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for high school youth groups

Pledge for First Time Travelers to Haiti

1. Mindful that I am traveling to a third world country where life is harsh, I promise that no matter how tired, thirsty, sore, hot or uncomfortable I may be, I will not complain.
2. Mindful that I am privileged to visit a new country, I will go with an adventurous attitude, full of curiosity and enthusiasm.
3. Mindful that finding food is a daily struggle for most Haitians, I will gratefully accept whatever nourishment is offered me with gratitude, and that I will at least taste every dish.
4. Mindful that I represent America, the richest and most privileged nation on earth and in history, I will try my best to be always polite and always humble.
5. Mindful that I am a guest in Haiti, I will do my best to utter at least a few words in my hosts' language, Creole.
6. Mindful that the Haitians played a huge part in our history, stopping Napoleon's army, which intended to reclaim the Louisiana Purchase by invading New Orleans, I will go with gratitude.
7. Mindful that the Haitians, being poor in material goods are infinitely rich in spiritual goods, I will attend church with joy, expecting to be blessed.
8. Mindful that Jesus came on earth as a poor person saying: "The poor you have always with you," I will try my best to see poor people as a beacon and not as a burden.
9. Mindful that my time on earth is short (even if I am very young) I will make a valiant effort to use my time in Haiti to contribute something – in honest work, in music, in art, in playing games with children...something -- so that the Haitians that I meet will be glad that I came.
10. Mindful that I will soon return to good roads, good plumbing, creature comforts and all of the things that I think are my right, I will earnestly endeavor to live as an humble servant during my stay in Haiti.
11. Mindful that there are often delays en route, I will carry with me something with which to amuse myself: playing cards, a paperback book...
12. Mindful that the Good Lord created all beings, when I encounter fellow mortals with 4, 6, 8 or more legs, I will not freak out.

THIS IS MY SOLEMN PLEDGE TO GOD AND MY FELLOW HUMANS.

SIGNED:

DATE: