

Honduras Mission Trip 2007

The philosophy behind the mission?

The broadest vision of a mission trip is to work towards awareness, change, social justice and spiritual awakening in the global community. This is accomplished through the efforts of a cohesive team, fund raisers, involving the congregation and community and by sharing spiritual faith. The mission team should consider the questions, "how does being born on one side of a political border affect the outcome of our lives?" and "what can we do today and tomorrow to help our global neighbors?"



Photo from the 2006 Mission Trip

How much does this trip cost?

Without fund raising, the trip costs about \$1,000 per person. That being said, funds also are provided through fund raisers, donations and support from other affiliated committees and organizations to help subsidize the cost.

What are the accommodations like?

We will stay on-site at Our Little Roses in the Bed and Breakfast. Our rooms will be air conditioned, we will have a small kitchenette, and we will share 3 bathrooms among all 32 members of our team. These accommodations are rustic by our standards but are above average living conditions for the people of San Pedro Sula. Our rooms will be much more comfortable than where the girls sleep every night. We are asked to conserve resources (water, electricity and supplies). We will have hot showers, clean floors and we will be sleeping in bunk beds (8 people to a room). DO NOT FLUSH TOILET PAPER DOWN THE TOILET. Those who forget and do not pay attention to the reminders in the bathroom will be responsible for fixing the clog that is guaranteed to result.

How can we help fix the home?

We will mostly be doing painting, small repairs and decorating bedrooms. This work will be light to medium in difficulty, but it will also be done in non-air conditioned rooms. We will start and end on time so the girls are inconvenienced as little as possible. They have no alternative accommodations. Not everyone has the same abilities but everyone will bring their own special talents. We do not expect the same strength and ability among our team members but we do expect the same level of commitment.

What is challenging about the trip?

The most challenging aspect of the trip is witnessing the real poverty that people live in. No matter how much we try to prepare ourselves for the conditions of third-world living conditions, the impact of culture shock is real and it will challenge our sense of security and our comfort zone.

The other potentially challenging aspect of the trip, yet one of the most rewarding parts, is living, eating and sleeping together as a team for an entire week. We ask all participants - whether youth or adult - to give up most of their creature comforts while on this trip. We expect the adults, while used to their mobility and freedom, to stay with the group 24/7. There is not an opportunity to leave the group. You will be surprised by what you can live without!

What is rewarding about this trip?

Even before getting on the plane, you will feel a part of a great team that is working together for a common goal. With the support and companionship of each other, you will most likely feel that your "search for truth and meaning" has taken you to a place where the questions are becoming bigger and the call to action is becoming clearer. Such an experience is often difficult to have at home, in familiar surroundings, with the responsibilities of our daily routines. One of the most surprising and profound elements of the trip is the experience of joy shared with friends we make in just a couple of days. Just a few days of working, playing and laughing with the friendly girls living in the home will change you forever.

Why not stay home and help our neighbors?

We can, we will! Putting time, energy, and funds into a mission trip so far away turns out to be a power packed way to awaken our commitment to justice in our own communities. With the involvement and support of the whole congregation, our families and our awakened spiritual sense of Christ in our lives, the mission trip will prompt all of us to renew our call to social action wherever we are called to carry it out.