

Ministry Suitcases

“... to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” – Matthew 25:40

To move Humanitarian Aid and other gifts to the children in the ministry sites, SAC mission trip volunteers have always packed a checked piece of luggage as their own personal items and SAC volunteers pack another suitcase with the equipment or items of humanitarian aid that we carry to the kids. This aid is important. Not only is it important to the kids who receive it, it also helps us open the doors to ministry sites that may choose to remain closed to our work.

It costs \$45 per every 10 lbs. to mail items to Russia. It may take several weeks to months to ship items depending on various circumstances. The ministry suitcase you take will save almost \$250 if it was mailed and it has more of a guarantee of getting to the kids. However, there are some important things to remember when carrying this bag full of gifts.

- a. **Do Not** say or use the phrase that this ministry suitcase is **“Humanitarian Aid”**. Russian Customs puts this into a different category and different taxation tables that will cause problems and probably cost money.
- b. If asked by customs officials or others about the contents you should say that these, **“...are ‘gifts’ for friends.”**
- c. SAC will need an empty piece of luggage from you for our volunteers to pack and give back to you. Please make arrangements to get this bag to SAC.
- d. Once this bag is packed, you will check this bag as your own and will be responsible for it until you arrive at your international destination.
- e. Do not lock the bag. This will speed check-in.
- f. When you have arrived at your destination and cleared all the way through Customs, identify the ministry suitcase before boarding the bus to the Mission Trip volunteer who is serving as the Luggage Coordinator.
- g. The empty suitcase will also be brought back by you. Since it will be empty, this will give you a place to put your souvenirs in.
- h. When you have returned from the mission trip, please return the empty Ministry suitcase to SAC as soon as possible if it is not your own bag.