



North Country Ministries

2253 Saranac Ave. Lake Placid, NY 12946 | 518-523-2008

ncministries.net

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are looking forward to your mission team coming to Lake Placid soon. We believe that God is going to use your team to share the love of Christ in our community, and to lay some groundwork for ministry in our area for years to come. This packet of information should give you much information about the area, the people you will encounter here in the Adirondacks, and the ministry of Lake Placid Baptist Church and North Country Ministries. Enclosed in the packet you will find:

- North Country Ministries and Lake Placid Baptist Church
- The People of the Adirondacks
- Preparation through Prayer
- What Others Are Saying About NCM
- Sample Projects Descriptions
- Logistical Information (lodging, meals, clothing, weather, etc)
- A list of important local area websites
- A Bible Study on "Sharing the Love of Christ in the North Country"

Our desire is that everyone who comes on mission trips to the North Country will be ready to talk with people about Jesus. That way, no matter what type of project you are doing, if the Lord opens the door for the good news of Jesus to be shared, you will be equipped and ready to share. Work on this with your group before you arrive in Lake Placid, please.

Again, let me say how grateful we are to the Lord for sending your team our way. As we partner together, we pray that we will see God move in remarkable ways. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me. I will talk to you soon as we finalize the details for the trip.

In Christ,
NCM Staff

Lake Placid Baptist Church and North Country Ministries

Lake Placid Baptist Church

Lake Placid Baptist Church was a new church that began in 1979. With the Winter Olympics coming to Lake Placid in 1980, there was a need for this church in this community. From the beginning, the focus of the church was to share the love of Christ with the athletes and visitors who come – from all over the world – to our small village, as well as minister to the people who live in the community year-round. In the past few years, God has brought us back to His plan for us. Our church is very grateful that the Lord is giving us a second chance to do what He called us to do from the beginning. The mission of our church is to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This small, growing church in the Adirondacks has the opportunity to minister to people from all over the world.

North Country Ministries

In the late 1970s, a ministry was started to share Christ's love with people in this resort area. Then, for about 15 years, this ministry went into hibernation. In 1998, the Adirondack Baptist Association saw a need to begin a ministry specifically to reach out to the tourists and athletes who were visiting the village of Lake Placid. Associational Missionary Jim Goforth was the catalyst to beginning this ministry. The Lord brought Jake Morrow to lead North Country Ministries (NCM) for two years. The ministry event that really "put North Country Ministries on the map" was volunteering at the Goodwill Games that came to Lake Placid in the winter of 2000. Since that time, NCM has built its reputation on being servants who will do all the jobs that nobody else wants to do. From 2001-2011, Derek Spain led NCM. Starting in July 2011, Ryan Schneider is leading the Athletes Bible Study and is the NCM contact person.

Over the years, NCM has provided volunteers for Ironman Triathlons, ESPN Great Outdoor Games, World Cup Winter Sports Events (Luge, Bobsled, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboarding, Hockey, Ice Skating) and more. We work closely with local event organizers to help provide volunteers for great sports events and other events that come to our area. The volunteers with NCM, who come from churches all over the Adirondacks and mission teams from across the USA, are known for their hard work, great attitude, willingness to serve behind the scenes or wherever needed, and unselfish spirit. We want the event organizers to know that we are not volunteering for what we can get; we are volunteering for what we can give.

Here are three passages of Scripture that are very important to our ministry:

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 Peter 3:15 "In your heart set apart Jesus as Lord. And always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. Do this with gentleness and respect."

Matthew 9:35-38 "Then Jesus went to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

The People of the Adirondacks

Who They Are

Upon coming to the Adirondack Mountains – the North Country, as it is called – you will notice people who are very nice and friendly. Each village and town is very small. Lake Placid, for example, has a population of about 3000 people. The main source of income in the region is tourism. When you encounter local folks, they will tell you stories of past events, like the Olympics in 1980, snow storms through the years, events in the mountains, or famous people who have visited the village. Spiritually, most of the people in the region grew up as part of the Catholic, Episcopal, or Methodist Church, or no church. People here are very authentic, and so if you have conversations about faith with them, they will give you straight answers about their relationship with God. Other people in our area are very spiritual but do not think that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The other people that you will encounter in the region are the tourists. They come to Lake Placid and the Adirondacks literally from all over the world. No matter what season of the year you are here, you will encounter people who are here to experience the beauty of God's creation in the mountains, people who are in town for sporting events, and people who are looking to escape from the hustle and bustle of city-life by shopping, dining and relaxing in a small mountain village. Spiritually, some of the guests are looking for God, and the mountains are drawing them to Him. But most of these folks do not have a relationship with Christ. Others who visit do not even think about God whatsoever. They are so focused on sports or other activities in town that they do not have time for God.

How We Seek to Share Christ's Love With Them

God is sovereign, and He works in ways that are mysterious to us. Therefore, we do not claim to know everything about reaching people with the gospel in the Adirondacks. We have discovered, however, some biblical ways that God has led us to that have been great ways for sharing the love of Christ with people here.

First, we serve people. We look for ways to meet people's needs and therefore provide an opportunity to share Christ with them. For example, at some of our winter events, we give out free hand-warmers, and when people ask us why we are doing that, we tell them about our love for Jesus.

Second, we share the love of Christ creatively. Utilizing arts such as music, drama, clowning and other creative activities, such as giving away free goody bags and free cowbells, we try to share the gospel in creative ways.

Third, we talk with people about Jesus. We seek to share our faith directly with people, telling them our story of our relationship with Christ. We seek to incorporate Scripture into our story so that they will hear the truth of the gospel. It is important for a person who shares their story here to listen. Many conversations that we have with people are seeds that are planted so that God can bring about salvation in people's lives in the future. But be ready: God may give you an opportunity here to lead someone to the Lord!

Preparation through Prayer

Whenever you share the good news of Christ you are involved in spiritual warfare. Our enemy, the devil, does not want people to be saved. He is a liar, thief and destroyer of lives. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). We must be prepared for a spiritual battle when we go on mission with God.

Ephesians 6:10-20 says:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

We ask you to bathe your mission trip in prayer. Here are some suggestions:

1. **Pray every time your team comes together.** Whether the meeting is for training, logistics or something else, always include time for prayer.
2. **Pray for God to prepare each team member spiritually.** Each person who is coming on the mission trip should spend time in prayer and Bible study every day, getting spiritually prepared for the trip. You may consider creating a "30-day prayer guide" or something similar to help prepare your team members.
3. **Pray for God to work out all the details of your trip.** From logistics to ministry projects, there is much to coordinate and prepare for; pray for God to bring it all together, and that the team will come here prepared to serve Jesus.
4. **Pray for God to give each team member opportunities to share the gospel.** Pray that God will open your eyes to the opportunities all around you to share the gospel while you are on the mission trip. Pray for boldness to share Christ with others. Pray for wisdom on how to share Christ here.
5. **Pray for God to give each team member a servant spirit and willingness to be flexible.** Jesus was the greatest servant of all, and he followed the leadership of the Spirit to be exactly where God wanted him to be at all times. Sometimes on a mission trip, adjustments to the schedule must be made at the last minute. We will trust God to put us where he wants us to advance the kingdom of God.
6. **Pray for people to be saved!** The most important reason your team is coming here is for people to hear the good news of Jesus. Pray that people will be saved in the Adirondacks – before, during and after your mission trip!

What Others Are Saying About NCM

“The team from Hudson Baptist Association had an awesome time during the World Cup Snowboard Competition. NCM’s strategy for engaging people with the gospel at their level is on target. Giving out hand warmers on a cold day opens up conversations spiritually! I overheard more than one conversation between spectators and one of our team members about why we were there. Our team walked away with a better sense of how to creatively evangelize. One suggestion to your team before you come: Pray, Pray, Pray! This is a challenging ministry trip. People don’t come to ski in Lake Placid so they can find out about Jesus. For most people, he’s not even on their radar screen. We went, trusting God for divine appointments.”

Sean Pierce, Hudson Baptist Association, Schenectady, NY

“This past weekend we spent our 52nd wedding anniversary in Lake Placid. Lake Placid is one of our favorite places!! We live in the foothills of the Adirondacks, so appreciate all the ADK's. We encountered two very nice, well mannered, sharp, friendly, clean cut young people as we drove into the parking lot at the Olympic Jumping Complex. We stopped and had a nice visit with them. They gave us some hand warmers and then asked if we'd like a couple bags of goodies. We accepted both. We asked them what they were doing and they told us they were from Florida and were in Lake Placid on a ministry mission. We told them how much we appreciated their ministry and that they were exemplifying what Jesus did when he was here. We are very impressed with NCM...we have looked at your website. I believe that what you are doing at NCM is so effective, so much more than just saying the "words" or preaching your religion (as some folks might call it). The two young people that we encountered certainly were good examples of Christianity. (We also talked to a man at the complex in the evening that was handing out freebies.) So often we have turned off others by our preaching and/or being "spiritual" but not loving and giving. Amen to what you are doing. Your website is excellent!!!! Keep up the good work.”

Gail and Larry Cramer

“Thursday, registration. I get my first rush of emotion all week. I make my way to the person who puts on my wristband with tears in my eyes. They ask if I am OK, and I say, “I can’t believe I can do this, this is so amazing and I am so grateful.” The lady next to him hands me a little cross and says she will be praying for me. I ask where she is from and they say North Country Ministries and we put on IronPrayer. And I say, “Oh, I am speaking at IronPrayer,” and they ask my name and then say, “Oh we have heard all about you”. What a God thing. I left there so filled up.”

Carrie Chavez, Ironman athlete

“I ran my 1st full ironman on Sunday, and it was well earned with the RAIN. I was wondering if you could tell me the Christian radio station that was playing music near the turn around on the run course. [NCM note: it was Rich from 316athleticwear.com] It was really encouraging to hear Third Day on the 1st loop and Casting Crowns "Praise You in the Storm" on the 2nd loop. What a perfect song! It brought tears to my eyes. I stopped and hugged the guy there both times. I want to thank him and NCM for your support in the race. I also can't forget the pancake breakfast and fellowship. I ran for FCA Team Endurance. Knowing that the back of my tri top had POWERED BY CHRIST on it was what got me through. Thanks and God Bless.”

Andy Nazworth, Ironman athlete

Sample Project Descriptions

Athletes Bible Study

Each week, NCM leads a Bible study for athletes who are training at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid. Some members of your team may be able to attend this Bible study with us.

Coffee House/Open Gym

Young adults and students in our area love to just “hang out,” but there are no shopping malls nearby. We have found that providing a free Christian coffee house at Lake Placid Baptist Church will attract many of them. Christian music and other entertainment (provided by mission teams) along with coffee, soda and snacks creates an environment where spiritual conversations can take place. In addition, the gym can be utilized for sports at the same time, and our youth room has a pool table and ping pong table.

Community Encouragement

A few times each year, NCM partners with Lake Placid Baptist Church and other local churches to deliver cookies or other “goody bags” to local businesses, workers, etc. God has used these community encouragement ministries to bring joy to people in great ways. This ministry is fun, exciting and a good “first step” toward us sharing Christ with people in our community.

Creative Arts

Are you bringing a band, choir, puppet team, clowns, drama or other creative ministries? There is a pavilion right in the heart of the village, overlooking Mirror Lake, where we arrange for groups to perform. It is a great way to spread the joy of Christ to the crowds. We also can help arrange for you to minister in Saranac Lake and other areas at their outdoor pavilions.

Hiking Ministry

There are 46 peaks to hike in our area. Ministry here could include giving out free water bottles, Gatorade or NCM carabiners along the hiking trails. It could also include hiking with groups of local teens or children to open a door to share Christ.

Ironman Triathlon

Ministry at the Ironman Triathlon will include spreading the gospel via creative ministries (face painting, balloon animals, free sno cones, prayer station) at our NCM booth, assisting with registration, serving at three banquets, hosting a pancake breakfast for the athletes, running two aid stations on race day (Sunday), leading an Ironman Prayer & Celebration Service on Saturday, and more.

Light Construction Projects

Grab your tool belt or paint brush and join us as we help with some minor home or community projects.

Olympic Ministry

We are praying that the Lord will open doors this summer for us to impact the lives of future Olympic athletes directly. Ministries could include: hosting a block party for a team, serving as managers at their practices, or volunteering in some other way. If your group is interested in this ministry, let us know ASAP, because this will take some coordination with coaches, etc, if the Lord opens the door.

Sample Project Descriptions, Page 2

Conversations about Christ

While you are here, God will bring people your way who you can talk to about your faith in Christ. Be ready to listen to their life story and to share your story with them. As you go, make disciples (Mt 28:19).

Prayer Walking

Wherever you walk, you can pray.

Prison Ministry

The community of Ray Brook, NY is only five (5) miles from Lake Placid, and both a state and federal prison are located there. The federal prison has provided an open door for us to share the gospel on Monday nights at their Bible study. Individuals must be at least 18 years old to do this ministry. Background checks on each person will be done by the federal prison, and must be completed weeks before your arrival.

Sports Events

The half-court gymnasium at Lake Placid Baptist Church can be utilized for sports events. Sports such as basketball, volleyball, floor hockey and others are great ways to meet some locals and have a great time.

Winter Sports Ministry

We volunteer at many winter sporting events each year, including ski jumping, luge, bobsled, skeleton, snowboard, figure skating and hockey events. Your team can be part of the volunteer crew for one of these world-class events.

Worship Services

Lake Placid Baptist Church and other area churches would love to host groups that desire to lead in worship through music, drama, testimonies and/or speaking.

Youth Events

We can help plan an event or events that would be fun for children and/or teenagers in our communities. Such events might include: game night, putt-putt, clowns, puppets, movie night, skiing, tubing, ice skating, other sports, concerts, block parties and more.

Logistics

Food

Each group is responsible for preparing and serving its own meals*. Lake Placid Baptist Church has a commercial kitchen that may be utilized by your meal team. There is a Sam's Club in Plattsburgh, NY, a one-hour scenic mountain drive from Lake Placid. The grocery store in Lake Placid is Price Chopper. It is open 24 hours a day.

*The only exception to this is the Ironman Triathlon Ministry Week. During that week, a food team prepares all of the meals, and the mission teams pay for their meals. Cost per person per day for meals during Ironman for 2011 are as follows: Breakfast \$3.00, Lunch \$5.00, Dinner \$7.00. Please make your check for food payable to "North Country Ministries."

Lodging

There are many options for lodging, depending on the needs and desires of your group.

1. Lake Placid Baptist Church – LPBC built its new addition with mission teams in mind. The church has three showers, a commercial kitchen, a washer and dryer, and plenty of floor space for air mattresses. (Note: there is a Laundromat less than ½ mile from LPBC for additional laundry needs.) Separate sleeping areas are provided for males and females. The mission team must bring its own sleeping bags, air mattresses, pillows, towels, etc. The cost for staying at LPBC is \$6.00 per person per night to help cover the cost of utilities. Please make your check for lodging at LPBC made payable to "Lake Placid Baptist Church."
2. Hotels & Motels – Lake Placid has many hotels & motels in all price ranges; the "Town House Lodge" (518-523-2532) is right next door to our church, so you might try there first; the "Town and Country Motor Inn" (1-888-523-6640) is only a two-minute walk from Lake Placid Baptist Church; also, check the Lake Placid Visitor's Bureau website www.lakeplacid.com, and click on "Where to Stay" for rates and availability of other hotels & motels.
3. North Country Community College – may be available during summer months; each dorm is a 3-bedroom suite with private bath, den & kitchen (sleeps 6-8); fairly new dorms and affordable rate; contact the college directly for reservations 1-888-879-6222. Make sure to tell them that you are working with NCM. The college is a 10-minute drive from Lake Placid.
4. Campgrounds – there are several campgrounds in Lake Placid and nearby Wilmington, NY; go to the Lake Placid website or call the visitor's bureau at 518-523-2445 for information.
5. Saranac Lake Baptist Church – this church is about a 15-minute drive from Lake Placid. It has two showers and kitchen facilities. The mission team must provide air mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, towels, etc. If you need to stay at SLBC, we will check for their lodging costs. Please make your check for lodging at SLBC made payable to "Saranac Lake Baptist Church."

Logistics, Part 2

Clothing/What To Bring

Keep these two thoughts in mind: 1) dress for the weather, and 2) dress conservatively.

Winter Clothing Recommendations

- ✓ Winter boots, wool socks
- ✓ First layer: long underwear (good fabrics: polyester, polypropylene)
- ✓ Second layer: long sleeve shirt or turtleneck, fleece pants
- ✓ Third layer: fleece jacket, ski pants (or other waterproof/windproof pants)
- ✓ Winter coat
- ✓ Winter hat (wool, acrylic, fleece)
- ✓ Waterproof gloves or mittens
- ✓ Backpack (for extra layers of clothing, and ministry supplies)

Jeans are fine as your third layer (instead of ski pants) unless you plan to be skiing or standing outside for long periods of time. In general, cotton is not recommended for socks or any other layer. Cotton is not very warm here. You could wear a cotton long sleeve shirt if that was the only cotton layer you wear. It is fine to wear the same clothing several days in a row here. The layers keep clothing from needing to be washed as often. You will find that the locals have one fleece jacket, for instance, that they wear just about every day. Bottom line: if you do not own the layers needed, please borrow them from someone, so that you do not unnecessarily buy lots of clothing that you will only use on this trip.

Summer Clothing Recommendations

- ✓ Comfortable boots and/or shoes (good for lots of walking), comfortable socks
- ✓ Conservative shorts, jeans, pants
- ✓ Conservative shirts (short sleeve and/or long sleeve)
- ✓ Sweatshirt and/or light jacket (it gets cool at night even in the summer months)
- ✓ Backpack (for ministry supplies)

NCM Shirts & Hats

Your witness in the community will be enhanced as you wear NCM gear. We have seen that the more people wearing NCM gear, the more people are asked, "Who are you guys? What does NCM stand for?" which leads to great conversations. In the summer months, we have polos, t-shirts, baseball caps and visors. In the winter months, we have winter hats and fleece jackets. Let NCM help you decide which items would be best for your team to purchase. Costs are very reasonable and make great souvenirs as well. Remember: we're not t-shirt salesmen; we're simply looking for helpful ways to share the gospel!

Costs for 2011:

- NCM Hats (winter hats, baseball caps, visors) \$15.00 each
- NCM T-shirts (kids & adult sizes available) \$10.00 each
- NCM Polo shirts (kids & adult sizes available) \$25.00 each
- NCM Fleece jackets (kids & adult sizes available) \$40.00 each

Logistics, Part 3

Offerings

You may not take an offering or solicit donations for any reason during a ministry event.

Supplies

Groups are responsible to provide their own ministry supplies and materials for ministry projects. NCM can give assistance on where to order some supplies that will be used in ministry here, and we may be able to help with the cost of those supplies. Sometimes it is easier for us to order the supplies for you. We encourage creativity, but consult with us before ordering various supplies; we don't want you to spend money on supplies that will not be very helpful in sharing the gospel in this culture.

Transportation

Groups are totally responsible for their own transportation. Buses, vans and cars are all welcome in Lake Placid, and although parking is limited in the village, there are plenty of places for vehicles to park and plenty of room to get around. You can rent vehicles at any of the airports listed below.

Airports:

- Albany, NY (2-hour drive)
- Burlington, VT (2-hour drive)
- Saranac Lake, NY (25 minute drive)
- Plattsburgh, NY (1-hour drive)
- Montreal-Dorval, Quebec (2½-hour drive)
- Newburgh, NY (Stewart Airport) (4-hour drive)

Train Station:

- The nearest Amtrak train station is in Westport, NY

Weather

Check the website <http://www.lakeplacid.com> for general weather information. Each season here in the Adirondack Mountains is beautiful, and you'll love the crisp, clean mountain air.

Websites

Please check out the following websites, which will tell you about the Lake Placid region, North Country Ministries, Lake Placid Baptist Church and some of the events held in Lake Placid each year.

www.ncministries.net – the website of North Country Ministries, which tells all about our ministry, upcoming ministry opportunities, and how to be involved.

www.lakeplacidchurch.com – the website for Lake Placid Baptist Church, which has great links to other resources that will build up your faith as well.

www.lakeplacid.com – the official website of the Lake Placid Visitor's Bureau, which lists hotels, restaurants, activities and much, much more. They have maps, area attractions and other information they will mail to you at your request.

www.orda.org – the official website of the Olympic Regional Development Authority, which hosts many of the winter sports events at which we serve.

www.ironmanlakeplacid.com – the official website of Ironman USA Lake Placid, to be held in Lake Placid, at which we will be serving.

www.whiteface.com – the official website of Whiteface Mountain, located 15 minutes from Lake Placid. There is great skiing and snowboarding on this world-class Olympics ski mountain.

www.adirondackbaptist.net – the website of the Adirondack Baptist Association

Sharing the Love of Christ in the North Country

Teacher's Guide

[NOTE: We hope that you will have the opportunity to teach this Bible study to your group before they arrive in the North Country. This will give us all a biblical framework for the types of ministry we will be doing. Add your own illustrations to this outline as you teach it.]

Introduction:

The verse that guides our witness is Matthew 5:16, which says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

1. We serve people (Matthew 25:31-40)
 - a. We are to minister to people by meeting their needs. (vv 35-36)
 - b. As we serve others we are serving Christ. (vv 37-40)
 - c. Meeting people's needs is evidence of true faith in Christ. (v 34)
2. We share the love of Christ creatively (Psalm 150:1-6)
 - a. We are to bring praise to God at all places. (vv 1-2)
 - b. We are to use the talents and gifts that God gives us to praise Him. (v 4-5)
 - c. We are all commanded to bring praise to God. (v 6)
3. We talk with people about Jesus (1 Peter 3:15)
 - a. We must have a personal relationship with Jesus. (v 15a)
 - b. We must be ready to share our faith. (v 15b)
 - c. We must tell others of Christ's hope. (v 15b)
 - d. We must share with gentleness and respect. (v 15c)

Questions to consider:

Which of the above ways has God most shaped you to serve others? _____

Would you be willing to share Christ through all three ways? _____

How will you prepare now for opportunities to share in the future?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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 - c. Meeting people's needs is evidence of _____ in Christ. (v 34)
2. _____ (Psalm 150:1-6)
 - a. We are to bring praise to God at all _____. (vv 1-2)
 - b. We are to use the _____ and _____ that God gives us to praise Him. (v 4-5)
 - c. We are _____ commanded to bring praise to God. (v 6)
3. _____ (1 Peter 3:15)
 - a. We must have a _____ with Jesus. (v 15a)
 - b. We must _____ to share our faith. (v 15b)
 - c. We must tell others of _____. (v 15b)
 - d. We must share with _____ and _____. (v 15c)

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