

HOPES~~TR~~ONG

RELEASED TIME PROGRAM VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in working with the HopeStrong Released Time Bible Education program in Pickaway County at the following school district: _____ . This application is for all who wish to work with the students in our program.

No application will be considered until the application form is fully completed. HopeStrong School Ministries maintains high standards as representatives of our Lord and Savior.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill in ALL requested information.
2. All forms need to be filled out completely.
3. All forms not completed will be returned for more information.
4. Call the Released Time Director if you have questions.
5. Return completed application to the Released Time Director.
- 6.

CONTENTS:

1. STATEMENT OF FAITH: If you do not agree with our Statement of Faith, stop here and contact the Released Time Director.
2. STANDARDS OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT: If you do not agree to abide by our Standards of Christian Conduct, stop here and contact the Released Time Director.
3. APPLICATION INFORMATION
4. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
5. RESPONSIBILITIES (I-III)

Please keep the Statement of Faith and the Released Time Policies for your records. The policies can be discussed as part of the interview process. Feel free to make copies of the documents you are providing. Thank you for your interest in becoming part of this wonderful ministry in bringing hope to public school students—many of whom come from unchurched families.

STATEMENT OF FAITH OF SCHOOL MINISTRIES AND THIS PROGRAM

We accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith including the following:

God and the Human Race

We hold that the Lord our God is one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that He fulfills his sovereign purposes—in creation, revelation, redemption, judgment, and the coming of his kingdom—by calling out from the world a people united to himself and to each other in love.

We acknowledge that though God made us in his own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to him. We are now members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of his glory.

We believe that the Father has shown us his holy love in giving Jesus Christ, his only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to his wrath and condemnation; and has shown his grace by putting sinners right with himself when they place their trust in his Son.

We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the Virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Savior, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin; as victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with his Father, and one day returning personally in glory and judgment to establish his kingdom.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment; who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must now turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ, who through the new birth makes us partakers in the life of the risen Christ, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them his fruit, granting to them his gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.

The Scriptures

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm, and are our highest authority for faith and life. The Scriptures require certain standards of conduct, as described below.

The Church and its Mission

We recognize the Church as the body of Christ held together and growing up in him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world and as the local congregation in which believers gather.

We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people making them disciples, and teaching them to obey him; and We acknowledge the command of Christ to love our neighbors, resulting in service to the Church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world until he comes again.

STANDARDS OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

(For all Released Time Volunteers and Board Members)

Recognizing that the Biblical doctrines and beliefs summarized in this program's Statement of Faith compel certain personal standards of Christian living and conduct, and recognizing that those who would be Christian teachers are held to an even higher standard (James 3:1), I agree, with God's help, to abide by the following Standards of Christian Conduct while I am involved with this Released Time program (*see generally* 1 Timothy 3:8–13 and Acts 6:3):

- I will regularly attend and participate in worship services at my home church or fellowship;
- I will strive to be blameless, having a good reputation, reverent, and not given to slander.
- I will strive to be trustworthy, honest, and characterized by integrity.
- I will be disciplined and not be given over to worldly temptations including, but not limited to, various forms of addiction or alcoholism.
- I will be generous and of a charitable nature with my time, money, and other resources.
- I will strive to be discerning and mature in the faith and, to that end, will strive to increase in my own knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures.

Furthermore, recognizing that marriage is created, defined, and sanctioned by God as the union of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive, covenantal union, and recognizing that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and woman joined in such a marriage, I agree to abstain from any form of sexual immorality including adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, any use of pornography, any attempt to change one's sex, or otherwise acting upon disagreement with one's biological sex, all of which are sinful and offensive to God.

I further acknowledge that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Christ Jesus. We believe every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church. (Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4.)

Believing that lawsuits or threats of lawsuits between Christian believers and ministries are a matter of grave concern and are contrary to Biblical doctrine and church teaching (1 Corinthians 6:1-7), I agree to submit any dispute between myself and this Released Time program and its affiliated individuals and entities arising from or otherwise related to my involvement and participation in this program are subject to mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator or, if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peace Maker Ministries. The mediation will be governed by the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation ("ICC Rules"),¹ which we agree to follow unless an alternative form of mediation is stipulated by the parties. In particular, subject to the more detailed provisions of the ICC Rules, the mediator(s) will attempt to assist us in reaching a voluntary settlement of this dispute through mediation. The confidentiality of the mediation process will be protected, and these matters will not be discussed with people who do not have a necessary interest in them. If a settlement can be agreed upon, the conciliators may, at their discretion, issue an advisory opinion. Neither the opinion nor any communications exchanged in the mediation process will be admissible for any purpose in any subsequent legal proceeding.

The foregoing Standards of Christian Conduct and the Statement of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the program director, as advised by the program Board, is the local program's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. ¹ <http://www.iccpeace.com/Rules/index.html>.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

NAME _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

OCCUPATION: _____ []Retired []Student []Other _____

Church Affiliation _____

Address of church _____

Do you agree with the Statement of Faith for School Ministries? _____ Yes _____ No

Check those you attended as a child:

[] Sunday School

[] Vacation Bible School

[] Released Time If yes, where? _____

If you currently work with children in your church, what are your responsibilities?

Describe your Bible training (e.g., college courses, training at church or in Christian ministries such as Child Evangelism Fellowship).

List experiences working with children:

Do you speak any languages other than English? [] Yes [] No

If yes, what languages: _____

Personal Response: Write 2 or 3 sentences for each of the following questions.

How and when did you become a Christian?

Why do you want to teach/assist/volunteer in Released Time?

Briefly describe your present walk with the Lord.

REFERENCES: Please list two references. They need to be people who have known you for several years and can attest to your ability to relate to children. They may not be related to you. Two letters of reference are required.

REFERENCE #1 _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

REFERENCE #2 _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Criminal Issues:

Yes No Have you been convicted of any offense other than minor traffic violations?

Yes No Have you ever been convicted of child abuse?

Yes No Have you ever been registered as a sex offender?

If yes to any of the above, please explain. (Use the back if necessary.) _____

If you are a student teacher: School _____ Year _____

RESPONSIBILITIES: PART I – Child Abuse and Neglect

Whenever an instance of child abuse or neglect is known or suspected, or if a child faces a threat of suffering child abuse or neglect, the information must be reported to the Program Director and to Children’s Services or law enforcement. This applies to minor children and to disabled students under age 21 who are disabled.

I acknowledge my responsibility to be careful and conscientious in reporting any suspicions of child abuse or neglect as described above to my Program Director, and if the Program Director is not available, to another Program supervisor or co-worker for reporting as described above.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ Date _____

RESPONSIBILITIES: PART II – Child Protection

Have you ever been dismissed from rendering service to children or youth for reasons other than the expiration of the normal term of such service? [] Yes [] No

If yes, please state the name of the institution involved, its location, the name of the supervisor, and the time and nature of the circumstances under which you were dismissed.

RESPONSIBILITIES: PART III

1. I have read and fully understand all questions requested in this application.
2. I certify that all answers given by me are true, accurate and complete.
3. I understand that completion and/or execution of the application does not insure me a position, nor does it obligate me or the organization in any way.
4. I understand that the omission and/or misrepresentation of facts requested may be cause for immediate dismissal without prior notice.
5. I authorize the Program to request and obtain information concerning my previous employment and contact the personal references listed.
6. I understand that I must provide a clean Protect My Ministries background check before being approved as a volunteer, and I understand that paying for the background checks is my contribution to the program.
7. I understand that final volunteer approval is within the sole discretion of the program director.
8. If accepted as a volunteer or employee, I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Program as they now exist or as they may be amended.
9. I have read, understand, and agree to the above.

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: hopestrongohio@gmail.com or submit to site director.
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