



To: Pastor
From: Sherilyn Rank, Coordinator of Operation Barnabas
Re: Reference Forms for Operation Barnabas Applicants

The person who has referred this information to you is applying for acceptance to serve on either an Operation Barnabas or Operation Barnabas International team, both of which are sponsored through CE National.

Because we see the Operation Barnabas program as being valid only as it becomes an instrument of the local church, we view the OB team member as an extension (or representative) of your local body of believers. The local church is responsible to provide accountability, prayer support and (if possible) financial support for the OB team member. We will accept no one into the Operation Barnabas program who is not being spiritually shepherded and approved by his/her local church. For this reason, we cannot consider an applicant for acceptance on OB until the Final Church Approval form has been received by our office.

You will need to fill out the following materials:

1. **Pastor's Reference Form** : Please complete and return to the CE National office. Be sure to write the applicant's name in the appropriate area and also to put your signature on the back of the reference form. (*if the student applying is a child of the pastor, it is best to either have another pastor fill out the form or else another church leader such as the moderator*)

2. **Final Church Approval Form** : This form is not merely a pastoral reference. If you do not have a missions commission, perhaps you could request approval by another qualified church board. We feel it is extremely important that church leaders say whether or not they feel a person is qualified for this ministry and we will send no one without church approval. Again, be sure to write the applicant's name in the appropriate area and put your signature at the bottom of the form. **Both of these forms need to be turned in for applicants to be considered by the selection committee as candidates for OB/OBI.**

If you do not feel he/she is "qualified" for this opportunity, why not suggest a local ministry team, or connect the teen with an older adult who can provide quality discipleship to assist in his/her personal and spiritual growth. Be lovingly honest during the interview process and show the teen you are interested that he/she achieves success in every area of his/her life. Please be sure to complete and return the evaluation form regardless of any decisions reached during the interview.

The **deadline** for receiving applications and return of the reference forms at the CE National office is **November 17, 2010**. Please complete and return the references in advance of the November 17 deadline. **Please fax and then mail these forms to CE National if after November 12, 2010.**

Personal and local church approval does not automatically allow acceptance of the applicant into the Operation Barnabas program. References are also distributed to two other adults and approval must be secured by the office of CE National and a selection committee.

If we can be of further help, please contact Sherilyn Rank, the Coordinator of Operation Barnabas, at obmail@cenational.org