



ADVANCE TEAM: CLARKSTON

7-Day Cross-Cultural Ministry Experience

About SALT Next Gen Ministries

SALT Next Gen Ministries is an evangelical, Christian nonprofit missions organization that exists to train and send the next generation to reach the nations with the Gospel for the glory of God. We do this by *preparing, partnering, and placing*. We prepare students for cross-cultural ministry, partner in Gospel work with local churches and like-minded mission organizations, and place the next generation on the global field to meaningfully serve in the advancement of God's kingdom.

You can read more about our ministry and learn more about our training programs at the end of this document or online at www.saltnextgen.com/our-identity.

About Advance Teams

Advance Teams are short-term, cross-cultural missions experiences for high school students. Whether stateside or overseas, we handle all the logistics, airfare, insurance, and travel arrangements. We also provide resources to train and prepare staff and students for their ministry experience. With dozens of locations across the globe, and partners eager to receive well-trained teams, we help churches and Christian schools join the work of the kingdom among the nations.

There are three phases to this ministry experience:

- **PRE-DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** We provide pre-deployment training aimed at training students in the basics of evangelism, discipleship, and cross-cultural engagement. Our desire is to equip students with know-how prior to the trip.
- **DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** We plan ministry in partnership with local churches, missionaries, and mission organizations. Students arrive and immediately engage in meaningful, cross-cultural gospel work that is designed to advance the goals and objectives of our ministry partners.
- **POST-DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** Following the trip, students and leaders who participated in the ministry are “debriefed” about their experience. Time and attention is given to what has been learned about Gospel, the ministry, the mission field, the student, and the team.

About Clarkston Advance Teams

Our Clarkston Advance Team experience is a unique opportunity for students to do cross-cultural gospel work stateside by joining what God is already doing in and through our Resident Ministry Team based in Clarkston.

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Our Resident Ministry Team

Our Resident Ministry Team is the heartbeat of our ministry mission in the Clarkston area. Team members live, work, and serve among displaced peoples as missionaries. Most are tasked with reaching an apartment complex in which they have been embedded. Team Members play a crucial role in helping to coach and train high school and college students for cross-cultural gospel ministry.

Our Resident Ministry Team accomplishes its goals and objectives by 1) training and coaching students to live and serve as cross-cultural gospel workers. This is done by 2) immersing students in an active, cross-cultural ministry environment that is focused on evangelism, discipleship, and church-planting. This is possible because our Resident Ministry Team is already 3) living missionally and working as a team alongside our local partners to achieve gospel saturation in our target ministry area.

Why Clarkston?

Clarkston is known as "Ellis Island of the South." Since the 1970s, refugees fleeing oppression and war have been resettled in Clarkston which has earned it the unique distinction of being hailed as "the most diverse square mile in America". Over time, the 60,000 refugees who arrived in Clarkston from around the world have transformed the once majority-White community into an enclave of radical diversity. More than half of Clarkston's population of about 13,000 people is foreign-born.

Refugee vs Migrant Worker

Sometimes, there is confusion about the difference between a refugee and a migrant worker. Basically, a migrant worker is someone who *chooses* to move in order to find work outside of their homeland. But a refugee is someone who has been *forced* from their home. Refugees, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are people who are "fleeing armed conflict or persecution" and "for whom denial of asylum has potentially deadly consequences." Refugees leave their home countries because it is dangerous for them to stay. Turning refugees away could mean sentencing them to death. They often arrive without their personal belongings, sometimes without preplanning.

Why Focus on Refugees?

We work closely alongside and in partnership with refugee resettlement agencies in Clarkston. In so doing, we learn where refugees are being placed. We also learn how best to meet refugees in their beginning stages of transition into a new world and a new life. With limited resources, most of these refugees fall deep into the cracks. While the term "resettlement" is often used, it is rare to find cases where refugees are truly "resettled" in every sense of the word. So, we believe the

FAST FACTS ON REFUGEES

During the fiscal year of 2022, 25,465 refugees were admitted to the United States. This is a significant increase from the fiscal year of 2021, when 11,411 refugees were admitted into the United States.

Turkey is the country which has taken in the most refugees in the world, 3.7 million. The next closest country is Germany which has taken in 2.2 million refugees.

In 2021, 68% of all refugees originated from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar.

In order to be considered an official refugee, an applicant must apply to the UN for Refugee Status Determination (RSD). It usually takes about two years to receive official status.

Once granted official refugee status, the UN refers a refugee on to a country which has offered to take in refugees for resettlement. The average time between being granted refugee status and being resettled in a new country takes anywhere from another 2-8 years.



opportunity is ripe – not only to serve refugees through compassion ministry – but also to share the gospel with them as we do life beside them.

We love doing ministry in Clarkston because we see global and local missions come together in a unique way. Those who are fleeing from war, violence, or persecution in their homelands often come from the very places to which we as ministers of the gospel have very limited to no access. In fact, we hope to send trained student-missionaries to these very same nations, regions, and people group!

Further, these refugees usually maintain close connection to communities and families back in their countries of origin. This means that our opportunity to share the gospel with them can lead to the opportunity to reach families and communities and even entire unreached people groups! We can point to recent stories for examples of how God converted a displaced person here in our nation and then used that same person to reach families, communities, villages, and small cities overseas with the Gospel.

The Missions Opportunity in Clarkston

There are unlimited opportunities here in Clarkston for outreach, learning, and genuine cross-cultural gospel engagement. This is why we are so passionate about exposing students to and involving them directly in this dynamic ministry environment!

Our vision for Advance Teams in Clarkston is to connect students locally to missions that is global. We commit ourselves to focusing on your students and helping them to get the most out of this experience. We will make every effort and take every opportunity to bridge the gaps between people in our community. Together, alongside our Resident Ministry Team and our ministry partners, we will engage people from many cultures, religions, and backgrounds. In doing so, we will teach your students to learn to respect and appreciate cultural differences and help them to see the world through a different vantage point than what they have been accustomed to.

Above all, we want your students to love people more deeply, understand cross-cultural ministry more directly, and articulate the Gospel more clearly as a result of the time they spend doing ministry here alongside our team in Nashville.

THE SPECIFICS

Ministry Elements

There are three primary elements that make up every Advance Team experience: ***Team Training, Ministry Engagement, Cross-Cultural Experience***

TEAM TRAINING

Students will begin each day with a team devotion and prayer centered around that day's focus. Every day the team will focus on a specific people group and corresponding world religion. Your students will learn about a different world religion every day. Students will learn about Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Catholicism, Animism, and even Baha'i. They will learn how to share the Gospel and able to interact with people groups across those different religions. As part of their

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training experiencing, students will not just learn about these religions, but they will encounter them first-hand by visiting mosques, temples, and other religious institutions to learn from different unbelieving religious leaders. Following these experiences, they will then learn specific evangelism and discipleship tools in relation to each from converted Christians across these different world religions.

MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT

Each day after lunch, students will shift their focus towards ministry. We have many local ministry partners who serve the refugee community in various ways. This part of their day is an opportunity for your students to serve alongside our Resident Ministry Team and our local ministry partners. The kinds of ministry that students will engage in throughout the week will range from homeless ministry to food pantry work, to youth ministry, to women and men's ministry, to outreach, and even to our own "Cola Wars". The Cola Wars are a special outreach event that we host where your students become "player-coaches" and lead a large group of children or teens in exciting, active, competitive, and fun games designed for large groups. As we play games with young people from the community, students have opportunities to make relational connections, share their testimonies, and even share the gospel message. Not only does this event make an impact in the lives of your students, we know it also helps us further the ministries of our ethnic church partners!

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Your students will learn how worldview and how culture functions. They will meet people from other cultures and learn about how to show respect and make meaningful connections with people from the Middle East, Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. You students will learn about different customs and traditions and will probably learn a few phrases in another language. Our desire in helping your students to engage with many cultures is to give them a heart for the nations and for the Gospel to advance among people "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" (Rev. 7:9).

Ministry Schedule (June 24th-29th)

Sample Schedule

| Saturday | |
|-----------|---|
| LUNCH | <i>Lunch on Arrival (Merhaba Shwarna)</i> |
| AFTERNOON | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction & Orientation▪ Meet the SNGM Resident Ministry Team▪ International Market Activity |
| DINNER | <i>Kathmandu restaurant</i> |
| EVENING | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Refugee Simulation (with pastor Trent)▪ Team Worship & Devotions |

| Sunday | |
|-----------|---|
| BREAKFAST | <i>Team Breakfast</i> |
| MORNING | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CIBC church service |
| LUNCH | <i>with Pastor Trent</i> |
| AFTERNOON | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ethnic Church Visit (Nepali or Arabic Church)▪ Parc 1,000 Outreach |
| DINNER | <i>PS Asian</i> |
| EVENING | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ethnic Church Visit (TBD)▪ Team Worship & Devotions |



| Monday | |
|-----------|--|
| BREAKFAST | <i>Team Breakfast</i> |
| MORNING | ▪ Hinduism 101 / Temple Visit |
| LUNCH | <i>Share-A-Meal (Chinese Daba)</i> |
| AFTERNOON | ▪ Parc 1000 Outreach |
| DINNER | <i>Share-A-Meal (Indian Street Food place)</i> |
| EVENING | ▪ Team Worship & Devotions |

Sample Schedule (Cont'd)

| Tuesday | |
|-----------|---|
| BREAKFAST | <i>Team Breakfast</i> |
| MORNING | ▪ Islam 101 / Mosque Visit |
| LUNCH | <i>Share-A-Meal (Kurdish)</i> |
| AFTERNOON | ▪ Parc 1,000 Outreach ▪ "Cola Wars" Outreach |
| DINNER | <i>Share-A-Meal (Middle Eastern) Kabob</i> |
| EVENING | ▪ Team Worship & Devotions |

| Wednesday | |
|-----------|--|
| BREAKFAST | <i>Team Breakfast</i> |
| MORNING | ▪ Buddhism 101 / Temple Visit |
| LUNCH | <i>Share-A-Meal (Thai (Yum Yum))</i> |
| AFTERNOON | ▪ Parc 1,000 Outreach ▪ Plaza Mariachi Activity |
| DINNER | <i>Share-A-Meal (Taste of Heaven)</i> |
| EVENING | ▪ Team Worship & Devotions |

| Thursday | |
|-----------|--|
| BREAKFAST | <i>Team Breakfast</i> |
| MORNING | ▪ International Market Activity ▪ Prayer for the Nations Activity |
| LUNCH | <i>Share-A-Meal (Asian)</i> |

Lodging

We work with churches to provide many different options. While some teams prefer to reserve rooms at local hotels, we encourage teams to stay at one of our partnered churches in the ministry area. This is extremely safe and, depending on what is available at the church, very comfortable while still providing that "mission trip" feel. Students sleep in church gyms or fellowship halls on air mattresses and in sleeping bags. This makes for a more inexpensive and, according to students, memorable experience.

Safety & Security

Your students and leaders will always be with our members of our SNGM Staff and/or Resident Ministry Team – all of whom have been background-checked and child safety trained. Your students will not be placed in a situation where they are around people without the presence of our Team. There will be all sorts of opportunities to engage with people from multiple cultures, religions, and backgrounds. This is an amazing experience that we believe will positively shape

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how they see other people for the rest of their lives. However, we understand that there are real cultural barriers at play that can offend people. We are there as experienced missionaries who do this on a regular basis to help bridge that gap for your team and those they will be engaging.

Student Packing List

- 3-4 changes of clothes, including modest athletic attire for the “Cola Wars”
- Pajamas
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Air Mattress or cushion (optional)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- Towel and washcloth
- Comfortable shoes
- Raincoat / Weather-Appropriate Clothing
- Print Bible
- Journal / Pen
- If you wear corrective lenses, consider bringing extra glasses/contact lenses, cleaning solution, sunglasses
- We recommend that every student should carry a small amount of cash or a debit card for international markets

Personal Electronics Guidelines

One of the benefits of going away on a mission trip is that we get a chance to remove ourselves from the everyday distractions of our wired lives. Instead, we get to focus on building relationships with each other and get closer to the Lord. **In order to make the most of these spiritual and relational opportunities, WE ASK THAT YOU LIMIT STUDENT PHONE USE TO A COUPLE HOURS A DAY. The rest of the time, CELL PHONES WILL BE SECURELY STORED BY OUR STAFF.** Students can be allowed to use their phone on travel days. Computers, iPads, iPods, tablets, and other electronics will not be allowed on the trip. Your staff and ours will be able to take photos and share them with students.

Ministry Packing List (Suggested)

- Extra Air Mattresses
- Extra Blankets, Pillows, Sleeping Bags
- Clorox Wipes
- Wet Wipes

FOR DONATION:

- Hygiene Supplies (various kinds; including women’s products)
- School Supplies (any/all kinds welcome)
- Arts and Craft Supplies (any/all kinds welcome)
- Coloring Books (especially with Bible stories)
- Sandals / Slides (Children’s sizes up to Men’s size 9)
- Soccer Jerseys / Cleats (Children’s sizes up to Men’s size 9)

PLEASE DO NOT BRING CANDY!



MINISTRY SERVICE IDEA: We suggest that if teams have any partners, such as a partnered grade in the case for some schools, that they challenge the teams to come up with duffel bags filled with some of these items. Duffel bags are a HUGE need. This allows us to organize all the supplies and have duffel bags to give away as well. These supplies will go to immigrant and refugee families either through our ministry directly or through partnered ministries / churches that they will be working with throughout the week.

Estimated Costs

Costs will vary due to multiple factors including the number of people in your team, lodging, food, transportation costs, etc. Your SNGM Advance Team Coordinator will work individually with each team to come up with an affordable budget. We do not want cost to prohibit or inhibit students from engaging in ministry – but effective ministry *will* cost you and your team something! And it *should* cost something – because ministry is *valuable*.

Here is an estimate based on an Advance Team of 15 students and 3 adult staff. NOTE: *This does not include transportation costs (e.g., van or bus rental, fuel, insurance, airfare, etc.):*

| ITEM | TOTAL (x18) |
|--------------|----------------|
| Food | \$5,500 |
| Lodging | \$2,500 |
| T-Shirts | \$400 |
| Equipment | \$500 |
| Admin | \$500 |
| TOTAL | \$9,400 |

In this example, if each student paid \$625, this would also cover the costs for three adult staff. We believe this makes for a very affordable mission trip.

Have more questions? Email us at info@saltnextgen.com or call us at 1-844-2GOSALT. **Ready to apply?** You can find a team application form at <https://www.saltnextgen.com/advance-team-nashville> or use the QR code below.



More About SALT Next Gen Ministries

OUR MISSION

SALT Next Gen Ministries exists to train and send the next generation to reach the nations with the Gospel for the glory of God.

Who is “the next generation”? When we refer to the next generation, we are speaking of high school and college students between the ages of 16-24 years old. They are the next generation of Christians and thus, the future church members, missionaries, teachers, trainers, pastors, theologians, deacons and deaconesses, elders, senders, goers, youth workers, college leaders, parents, etc. In short, they are the future of Christianity.

Why focus on these students? Currently, there are about 1.2 billion youth on the planet. Young people, aged 15 to 24 years, constitute 16% of global population. In the U.S., 13% of the total population is between 15-24 years old. Yet this small sample humanity is a rapidly growing, disproportionately influential group with incredible potential for the kingdom. It is during these years, as identities are settled and trajectories are shaped, that the most important life decisions are made. We believe that it is these, the last before settling into the rigors and demands of adult life, years which are most strategic and can be wasted or invested for the gospel.

OUR VALUES

Why do we do what we do? We believe in and champion...

- THE NEXT GENERATION of Jesus’ disciples and the future of the church
- THE GREAT COMMISSION which directs us to make disciples of all nations
- THE LOCAL CHURCH which is Jesus’ body and the focal point of God’s activity on earth
- THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE GOSPEL in which we seek to operate and collaborate
- THE TRAINING PROCESS that is biblically faithful and culturally contextual

OUR STRATEGY

How do we do what we do? We PREPARE, PARTNER, and PLACE. SALT Next Gen Ministries prepares students for cross-cultural ministry, partners in Gospel work with local churches and like-minded mission organizations, and places the next generation on the global field to meaningfully serve in the advancement of God’s kingdom.

OUR MEASURE OF SUCCESS

How do we know when we’ve accomplished our mission?

We believe we are successful in our mission as our training and sending results in students whose lives are shaped by the following five commitments:

1. Jesus Christ as Life-Master
2. The local church as God’s Plan A
3. A missional lifestyle as second nature
4. Global missions as a kingdom priority
5. The Gospel as a life-dominating message



OUR LONG-RANGE VISION

Where do we believe God is taking us?

We believe God is calling us to do our part to send 10,000 students to the nations by 2040.

However, we are not driven solely by numbers. In sending students, we mean to evaluate our faithfulness to the task by asking ourselves the following of each student sent:

- Is this student experiencing life transformation that comes from living the gospel?
- Is this student vitally connected to his/her local church and committed to participating in the multiplication of healthy local churches where they are sent?
- Does this student demonstrate a passion for the gospel as well as compassion for people?
- Is this student humble, teachable, and eager to serve rather than be served?
- Does this student evidence a willingness to obey Christ and sacrifice his/her rights, preferences, possessions, and life, if necessary?

OUR TRAINING AND SENDING PROGRAMS

TWO TRAINING PATHWAYS

- HIGH SCHOOL
- COLLEGIATE

THREE TRAINING TRACKS

- ALPHA TRACK – CHARACTER & CALLING
- BETA TRACK – EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP BASICS
- GAMMA TRACK – CROSS-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
- DELTA TRACK – LEADERSHIP & TEAM DYNAMICS

THREE TERMS OF CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

- SHORT-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES (10-14 DAYS)
- MID-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL INTERNSHIPS (6-8 WEEKS and 4 MONTHS)
- LONG-TERM CROSS-CULTURAL RESIDENCIES (1-3 YEARS)

MULTIPLE MISSIONS PARTNERS

We offer missions experiences and ministry opportunities through partnerships with the following mission organizations: International Missions Board (SBC), Greater Europe Mission, Christar, American Baptists for World Evangelism, Serge, and others!

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE GODHEAD

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections. Although their eternal relationship is inscrutable, there is no priority or superiority between the three persons. Each person of the Godhead is equally worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience. (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:18-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6)

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death on the cross to provide for our redemption, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6-7; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 1:34-35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 4:18-19; I Peter 3:18; I Timothy 2:4-6; I Corinthians 15:1-5, 12-20; Hebrews 7:25; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Matthew 26:64; Revelation 19:11-16).

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the divine, plenary, and verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. The whole Bible is inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture. This divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings as appeared in the original manuscripts. Therefore, the whole Bible, in the originals, is without error. As the revelation of God, we believe the Bible to be the sole authority and sufficiency with regard to Christian faith and practice. As such, it serves as the standard upon which all Christian beliefs, morality, lifestyles, and behavior should be based and evaluated.

The Scriptures center upon the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work in His first and second coming, and hence no portion is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. The Christian's responsibility and duty is to handle accurately the Word of Truth. The reading and interpretation of the Scriptures is to be under the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Acts 17:2-3; Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 2:12-16; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16; II Peter 1:21)

THE NATURE OF MAN

We believe that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God. Adam fell through sin, and as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life. Becoming dead in trespasses and sins, he became subject to the power of the devil. This spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race of man, the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted. Thus every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably sinful apart from divine grace. (Genesis 1:26, 2:17, 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3, 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6, 5:40, 6:35; Romans 3:10-19, 8:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-3; I Timothy 5:6; I John 3:8).

THE HOPE OF SALVATION

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again. Our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and was made a curse for us by dying in our place. (Leviticus 17:11; Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 26:28; John 3:7-18; Romans 5:6-9; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13, 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 3:4-9; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:18-19, 23).

We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Christ, not by works, and that repentance is a vital part of believing. (John 1:12, 3:16,18,36, 5:24, 6:29, 14:6; Acts 13:39, 16:31; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22,26, 4:5, 10:4; Galatians 3:22).

Such belief will motivate in God's children love, gratitude, and obedience to His commands (Luke 10:20; John 6:37, 10:28-30; II Corinthians 5:1, 6-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 10:22; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 5:13).



THE CHURCH

We believe that all those who have been redeemed by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ form the Body of Christ, the church. We also believe in the local church as the body of believers in a geographic locale who meet together to worship and serve God, observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and work together in a united effort to further the gospel of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16; Colossians 1:18).

THE GREAT COMMISSION

We believe the explicit message and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ is to make disciples of all the nations. During His post-resurrection ministry, Christ gave two particular commands. First in Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to "Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations". Secondly, just before His Ascension, in Acts 1:8 we are called to be witnesses to "the remotest parts of the earth". The greatest responsibility and privilege of the church is to serve as ambassadors and witnesses for Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Peter 1:17, 2:11).