



## Pre-Trip Information and Orientation Packet DOOR Chicago

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Greetings once again from Chicago! We hope preparations for your trip are going well. This packet is designed to assist you in those preparations and to help orient your group to the trip. Please read this and all accompanying enclosures carefully.

This packet contains the following items:

1. **Packing Checklist:** Please make a copy for each participant in your group to assist in his/her packing.
2. **Sunday Night Meal Options:** A list of restaurants in the area for Sunday night supper
3. **Orientation Packet:** This includes ideas for a couple of sessions for group discussions and Bible studies to help your group prepare for your DOOR trip.

In addition to the enclosures, please take note of the following items:

1. **Participant Forms:** You received a file with two mandatory participant forms. Please make a copy of the forms for each participant (youth and adults), make sure the forms are completed, and bring them with you to Chicago. We do not need the forms before your arrival.
2. **Location:** We have two locations that groups stay with us in Chicago.
  - a. First Church of the Brethren (425 S. Central Park Blvd)
  - b. United Church of Rogers Park (1545 W Morse)DOOR Chicago staff will let you know at least one month in advance of your arrival where you will be staying.
3. **Directions:**

### **First Church of the Brethren**

**Address:** 425 S Central Park Blvd, Chicago IL 60624

*By car:* **From I-290 west** (heading away from downtown) take the Homan Ave. exit. Continue straight through the first light. At the next stoplight turn right onto Central Park Avenue. First Church of the Brethren is located immediately on your right on the corner of Central Park Avenue and Congress Parkway.

**From I-290 east** (heading toward downtown) take the Independence Blvd. exit. Merge in with traffic and go straight through two stoplights. At the third stoplight, turn left onto Central Park. Go across the expressway and straight through the first stoplight. First Church of the Brethren is located immediately on your right on the corner of Central Park Avenue and Congress Parkway.

*From O'Hare Airport:* Follow signs to Train to the City. Board the train (the Blue Line). Take train to Kedzie-Homan stop (about one hour ride). Walk up the ramp to Homan. Turn right out of the station and turn left on Congress. Walk two blocks to the corner of Congress and Central Park. The church is on the corner.

*From Midway Airport:* follow signs to Train to the City. Board the train (the orange line). Take train to Clark/Lake. Transfer to the Blue Line at Clark/Lake. You will need to go down the elevator to do so. Take the Blue Line towards Forest Park to Kedzie-Homan. Turn right out of the station and turn left on Congress. Walk two blocks to the corner of Congress and Central Park. The church is on the corner.

*From the Amtrak station:* From the main entrance of the Amtrak station, turn right out of the door and walk ½ block to Adams, cross the street and wait at the bus shelter. Wait for the #126 (Jackson) bus. Get off at Central Park and Congress (almost 4 miles) and cross the street to the church. (Don't hesitate to ask the driver for help!)

### **United Church of Rogers Park**

**Address:** 1545 W Morse Ave Chicago IL 60626

*By car: From downtown Chicago* Take Lakeshore Drive north to the end. Turn right on Sheridan Rd. Follow Sheridan Rd north through Loyola Campus, and then turn right to continue on Sheridan Rd. Take about 1 mile to Morse. Turn left onto Morse. Go under the El tracks and continue two blocks to the corner of Ashland and Morse.

*From O'Hare Airport:* Follow signs to Train to the City. Board the Train (Blue Line). Take to Washington. Transfer to the Red Line via hallway. Take Red Line towards Howard to Morse. Get off at Morse. Turn right out of the station (if you are walking by a theatre you have turned the wrong way) and walk two blocks to the church.

*From Midway Airport:* Follow signs to Train to the City. Board the Train (Orange Line). Take to State/Lake. Transfer to the Red Line via stairs and ½ block on sidewalk. (Follow signs). . Take Red Line towards Howard to Morse. Get off at Morse. Turn right out of the station (if you are walking by a theatre you have turned the wrong way) and walk two blocks to the church.

*From the Amtrak station:* Find the Clinton exit of Union Station, once on Clinton, walk south past Jackson and then walk another block to the Blue Line stop. Board Blue Line, and take to Washington. Transfer to Red Line via a hallway at Washington. Take Red Line towards Howard to Morse. Get off at Morse. Turn right out of the station (if you are walking by a theatre you have turned the wrong way) and walk two blocks to the church.

**3. Facilities:** Please prepare your group to pack as lightly as possible. Because space is an issue we ask that you only bring twin-size air mattresses.

**4. Departure Time from Chicago:** The DOOR program ends Friday mid-morning. If your departure time needs to be different please notify us.

**5. Transportation:** This is a reminder that we rely on **your vehicles for transporting** your group to and from work sites daily. If you wish to use public transit (we highly recommend this option), please note this on your registration so that passes can be purchased and provided to you. (Additional charge required)

**6. DOOR Souvenirs:** DOOR T-shirts and water bottles are available for purchase in Chicago. Cash and checks are accepted. These funds support our Beloved Community Council Fund.

We think that is it! Thanks for your consideration of these details. If anything remains unclear, or if you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to call. The week before your arrival in Chicago we will give you a call just to confirm final details. We look forward to working with you to make your week at DOOR a meaningful experience.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sawyer-Kirksey & Juan Pablo Herrera  
DOOR Chicago

Glenn Balzer  
DOOR Executive Director



## Packing Check List

Chicago spring and summer weather is variable. Expect temperatures to range from 32 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit (Spring) and 50 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit (Summer). Dress will always be casual - pants and t-shirts being standard. Even on warm days it can cool down in the evening. Due to temperature shifts through each day, layering clothes can be a good idea. **Expect for everything to get dirty!** Many agencies ask for volunteers to wear pants and closed toe shoes, so pack accordingly.

### What to Bring

*Work clothes*

Old jeans/ long pants

Old T-shirts

Tennis Shoes

*Casual clothes (for non- working times)*

*Dressy outfit (for weekend groups)*

sleeping bag

small air mattress, optional

pillow

Towel

Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.)

Sleeping apparel suitable for co-ed area

### Optional Items

Spending money

Games, cards, reading material, etc.

Musical Instruments

Soccer Ball, Frisbee, etc.

Sunscreen

Mosquito repellent

### DO NOT BRING!

Firecrackers

Weapon-like toys or devices

Irreplaceable clothes or jewelry

Alcohol & Non-prescription drugs

### NOTES

When packing and dressing for service sites please choose modest clothes due to the various places we serve.

Please remember all medications.

Please strongly consider your technology use on the trip. Technology can sometimes serve as a distraction from being present to the experience. DOOR allows cell phones, mp3 players and other technology, but we ask that these things not be used during DOOR time.

**Please bring a dressy outfit for church on Sunday, if coming over a weekend.**

## Sunday Night Meal Options

### First Church of the Brethren:

You are responsible for eating before you arrive at the church at 6 pm. East Garfield Park does not have many places to eat on Sunday, so it is best to eat before arriving in the city. If eating in the neighborhood is the best option for you, the following listings hopefully provide a guide.

Subway  
3900 W Madison  
Madison Plz Shopping Center

White Castle  
3901 W. Madison Ave.

Pompei  
1531 W. Taylor

### United Church of Rogers Park:

You are responsible for eating before you arrive at the church at 6 pm. There are many options in Rogers Park to eat.

Heartland Café  
7000 N Glenwood Ave  
Chicago, IL 60626

JB Albertos Pizza  
1324 W Morse Ave  
Chicago IL 60626

La Cuzeula  
6922 N Clark St  
Chicago, IL 60626

## Preparation Activities

### Speaking Life: A Profile of Brenda Matthews

#### Objective

DOOR Chicago's theme for 2015 is "Speaking Life". This has been inspired by Brenda Matthews' life, who worked tirelessly for justice and understanding by Speaking Life.

#### Materials

- A copy of article "Somebody Say Something the indomitable Mama Brenda": <http://scupe.org/somebody-say-something-the-indomitable-mama-brenda/>
- The clip of *Somebody Better Say Something*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beNiuYANTmE>
- Poster board and markers

#### Opening

Have students pair up and have each one talk about what it is that they enjoy the most in life. After having them talk, have them share these thoughts on poster board. Have this visible through the lesson.

Ask the following questions:

- What makes these things important to you?
- Are these things life giving to others?
- How might you share these things with others?

#### Lesson

Either have students read or read aloud the article mentioned above.

Brenda helped shape DOOR Chicago. She often said that the same problems are all the world they are just packaged differently. This year, we are honoring her by taking her catch phrase "Speak Life" and making it our theme. You will get to visit with many agencies and people who are speaking life into people in various ways.

- "Mama Brenda will continue to ring out challenging youth and adults to "speak life" to themselves and to their communities. We will miss her presence but can keep her work alive by picking up the baton of social justice and committing ourselves to the task of creating a safer, more just, loving and life-giving world for us all." What are some of the issues that your community is dealing with that need to have life spoken too?
- What are ways that your church are working to speak life to people?
- How is speaking life different than telling people what they should do?
- Mama Brenda looked out for the people that others had forgotten. Who are the forgotten folks around you? How might you remember them?

#### Closing

Play the Clip of Brenda's poem – *Somebody Better Say Something*- as a benediction.



## **Preparation Activities**

### **Speaking Life: Learning to Observe**

#### **Objective**

To have participants start being aware of the skill of observation above what we normally do in our daily lives.

#### **Materials**

Depending on the choice of activity, you will need:

- A trip to a public place
- Or a planned activity with planned distraction

#### **Opening**

Pray with group:

Oh God who sees, May we open our eyes to see people from the inside out, may we look to see you in our lives and in the eyes of others. Amen.

#### **Activity**

Option #1: Take the group to a public place. Ask participants to people watch for an hour and reflect with them on what they saw.

Questions to get the conversation started:

- What did you see?
- What did you notice that surprised you? Or surprised that you noticed it?
- Did you see people helping? Hurting? How did you know?

Option #2: You can set up a lesson – maybe going over the surveys from the last session or something else – and then ask someone to provide a distraction. Maybe it is a mom and her squirmy kid, maybe it is an elder who is having a hard time walking, etc. After a while, you can ask about the observations from the experience.

Questions to get the conversation started:

- Who noticed the “distraction”?
- Did anyone respond? How?
- What sorts of things do we miss when we aren’t aware?

#### **Reflection**

Read Luke 8:40-56.

Split up participants in groups of 2 or 3, and have them share around these questions.

1. Think about a time that you were not the main event happening and felt dismissed.
2. What do you think about the woman reaching out to Jesus for healing? Was she a distraction to Jesus?
3. How understand experiences that aren’t planned? Do you get excited? Nervous? Something else?
4. How might you start looking for opportunities to see things that you aren’t used to seeing?

#### **Closing**

Think about making a group commitment to be observing, learning, and being open. What would that look like for your group?