

# Blessing the Children International Team & Missionary Dating Policy

Team members and missionaries getting involved with another volunteer or a national while serving in Ethiopia is not a frequent issue, but when it does arise, it is one of the most challenging issues faced by BCI staff.

BCI has taken the stand of asking each team member and missionary to abstain from getting involved in any romantic relationship while in service for the following reasons:

1. A dating relationship takes the focus from your reason for being there and that is to serve and teach the people. Our experience has taught us that a dating couple generally begins spending more time with their partner and less time on their work, thus hindering the success of their mission.
2. Because you are in an entirely unique living environment from anything you may have experienced before, it changes your view and perspective on many things in life. After a number of months you may find yourself getting together with someone that most likely you would not have under normal conditions back home where the pool of available people is significantly larger.
3. By entering into a dating relationship with another volunteer, from your desire to spend time with that special one, you may limit your opportunities to enjoy the mission experience with the entire body of volunteers and staff who are serving with you.
4. Many cultures have different social rules for dating. To some of them sexual relationships may be all they know, and by becoming a dating couple you are potentially placing yourself in a position for the local folks to draw negative assumptions about you, thus hindering the work of the ministry, school or church.

Because of your call as a missionary, the locals place you on a higher standard of behavior, and they expect the missionaries to live up to these expectations. By involving yourself in a dating relationship, you place your own reputation, that of the ministry and God's work at risk.

It is impossible to ban people from developing special feelings for another person, but if this occurs during your experience, we ask that you conduct yourself in all matters so that no questions can be asked of your behavior. If that person is meant to be in your future, he/she will still be there when your term of service is complete.



---

**Blessing the Children International**  
2265 Fraser Road  
Kawkawlin, MI 48631

Toll Free: (888) 269-2719  
fax: (989) 684-2005  
website: [www.BlessingTheChildren.org](http://www.BlessingTheChildren.org)  
email: [Trips@BlessingTheChildren.org](mailto:Trips@BlessingTheChildren.org)