



**Short Term Mission Team Handbook
to
Ministerio El Camino y La Verdad in Choluteca, Honduras**



The Way and The Truth Ministry

John 14:6

Opening doors, where people can only see walls

since 1998

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Parts of this handbook were derived from Trinity Evangelical Free Church Mission Trip Handbook and Mission Housing Ministries Mission Handbook. Thank You!

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Our Mission Begins with God

In thinking about traveling to Honduras, we start with God's Word. This helps us understand His will for us and for the trip.

Go make disciples – Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. [Matthew 28:18-20]

Beautiful are the feet of messengers – Romans 10:14-15

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" [Romans 10:14-15]

Our Spiritual Gifts – Romans 12:6-8

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. [Romans 12:6-8]

God has called us to go and spread the gospel. And he has given each of us unique gifts that we are told to use well.

Primary Purpose

The purpose of a short-term mission team is 1) to assist the indigenous Christian leadership as they evangelize and disciple their own people for Christ; 2) to assist the Christian leader in the planting and building of churches in un-reached areas; 3) to help train indigenous Christians to be witnesses, teachers, and preachers through Bible teaching and pastor conferences, & 4) to enable Christian leaders and churches to start ministries and reach out to their own people through evangelism, school, and medical clinics.

Secondary Purpose

The purpose of a short-term mission team is 1) to give you the opportunity and joy of participating fully in the high calling of Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." 2) To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ while helping others of different cultures; and 3) to return home a more dedicated Christian witness in your community, share with others the news of what Christ has done on your trip, and encourage others to greater involvement in the overall work of missions.

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Our Mission

Choluteca is a fertile mission field. Evidence of Christianity is everywhere, but there are many hardships in both spiritual and daily life. Our presence and our ministry activities generate excitement. Every action we take while there helps their church leadership minister effectively both spiritually and economically to their community. In just a week, we can affect their lives in a lasting way. And as well, our lives can be affected in a lasting way.

The Importance of Prayer

We challenge each team member to help make the trip a success by first laying the groundwork of prayer. Prayer will pave the way for a truly successful trip, both naturally and spiritually. We are trusting God to work in lives and for people to be saved. Be sensitive as you pray the perfect will of God concerning this mission trip.

“This is the confidence that we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us: And if we know that He hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of Him.” I John 5:14-15 (NIV)

Commit daily to pray and read the Word, as you have never done before. Ask your family and friends to commit to pray for you and the team for specific needs and concerns. Ask your pastor for his prayers and guidance. The greatest results come from prayer!

Now that you have made this commitment, you can expect Satan to discourage you by creating roadblocks. But remember,

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” I John 4:4 (NIV)

Pray for a servant’s heart. This was the lifestyle of Christ and His followers. An attitude of submission is essential for effective ministry (Eph. 5:21). It is important to cooperate with your team leaders. In planning, it is important to work with your team leaders so that there is a complete understanding of the team’s purpose, abilities, and itinerary. These preparations are strategic in making all of the necessary arrangements.

The mission team consists not only of our group traveling from the USA to Choluteca, but also our pastors, the leadership in Honduras, and our sponsors, prayer partners, and supporters.

Our Sponsors, Prayer Partners, and Supporters

Some very valuable members of our team remain stateside during the trip. It is truly a blessing to have them involved. In fact, this ministry would not be possible without them. We have many friends who support missionaries and mission trips as their own personal calling. They provide prayer, supplies and financial support for the trip, and we do our best to be good stewards of these resources and use them effectively as we spread God’s Word in Honduras. See Sponsorship Letter at the end of this handbook.

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Shared Mission, Vision, and Beliefs



We want to help people to “Open doors where they can only see walls”. We see a future where good people become educated, can fulfill their dreams, and become fruitful members of their community and have a positive effect on future generations. To that end, we have adopted the following shared Mission, Vision, and Belief statements.

Our Mission: To change generations through educational opportunities and mission experiences.

Our Vision: To help the people in impoverished areas around the world to become mentally, physically and spiritually prepared to meet the world’s challenges through:

- Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary education / Health education.
- Become fruitful members in their community with a vision for their future.
- Opportunities to interact with other cultures.
- Short-term mission service.

Our Core Beliefs (Statement of Faith): These common belief statements serve as the basis of our partnership, how we will select directors, officers, and leaders, and will serve as the basis of any partnerships that we may develop in the future.

- We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and was true Man and is true God.
- We believe that in this age, God manifests Himself through the Holy Spirit, who is a distinct personality, eternally coexistent with the Father and the Son, whose basic task is to convict

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sinner, regenerate those who believe, and empower believers to live godly lives and in every way glorify the Father and the Son through His indwelling presence.

- We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which was eternal separation from God and is upon all men.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified based on His shed blood.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was resurrected in body, ascended into Heaven, presently lives there for us as High Priest and Advocate, and that His personal, physical return to earth is imminent.
- We believe that there will be a bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust, the just to the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the unjust to the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.
- We believe that we are God workers, and He has called us to GO and MAKE disciples of all nations as indicated on Page 2.

We encourage every team member to review this mission, vision and belief statements and hold fast to their meaning while in mission with this ministry.

Devotions and Journals

Daily team devotions are an important part of your experience. While on the trip, each team member will be asked to lead the team in a devotion of your choice. This is not optional. It can be on your favorite bible verse, your favorite prayer, your personal testimony, something that happened to you, or you experienced during the day, a short lesson from a book you are reading. After your devotion, you and your team members will share thoughts, feelings, and moments where you've felt God acting in your lives. This time with God will be a valuable part of your preparation for service and ministering. Use it to prepare your mind and thoughts for the joys, as well as the unexpected circumstances that may crop up during your trip. You will ENJOY this time! Teams go to serve, and yet leave feeling like they have BEEN SERVED in so many amazing ways.

We will do devotions before or during breakfast and at the end of the day. The end of the day may be late, and we will be exhausted, but we will still have our devotions. At times we will invite Fidel and Cheley. Some of you may be asked to say something to the communities we meet. Do not feel any pressure to do this. As the time arises, pray about it and speak as the Lord leads you.

You may also want to keep a written account of your experiences in a journal. Be sure to bring a notebook and a pen for this purpose.

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Where is Choluteca, Honduras?



Honduras is in Central America bordered by Guatemala to the northwest, El Salvador to the southwest and Nicaragua to the south and east. It also borders the Caribbean Sea to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the South. Choluteca is in the southern most half of Honduras close to the Nicaraguan border. See on - [Google Earth](#)

What Communities/Churches will we serve?

In 1998, Pastor Fidel founded the Mother Church called Iglesia de El Camino y La Verdad (The Way and the Truth Church) in the community of San Luis Anach, just east of Choluteca. In 2013, Pastor Fidel, created a ministry called Ministerio Internacional El Camino y La Verdad which has the authority to start churches in Honduras. Pastor Fidel and his wife Cheley have trained many people in the community of San Luis Anach to lead ministry in 7 preaching stations. These preaching stations (some of which are just shelters) are listed here:

Here are the churches and their locations:

1. San Luis Anach – Mother Church
2. San Luis Victoria Church – Close to Mother Church
3. Lomas Perifericas Church – Close to Mother Church
4. La Venecia – At the house of Ruth – Close to Mother Church
5. La Permuta Church – Located in the Mountains – Southeast of Choluteca
6. El Naranjo Church – Located in the Mountains – Northwest of Choluteca
7. Choluteca Church – Located in the downtown area of Choluteca.



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Choluteca's population of around 100,000 makes the fourth largest city in the country. It is also the only major Honduran city on the Pan-American Highway – CA-1. It is the second hottest city in Honduras.

Choluteca was heavily damaged by flooding from Hurricane Mitch in 1998. It received more rainfall than any other place affected by the storm – 36 inches in only a few days. This is the amount of rain the city normally receives in 212 days. In addition, the Choluteca River swelled to six times its normal width, putting entire neighborhoods under water temporarily. Many villages and suburbs were badly hit and suffered immense damage and many deaths.

Today, Choluteca is one of the most productive areas of Honduras. In the department they produce and export sugar, cantaloupe, watermelon, okra, shrimp, sweet potato, salt, fish, and a few precious metals.

The families served by Ministerio El Camino y La Verdad are part of Choluteca's impoverished. Most do not own land, live in adobe huts, and survive on less than \$14 a day. Basic resources such as food, health care, electricity and potable water are extremely scarce, yet these people endure, maintaining pride in their ancient cultural traditions, while seeking ways to overcome the obstacles of poverty and discrimination by the larger Hispanic society.

In this society respect is a big deal! We must show respect to each other as well as the people that we will be meeting. Loud or sharp words that would be considered kidding in the U.S.A. are considered disrespectful by these people. A sharp word to a team member can ruin our testimony. We encourage each other in the work that God has set before us.

Travel Expectations and Details

Passport

Please remember it takes about 6 weeks for passports to arrive, so check yours and apply or renew well in advance of the trip. Also make sure that your passport will not expire within 6 weeks of the trip return date. You will not be let into the country if this is the case. You will be asked to provide the team leader a copy of your passport before you travel, and you should keep a copy in your luggage in case it gets lost or stolen. To that end, you should always keep your passport on your person. Never leave in unlocked car or hotel room. Passport FAQs: <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/U-S-Passports-The-Basics>

Flights

Once we decide on our flights, you will be asked to book them yourself. In 2021, Toncontin Airport in Tegucigalpa was deemed too dangerous for international flights and a new airport was opened. Comayagua International Airport (IATA: XPL, ICAO: MHPR), or Palmerola International Airport. There is generally a 2-hour time difference in DST. We will go through customs in Comayagua and when we return to the states.

The Drive to Choluteca

The drive from Comayagua to Choluteca is 128 miles / 145 km and takes about 3 hours depending on road and weather conditions.

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Lodging

We generally stay as a group (2-3 per room) in either of these hotels based on availability and size of team. Generally, husband and wife do not stay together.

[Hotel Rivera](#) or [Mados Hotel Guanacaste](#)

Food

All your meals while we are in Honduras are provided as part of the trip. We generally go to the store and stock up on breakfast foods, drinks and filtered water and will eat breakfast at the hotel prior to our morning devotion. You will have the opportunity to pick some things that you like. You may also buy snacks for yourself.

For lunch (and maybe some breakfasts) we provide money for the ladies of the church to feed us local flavors of food. It will be very safe for us to eat, and it is delicious.

For dinner, we will be eating at a variety of restaurants – mostly Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Wendy's. These serve mostly the American variety of foods. Other restaurants are not safe for our stomachs.

Bottled/filtered water will always be available.

Meals at the airports are not included in the cost of the trip, so please bring a little spending money for snacks or meals on both legs of travel.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Weapons

Use of any tobacco, and alcohol or other forms of recreational drugs will not be permitted on any trip or any portion of the trip. Also do not bring any knives, firearms, or explosive devices. These are prohibited.

Language

Try to learn and review as much Spanish as you can. We will have interpreters with us, but you will find all the Spanish you know to be helpful. Some of the young people will even know a few words of English. It's fun to try to learn how to communicate! Google translators works well and there are many resources you can download from the internet.

Personal Spending Money

A good estimate for personal spending money is somewhere between \$50 and \$100 per person. You may want this for the following:

- Snacks or meals during travel from/to the US.
- Souvenirs or snacks while in Honduras

The local currency is the Honduran Lempiras (HNL). One US dollar is worth approximately 24 lemps. Most vendors will also accept American dollars, but the exchange rate may not be very good. For this

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reason, we will help you exchange some currency upon arrival in Choluteca and throughout the trip as necessary.

You might want to bring (1) VISA credit card to use in the tourist areas. Most places accept only Visa. Be aware that most credit card companies charge a fee of 3-4% for non-US dollar transactions. Let your credit card company's security department know the dates that you will be in Honduras so that they do not deactivate your card when the first Honduran transaction comes through!

Spread money between different pockets or handbags and be careful what you allow others to see. We will be in good areas, but your money can be a great temptation to others so please manage it carefully.

Never give money to any of the people we minister to or people you may pass on the street or in the airport. This is for your safety and the safety of the team.

Luggage

We have an allotment of 3 bags each for travel on the airlines. This includes one carry on, one free checked bag, and an additional checked bag which we pay to take to Honduras. The two checked bags are generally large, 50-lb duffel bags which can include a combination of your personal effects and ministry supplies. The cost of the second checked bag is \$40 and will be paid as part of your mission team expenses.

Please pack everything you will need on the first night in your carry-on. Be sure that your passport, additional picture ID and any personal medications that you may need for the week are included there. Carry or pack a light poncho where it can be easily reached. You might want to pack some snacks in your carry on and in your checked luggage as well. We secure as many bags as possible in the vans in Tegucigalpa, so items packed in the large duffel bags may not be easy to access.

We try to use as much space as possible in the duffel bags for supplies to support our trip. It is easy to pack your carry-on and partial duffel with your personal effects. This leaves at least a duffel bag per person for supplies.

Clothing

Plan on temperatures between 90-110 degrees during the day and 60-80 degrees at night. Plan for rain as there is usually at least a passing shower. Generally, rainstorms come up quick and drop a lot of water. Bring a bathing suit for the swimming pool, even if you do not get in, it is nice to get your feet wet and sit by the pool.

Clothes should be conservative. Jeans or knee length shorts and T-shirts are fine for workdays. All shirts should have sleeves, no tank tops or short shirts that show your stomach. For worship, we strongly suggest ankle length skirts and a conservative top for women and collared shirts, ties, and slacks for men. Although this may not be our American way, we dress this way out of respect for the culture of the people we visit.

Clothing is appreciated if you would like to leave it in Choluteca rather than bring it back home.

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If you have piercings please remove them, and tattoos need to be covered.

Other Personal Effects

Some things to always have on you:

- A few sheets of toilet paper (some bathrooms have none)
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer.
- Sunscreen
- A picture ID (in addition to your passport)

Because of the prevailing winds, it is rare to see mosquitoes. Houseflies are common but most other insects are non-existent. We have rarely needed any form of insect repellent on past trips.

Don't bring or wear expensive jewelry, several credit cards, or special pictures that you wouldn't want to lose.

BEFORE You Leave

Do NOT wait until the last minute to leave! All international flights require you to be at the airport two to three hours prior to departure.

DO leave a copy of your flight itinerary and emergency phone numbers with your family and friends. The phone numbers to use will be provided on a separate sheet of paper.

Communicating with Home

Communication can be a difficulty while we are outside of the city. E-mail is the best bet since there are wireless internet connections in the hotel. However, the connections are not as reliable as in the US, so it is quite possible that access may be limited. The WhatsApp app allows conversations via the internet.

For emergency situations or when it is necessary to speak with someone personally, we will use Pastor Fidel's cell phone. His number is: # 011-504-3-361-7600 – We generally use WhatsApp as your phone plan would require an add on to be able to call Honduras.

RULES & GUIDELINES

- Team members will need to help each other always maintain a quality atmosphere. Encourage each other in the work you are doing.
- Your team leader must know where you are at all times.
- When traveling, the unexpected can happen. Even though you have prayed for protection, don't "tempt God" by exposing yourself to unnecessary danger. Listen to the leadership and take their suggestions. Never wander off alone or without permission from your team leader.
- Don't volunteer any information to customs officials or others that may speak English. Your leader should be the only one to speak for the team.

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- Don't make promises to churches, pastors, or anyone else without the permission of your team leader.
- Don't discuss pricing, wealth, or how much a certain item cost that you own. Keep away from discussions that may cause a cultural gap.
- Always ask permission before taking pictures of people. Don't take pictures of military personnel or police (or anyone else that does not want their picture taken). Most of the people we meet at the churches are OK having their picture taken.
- Fruits and vegetable may appear to be growing wild, but don't pick them. They may be someone else's income.
- If you have MONEY or an item that you would like to leave as a GIFT, please check with the team leader or leave it with them. It will be disbursed as you wish, but discreetly. We do not want to discourage gifts, but to direct them in the most helpful way.
- No illegal drugs, no profanity, no fighting, no fireworks, or firecrackers, and please, no secular music.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

- As a member of the mission team, you are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and morality. It is our belief that all members of the mission team have reached a high level of maturity and are responsible in their behavior.
- Pray for your trip leaders and accept decisions made by them.
- Absolutely no romantic involvement of any kind among men and women during the mission trip. This is critical—please don't go if you can't abide by these guidelines. Married couples, please realize that this trip is about working together with a team, and you may not have a lot of time alone together.
- Be an encouragement to national missionaries and pastors.
- Show respect for older people in the culture you are visiting.
- Be flexible concerning time and schedule. Other cultures do not run as strictly by the clock as ours does.
- Learn a few greetings in Spanish. Greeting people in their own language and in their own way means a lot to them.
- Always stay with your team leader or translator.
- You may be invited into someone's home. Do not go in unless you notify your team leader. Do not express shock or dismay at their living conditions. You may be offered food or drink while in someone's home. Please check with a team leader before partaking.
- Be observant of local customs and respect them. Never laugh at the traditions of the people. Laughter may be misunderstood. Don't do anything that would make the people think you are making fun of them.
- Be polite and discreet. Avoid loud conversations and arguments. If you have a complaint, please bring it in confidence to the team leader. We want your trip to be a positive experience, and we will help you to work out whatever problems you may encounter.

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Health Considerations

Immunizations

You may wish to visit the CDC travel website for their full set of recommendations. The link is:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/honduras.htm>

To summarize, they recommend that your routine vaccinations (MMR, DPT, tetanus, etc.) are up to date. In addition, they recommend immunizations for Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Typhoid. A recent flu shot is also a good idea. COVID-19 fully vaccinated or negative COVID-19 test may be required for travel.

Rabies and malaria are other diseases for which vaccinations are recommended in special circumstances. Rabies risk is like the US, so as long as good judgment is used in approaching animals, we find this not to be necessary for our trips. Malaria has not been a risk in areas that we will be visiting.

Good Practice

The largest risk to our health is bacteria in the water and food supply. There are also intestinal parasites and other organisms in the water supply, so it's important to be very careful **NOT** to drink this water or get it in your eyes, ears, nose, or mouth. This applies to bathing and brushing of teeth. Other advice for a safe and healthy trip:

- Wash your hands with soap and water and then sanitize with an alcohol-based gel. This is especially important before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Drink only bottled or boiled water or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and anything with ice cubes.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked. Remember, lettuce and tomatoes on a hamburger have not been cooked. Onions seem to be okay.
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know that they have been pasteurized.

Diseases from food and water often cause vomiting and diarrhea. Make sure to bring anti-diarrheal medicine with you so that you can treat mild cases yourself. For more severe cases, we will have a supply of antibiotics available on-site.

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Packing Checklist

- Passport (Also pack a copy in one of your bags – make sure 6 weeks are left)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Card or Negative Test Results (may be required)
- Bible, notebook, and pen
- Worship clothes (2-3 times). Men polos or button-up shirts are preferred, tie recommended (no coat needed). Women long dresses or skirts below the knee. We will attend multiple services.
- Travel and work clothes - Jeans and or shorts and T-shirts.
- Shoes or boots that can handle some abuse. We will be walking on dirt roads every day, and rain is common.
- Raincoat or poncho
- Light sweater... if you are subject to getting chilly.
- Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Pack in “travel size” quantities. If you wear contact lenses, carry the necessary cleansing agents, and pack an extra pair of eyeglasses.
- Prescription medicines. Must be labeled or they may be subject to being taken away.
- Small Flashlight
- Wet wipes for cleaning hands/face
- Hand sanitizer (a couple of travel-sized bottles should do).
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Small roll of toilet tissue
- Travel sized sunscreen.
- Camera, charger, and high-capacity memory card
- Extra batteries for any electronic devices. These items can be hard to find and/or very costly.
- Spending money (\$50-\$100)
- Alarm clock, watch, or phone that can wake you up.
- Snacks for travel days
- Family picture to show people.

Mission Trip Insurance

Each team is different, and we will decide as a group what type of insurance will be needed. We generally use Mission Trip Insurance and get it all at one time. <https://www.missiontripinsurance.com/>

Mission Trip Release Form

Each team member will be required to sign the Mission Trip Release Form at the end of this document.

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After Returning Home

Look for opportunities to share your experience with others! Have stories ready to share from your heart about the people and how God taught them or ministered to you personally. If you tell others of difficulties you encountered on the trip, also tell them how God supplied or brought you through the difficulty.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Consider volunteering to write a short article for your church or support team, telling them about a personal experience or a touching story...include good photos that will help describe what you write about. Copies of articles and/or photos should be given to your team leader at the follow-up meeting after you get home. They can be submitted to The Way and The Truth Ministry and may even be used in promotional literature.

Follow-Up Meeting

Many times, it is a let-down to come home after such an experience on the mission field, where there are so many new things and new experiences. You've been ministering together with a sense of purpose and fulfillment. It is a "mountain-top experience" from which you must come down.

The follow-up meeting provides an excellent way for you to get back together with the other team members and reminisce. You'll be able to share your feelings about the trip, returning home, and your plans to go again, or stay involved in some other aspect of missions. Be sure to bring all of your stories, pictures, slides, videos, etc.

If you volunteered to write a short article, turn it in to your team leader, along with any photos you'd like to include. Consider bringing a family member or a good friend to introduce them to the possibilities of short-term trips, and other opportunities available through The Way and The Truth Ministry.

Continued Involvement

After a short-term mission trip, you soon realize that it's just the beginning! This kind of an experience opens our eyes to what Jesus sees. It opens our hearts to what He feels. It opens our minds to the endless possibilities of reaching the lost with the love and the message of Jesus Christ.

And it opens us to the needs of the world. What can you do? Where do you start? As your missionary organization, we'd like to suggest three areas of involvement.

- 1) Continued Support – You met the indigenous pastors. You held the children. You visited the churches. You can help with the cost of running these ministries. For more information, contact The Way and The Truth Ministry. Prayer support is a vital part of the ongoing ministry of The Way and The Truth Ministry. More information can be found on [Facebook](#) or [Website](#).
- 2) Promotion – Your excitement about missions will encourage others to participate in missions. Your photos and your testimonies can also be used by God to direct those around you to become personally involved in mission work.
- 3) Perhaps God has touched your heart and is prompting you to further involvement in missions. Contact your church mission's leadership concerning opportunities for serving.

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Sponsorship Letter Template

It is scriptural to ask others for financial help. In many of his letters, the apostle Paul often asked the churches to assist him in his journeys. The following page has a sample letter that you may wish to modify for as you ask for support for the upcoming trip.

Changes based on type of mission trip.

Hello everyone,

We are very excited to let you know that we are heading to Choloteca, start date through end date. We will be visiting Pastor Fidel of the Way and the Truth Ministry.

Our goal is to spread the word of God through partnership with Ministerio El Camino y La Verdad. We plan to do this by hosting a VBS (vacation bible school) for the children and adults of the community, and by holding various men's and women's fellowship and Bible studies, and by performing medical, dental and vision screenings. (depends on goals of trip) .

This is an extremely poor area that we will be visiting so we will also be taking shoes and vitamins to be given away to all those who attend the events while we are there. Our team may also be able to help with some light construction.

Most of the residents of the community are extremely poor. They have a rich culture but live in poverty usually making less than \$14 per day. They speak Spanish and generally work making bricks and roof tiles or harvesting sugar cane and vegetables.

You may ask about our safety. While it is not guaranteed, we are traveling with experienced missionaries who have been hosting teams like ours for many years. They do a very good job of helping us have an enjoyable and safe trip while ministering both spiritually and economically to the people that we visit.

We are asking for your prayerful support. We can use shoes, vitamins, VBS supplies, or financial contributions. Please contact us if you'd like to donate supplies, and we'll make arrangements. If you choose to help us financially, please make the check payable to "The Way and The Truth Ministry" and send it to us, personally. If you do this, we will send you a receipt so that you may deduct your charitable contribution at tax time.

What we need most are your prayers. We are certain that we can't anticipate everything that will happen on this trip. Please raise us up in prayer and ask God to grant us safe passage to and from Choloteca. May He allow this trip to be impactful both for the people we are going to serve and for our family!

Thank you and May God bless you!

March 11, 2023

The Way and The Truth Ministry Trip Release Form

Legal Name: _____ Dates or Trip: _____

I hereby acknowledge that during the mission trip that I will be participating in under the arrangements of The Way and The Truth Ministry, Inc., its officers, agents, servants, etc., hereafter collectively referred to as “the MINISTRY”, certain risks and dangers, inherent or otherwise, may occur, including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain or underdeveloped areas, accident or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature, guerrilla warfare, states of siege, and travel by air, train, automobile, jeep, animal, or other conveyance.

The MINISTRY accepts applications and cannot be held responsible or liable for any claim against itself. I recognize that this trip visits an area of the world where conditions are very different from those in the United States, including climatic differences, political differences, and economic differences.

The MINISTRY cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience, damage, expense or delay caused by political or diplomatic changes of circumstance, or any other condition.

I further acknowledge that my failure to adhere to rules established by the MINISTRY may result in my being asked to leave or if I do so of my own accord then I am responsible for all expenses incurred, and I will have no claim against the MINISTRY.

In consideration of, and as part payment for, the right to participate in such mission trips or other activities and the food arranged for me by the MINISTRY, I have and do hereby assume all of the above risks and will hold the MINISTRY harmless from any and all, causes of action, debts, claims, demands, damages, judgment executions, costs, loss of services, expenses, compensation, and any and all other claims of damages whatsoever, both in law and in equity, which I may have against the MINISTRY of any kind and nature whatsoever whether connected with hotel or camping accommodation, any acts or omissions of the MINISTRY, or any other person, any form of transportation or any other facet of the trip which I now have or which may arise from, or in connection with, my trip or participation in any other activities arranged for me by the MINISTRY.

The terms contained herein shall serve as a waiver of liability of the MINISTRY and an assumption of risk on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns for all known and unknown personal injuries, emotional trauma, conscious suffering, death and/or property damage.

If this contract, in part or in whole, shall to any extent be invalid or unenforceable, then the remaining portions of this contract shall continue to be valid and enforceable.

I have read the above and agree to be bound by the terms contained therein.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Email address _____

Person in US to contact in an emergency _____

Their phone number _____ Email address _____

On the reverse side, please describe and allergies or health issues that we might need to know about.