion coordinators and Radical Journey staff. In addition, time away from the team is to be discussed with the team as a whole.

You are responsible for all costs associated with vacation travel.

### **Visitors**

During orientation, there will be one Saturday set aside as a visitors day. Orientation is only one month long; for that reason, it is imperative that you are present for the duration of this time. Because of the limited space at the orientation house, other lodging arrangements will need to be made. We encourage you to invite family, friends or your pastor to worship with you on that Sunday as well.

If you have family members who wish to visit you at your immersion location, we would ask that these also be limited in length, and preferably coming toward the end of your time. The immersion phase is an important time of being present to the location and relationships you are developing. Having visitors pulls you out of what you are experiencing and learning in the present. We would ask that all visitors make other lodging arrangements in order not to put additional stress on host families. All visits should be approved by Radical Journey staff, local coordinators, and fellow team participants.

## **Preparing for Radical Journey**

### **Immunizations**

Each country will require different immunizations. You can obtain this information by checking the travelers' health section of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), or by checking with your local health department or international websites. The CDC recommends for all outreach locations, that you have the following immunizations before training begins:

- Tetanus diphtheria (TD) – an updated booster is needed every 10 years.
- Oral polio – a one-time booster as an adult is needed.
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) – all children or young adults should have a second MMR as a booster.
- Also begin the series of hepatitis A and B shots. These need to be started as soon as possible.

### **Loan deferments**

Radical Journey may meet criteria for loan deferment with some lending institutions. Participants entering Radical Journey with college loans, and who are interested in pursuing deferment, should first contact their lending institution for a loan deferment application. *Participants should complete all applicable sections* then send to the Radical Journey office for staff to complete the “agency” portion of the deferment application and provide supporting documentation to be submitted with the application. Mennonite Mission Network staff are also available to give counsel on this matter if needed.

Matching funds may be available from Mennonite Mutual Aid to help with a scholarship to pay for loans or future study. Please contact MMA at 574-533-9511.

## **Medical insurance**

Currently, we ask each participant to directly contact an insurance agent, travel agent or financial institution to inquire about 365 day overseas medical insurance coverage options. Participants can also inquire whether they are able to continue under their parents' insurance. We encourage you to inquire as soon as possible so that you can begin the necessary documentation process and plan your budget accordingly. You will be responsible for all medical insurance and medical related expenses.

Mennonite Mission Network will need confirmation that you have adequate health insurance for the country in which you will serve. It is important that you have medical coverage you are comfortable with. Medical care in most parts of the world, especially in cities, is quite good and less expensive than in the United States. While we hope participants will be healthy and not have accidents, this sometimes happens. It is important in your personal finances to set aside funds to cover deductibles and medical expenses until your medical insurance reimbursement.

## **Obtaining a passport**

**You must obtain a passport before entering your term of service with Radical Journey.** This can take several months to obtain, so please begin work on this as soon as possible.

For USA participants you can find more information online at [http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html).

For Canadian participants you can find more information online at <http://www.pptc.gc.ca/index.aspx?lang=eng>

Read the instructions on the back of the passport application form and complete the application. (Please have at least six blank pages in your passport to allow for multiple entry visa stamping.)

## **Obtaining a Visa**

Each country has requirements for passport valid dates. Most will require that your passport is valid for six months past the completion of your participation in the Radical Journey experience. As soon as immersion placement is confirmed, information will be sent to each participant regarding how to obtain a visa. Promptly and thoroughly investigate the visa requirements for Canadian or USA citizens and begin the visa application process.

## **Packing suggestions**

You are encouraged to dress modestly, simply and neatly. Our purpose is not to impress others with the clothing we wear, or to keep up with the latest fashions. Our hope is that you will be willing to adjust to the diversity and cultural expectations in the immersion location. We carry with us a desire to live simply and with respect for those in our cross-cultural communities.

Our general policy regarding packing is that you will need to comfortably carry your luggage alone. Radical Journey is a relatively short-term experience, and we don't mind seeing each other in the same clothing frequently. It is important to remember that you will not be returning home prior to departure for your immersion location. Here are some packing suggestions.

- For worship gatherings and special events, we recommend clothing appropriate to your immersion location.
- It will be good for you to have several changes of clothes, including some that you don't mind getting completely dirty. An old pair of tennis shoes can suffice as work shoes.

- Keep in mind the varying climates you'll experience over the course of the year when choosing clothes. In some locations, you will go from needing shorts and T-shirts to needing jackets and sweaters.

#### Toiletries and other stuff

- Because of our limited space, you may be asked to store any excess belongings you may bring. There are an adequate number of towels, sheets, pillows and blankets for your time in orientation. These items will also be provided for you at your immersion location by your host families.

For your toiletries, we suggest you have a container like a make-up bag or a shaving kit to keep them in. Also, a soap box is convenient. Include soap, toothbrush and paste, shampoo, comb/brush, etc., in your toiletries. Remember any carry-on liquids will need to follow FAA guidelines of three ounces per container in a one-quart clear plastic bag. You will need a laundry bag for dirty clothing. Hampers take a lot of space, and we do not have extra room to store them. You will be expected to wash your clothes at a public laundry facility. Radical Journey will give each participant laundry money in quarters every week. Further packing information will be provided when your specific location is confirmed.

#### **Travel costs to orientation**

Travel arrangements from your point of origin to orientation, and all travel costs related, are your responsibility.

## **Team contributions**

#### **Soliciting team ministry funds**

By applying for the Radical Journey program, you have made an important step toward an experience of faith development and cross-cultural ministry that will have a lasting impact on your life. You will discover more of how God is at work in the world and in your own life. Our prayer is that you will also imagine ways that you might become involved in the kingdom of God as a follower of Jesus Christ.

We know that raising support can feel like a daunting task. Yet for many participants this has been a wonderful experience in feeling support from others and growing in their faith in God's ability to provide. We encourage you to consider that there are family, friends, and those in your congregation that truly do care for and want to support you.

It is important to ask your congregation to join you in this experience, for you are not embarking on an individualistic endeavor, but one that is grounded in the community of faith. Now is also the time to visit your pastor(s) to talk about your plans for participating in Radical Journey. Part of the role of your advocacy team will be to help you raise contributions for the expense of the team you will be serving with. Please share this information with them. The following guidelines and reflections will help as you begin contacting people to raise these contributions.

**Radical Journey is committed to sending funded teams to locations. In this model we do not ask for money from those we are sent to walk alongside and serve with in the cross-cultural locations. For us this is a justice issue.**

We ask participants and their congregations, families and friends to help raise the needed financial support for the teams. Your contributions help make this program possible. We also seek support from individuals and partner congregations to help offset the administrative costs of Radical

Journey in addition to the team costs. If you know of those who would like to also support Radical Journey as a program please let the staff know.

Please carefully read through this material before contacting people for support. Though this seems daunting for some, people want to partner with you in this way.

For many, the idea of raising funds is a scary proposition. We have found that it can also be a growing experience for your faith as you see how others generously desire to walk with you. Fundraising is about commitment, accountability, community, and shared trust. It is about our relationships with God, the church, our family and friends.

### **How to approach potential supporters**

*Thank God for opening the way for new experiences that allow us to grow and participate in extending God's kingdom as living examples of God's love.*

Make a list of relatives, church friends and neighbors who you plan to contact personally through a letter or phone call. For those nearby, a personal visit is the most effective. Ask the people you identified if they are interested in supporting you and your team in this experience.

Remember: You are providing an opportunity for those you will contact to participate in extending God's kingdom, but each person must decide if they are able to give (2 Corinthians 9:7). Do not be afraid to allow people to be supportive in ways beyond finances as well. In your visit, phone call or letter, take time to explain what you will be doing and what you are asking of them. Be pleasant, and give them time to think and pray about it. Pastors or youth leaders may help in giving guidance on presenting the program's need for contributions to the church. You may want to write letters to people describing your involvement. At this point, you are likely awaiting a team assignment and immersion location. Share with others the general things you will be experiencing in Radical Journey: cross-cultural service, learning and formation. Add specifics later, remembering that those giving are committing to support your participation in joining in God's work as much as they are a certain type of service or location. This is your opportunity to share what Radical Journey is all about! Make it clear that all funds should be channeled through you and your church, which will in turn be given to Radical Journey for the support of your team (note the suggested solicitation letter later in this document). If you have any questions related to fundraising, please contact a Radical Journey staff member.

### **Collecting contributions**

It is your responsibility along with your advocacy team to solicit ministry funds and develop a support network. This includes personally contacting your pastor, family and friends.

### **USA**

Radical Journey is asking each participant and advocacy team to raise at least US\$8,500 to help cover team expenses. Radical Journey seeks congregational partners and individual donor contributions to help meet additional administrative costs beyond this point. This amount covers the cost of orientation, reentry, travel to assignment, in country travel, lodging and food, visa and other team related costs. Participants will need additional funds to cover health insurance, immunizations, and travel to orientation. Advocacy teams may want to also set aside money to help participants transition back upon reentry.

### **Canada**

Radical Journey is asking each participant and advocacy team to raise at least \$8,500 to help cover team expenses. Total costs may vary on exchange rates but are estimated to be

between CAD \$11,000 and \$12,000. The attached budget outlines the anticipated expenses. Participants are responsible to determine the travel and health costs and send the completed budget to the Mennonite Church Canada international ministries staff person responsible for your anticipated region of service. This amount covers the cost of orientation, entry, travel to assignment, in country travel, lodging and food, visa and other team related costs. Participants will need additional funds to cover health insurance, immunizations, and travel to orientation. Advocacy teams may want to also set aside money to help participants transition back upon reentry.

Your motivation for soliciting ministry funds is highest before you leave home, as you anticipate entering service. Many people will be excited for you as you plan your entry into the program. The longer you wait, the more difficult it becomes because of the busy involvement in service. You or your family as well may have resources that can and should be used to help cover your participant contribution.

If you can live at home while working during the summer, or for a few months before your Radical Journey experience, you may be able to earn and save a significant amount of the participant contribution. Be diligent now so you will not have to be anxious later. We encourage a minimum of 10 percent of the total contributions you are asked to help raise be covered from your personal funds. We have learned that participants gain a greater appreciation for their Radical Journey experience when they also invest financially.

As you develop your advocacy team, ask someone in your local congregation to be designated as a treasurer. We suggest that you first ask your pastor and congregation to help you identify this person who will keep records for you. Information and instructions for your treasurer are found in this document. *Please read this information together.*

### **Financial contribution plan**

We recommend that half of the team contributions you have been asked to help raise be turned in by the start of orientation. The other half sent in by the end of orientation. If other arrangements need to be made, please contact the Radical Journey director. It is much more difficult to raise the needed team contributions after you have left for your immersion location. Contributions you raise cover team expenses and administrative costs.

*If you have any questions, please e-mail Darrell Gascho, Radical Journey director, at [DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net).*

## **Treasurer information**

As designated treasurer for the Radical Journey participant, you will provide a collection point for the contributions they have been asked to raise for the expenses of the team. Radical Journey is committed to the model that wherever possible we do not ask for money from those we are sent to serve in the cross-cultural locations. We ask the participants and their congregations, families and friends to help raise the needed financial support for their team. The contributions help make this program possible. We also seek support from individuals and partner congregations to help offset the additional administrative costs of Radical Journey. Please carefully read through this material.

### **Participant's responsibilities**

- Radical Journey participants will make a list of relatives, church friends and neighbors, and contact each of them personally.

- The Radical Journey participant will approach these individuals in person, by letter or by phone, describing their involvement and asking if they are interested in contributing to the support of the program.
- Pastors or youth leaders may help in giving guidance on presenting the support opportunity/invitation to the congregation.
- Radical Journey participants will write thank-you notes to contributors. Encourage participants not to forget this important response of gratitude.

### **Collecting contributions**

Checks should be made payable to your local congregation, with “Radical Journey” and the participant’s name on the memo portion of the check. All checks and cash should be given to you as designated treasurer to record.

*Checks given to the participant should be passed on to you, the designated treasurer, since you will send one cumulative check payable to:*

**USA**  
**Radical Journey**  
**Mennonite Mission Network**  
**PO Box 370**  
**Elkhart IN 46515-0370**

**Canada**  
**Mennonite Church Canada**  
**600 Shaftesbury Blvd**  
**Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4**

DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL.

In either case, please be sure to put **Radical Journey** and the **participant’s name** on the check memo line (donations not labeled clearly will go to Mennonite Mission Network’s Radical Journey general fund and not towards the team contributions).

Contributions are tax-deductible. Inform your contributors that they will receive a donation receipt from your home congregation or from Mennonite Mission Network (in the U.S.) or Mennonite Church Canada (in Canada) on behalf of Radical Journey for all contributions. All checks must be made payable to your congregation, Mennonite Mission Network, or to Mennonite Church Canada to be tax-deductible. Checks made out to the participant are not tax-deductible. It is the participant’s responsibility to keep in touch with you as to the ongoing status of the funds they have been asked to help raise for their Radical Journey team.

Participants are encouraged to send a thank-you note to each contributor to express their gratitude for the generous giving of those who contributed.

***Due to IRS and CRA rules pertaining to tax-deductible giving, contributions designated for Radical Journey cannot be returned. All contributions received will be used for meeting the needs of the Radical Journey program.***

## Soliciting funds (sample letter)

Dear [Name], family, friends and church members,

It is with a sense of real excitement and anticipation that I write this letter to you. Beginning in [August], I am planning to enter the Radical Journey program. Radical Journey provides young adults cross-cultural experiences that create space for intentional formation. Radical Journey is an experience designed for young adults to grow in their faith, develop a deeper appreciation for the church here at home and globally, learn how to see what God is doing in the world, and imagine ways to become a part of God's kingdom work.

I will spend one month in orientation before traveling to my learning and service immersion location. During this time, I will have the opportunity to interact with other Radical Journey participants and a variety of teachers, pastors, and local community service organizations. I look forward to this time being filled with learning, prayer, reflection and good conversation. After this time, I will leave to spend the next 10 months in a learning and service location where I will have the chance to live with and get to know a faith community in a different culture than my own. At this point, I do not know where I will serve, but possible locations include Bolivia, China, England and Paraguay. I will let you know my exact ministry location as soon as possible. I am looking forward to serving and building relationships that are transforming in my life. While I am there, I hope to stay in regular contact. At the end of this time, I will spend a month in reorientation in [home town/church] integrating what I have learned.

I very much need you to go on this journey with me. Everyone in Radical Journey will have a blog site or some way to post our observations and learnings, keeping you informed about our experiences. I want my year in Radical Journey to be a time where we share our experiences and stories of faith with one another. My hope is that we all grow in faith as a result. By being involved in the Radical Journey program, I am being asked to help raise the financial support to help meet the needs of the Radical Journey team. We do not ask the communities we are serving in the cross cultural setting to financially support us.

### USA

If you would like to contribute, please think and pray about what feels appropriate for you. All gifts should be made payable to [home church] and given or sent to [designated treasurer] at [address]. If you would like the gift to be tax-deductible, you can make your contribution by check. Please designate it for Radical Journey and include my name in the memo line. You will be sent a donation receipt from [home congregation] or Mennonite Mission Network on behalf of Radical Journey.

### Canada

If you would like to contribute, please think and pray about what feels appropriate for you. All gifts should be made payable to [home church] and given or sent to [designated treasurer] at [address]. If you would like the gift to be tax-deductible, you can make your contribution by cheque. You will be sent a donation receipt from [home congregation] or Mennonite church Canada on behalf of Radical Journey. Support for this program can go either to my home congregation [name of congregation], or to "Mennonite Church Canada". In either case please specify "Radical Journey" and my name in the memo portion of the cheque. All donations will receive a receipt either from my home church or from Mennonite Church Canada.

As I mentioned earlier, I am really looking forward to this experience as a time of spiritual growth and discovery of what God is doing in the world through the global church. I would like to thank you in advance for helping to make this possible for me.

Thank You!

[Name]

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**USA**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to support [Name] in the Radical Journey experience.

\_\_\_\_\_ One-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be supporting through regular prayer.

Please detach and send to [home church and address].

Checks should be made payable to [home church].

Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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**Canada**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to support [Name] in the Radical Journey experience.

\_\_\_\_\_ One-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be supporting through regular prayer.

Please detach and send to:

Mennonite Church Canada

600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

Winnipeg, MB. R3P 0M4

# Staff listing

## USA

### **Darrell Gascho**

Radical Journey program director

E-mail: [DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:DarrellG@MennoniteMission.net)

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Elkhart office

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Elkhart IN 46515-0370

Fax: 574-294-8669

Mennonite Mission Network

722 N Main St

Newton KS 67114-1819

Fax: 316-283-0454

Toll-free phone number for Newton and

Elkhart offices: 1-866-866-2872.

## Canada

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Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4

Toll-free: 1-866-888-6785

Fax: 204-831-5675