

### Scenario 1: Going through customs

I got hung up going through customs; it was very stressful and the rest of the team had to wait a long time. I wasn't carrying any prescriptions, but I guess I had some things like vitamins and anti-fungal creams. It was all over-the-counter stuff; but to tell you the truth, someone else packed my suitcase and I wasn't exactly sure what I had. I thought we didn't have to declare it, but the customs agent had me open the suitcases and wanted to know exactly what I had and what I was going to do with it. I felt like I had done something wrong.

### Scenario 2: Rooming Arrangements

It's been a long day! I woke up this morning at 3:00, arrived at the airport in Minneapolis at 4, 2 hours early for our scheduled departure. After a long and bumpy plane ride we touched down in Montego Bay. We had to wait outside the airport for the entire team to get through customs and immigration. Then our busses whisked us away to Sunset Beach Resort and Spa, our "home" for the next week. We waited in line to check in only to find out that many of the rooms were not ready, including mine. I'm not even sure who I'm rooming with. At the front desk they asked us to come back in 30 minutes, as more rooms would be available at that time. All I want to do is get up to my room, take a shower, and possibly take a short nap.

After checking back about 45 minutes later, I was on my way to Tower A with room key in hand. The bellman promised to come up with my bags shortly. I got up to my room, inserted the key, opened the door, walked inside, and dropped down on the bed. A moment later there was a knock at the door. I assumed it was the bellman with my bags. Instead I opened the door and found 2 women who I recognized from my group. It turns out that I am to room with both women. The room is just barely large enough to hold the 2 double beds. How in the world are we going to fit a 3<sup>rd</sup> bed in this room? And 3 women to 1 bathroom? How are we going to work that out? There surely must be a larger room they can move us to. I'm going down to the front desk to complain as soon as my bags arrive. I wonder if the bellman got lost because it sure is taking him an awfully long time to get up here.

### Scenario 3: I don't get to do the work I thought I'd do

My team and I thought we were going to work on a Habitat house; that's what we've always done. We were really looking forward to working along side the family whose house we were going to build and looking forward to getting to know them. But now we're told we're not going to a Habitat site, and instead we're being asked to serve somewhere else. I wish we knew ahead of time so we could have planned for it. I don't know how comfortable we're going to be at a place we've never worked before.

#### Scenario 4: Donations/Storeroom at WCH

Some of my family and friends back home collected items for me to bring for the children at Westhaven. I have heard from other missionaries who have been down here before that the children at Westhaven wear ill fitting and mismatched clothes and that sometimes the clothes are very worn and frayed. I have numerous outfits that I can't wait to see the children wearing. I also brought some toys for the kids that I can't wait to give to them. I hear they have very little to play with. I also brought down some washcloths and towels, as I also hear that numerous children are often bathed with the same washcloth and dried with the same towel. I can't wait to share these donations with the children.

We arrived at Westhaven with our donation suitcases today. I was hoping to distribute some of the items right away, but learned that a small team was going to work on sorting the donations and they would be moved over to the storeroom thereafter. I was appalled to learn that the storeroom is very disorganized and overflowing with supplies and the items that I brought down were just going to be added to the mess. How come they don't use the new items we brought? And don't they have someone on staff who can keep the storeroom more organized? It seems to me that they don't need these donations very badly if they have so much in the storeroom already.

#### Scenario 5: We want to work another day

Why can't we work on at least Thursday instead of having two days of vacation? I'm here to get things done, and it seems like we're just getting started when we have to quit on Wednesday. I don't need Thursday and Friday off.

#### Scenario 6: 1<sup>st</sup> Work Day

We returned to Westhaven today, got off the bus, and had to wait outside the therapy room for someone to track down the key to open it up for us. After putting our things down inside we were directed to come back out. Everyone is splitting up into work teams, but I have no idea what I am going to work on. I am uncomfortable working with the children and have no construction skills. I've never been here before, I feel like a fish out of water, and I have no idea what to do with myself. I want to do something useful, but I could really use some extra direction and help finding a project to work on.