

## **Where Are You Going?**

Did you know that Honduras is considered the poorest country in Central America and is plagued with poverty issues such as, crime, gangs, violence, malnutrition, prostitution, gambling, alcoholism, and human trafficking? The income rate in Honduras is the lowest in Central America and the nation is recognized as a food priority by the United Nations. It is estimated that 50% of the nation lives below poverty.

Did you know that 50% of the nation of Honduras is under 19 years? The poor economic situation in Honduras has devastating effects on the children of the nation, especially those living in rural areas. The price of food and water is too high for the majority of the population to afford. Therefore, many families are forced to make their children work rather than attend school just so the family can eat. Most children that are forced to work due to the economic crisis their family is facing, work in hazardous and difficult conditions. They often work long hours, travel long distances, and get paid a very little amount money. They are exposed to violence and in many cases are abused, including sexually, by their employer.

The quality of education in Honduras is poor and inadequate. School hours and the length of the school year is comparatively short to other countries. Most schools have far too few teachers, no textbooks, not enough desks, not enough school supplies, and not enough room to teach the children properly. Not to mention that in many communities children, especially girls, do not even attend school because they are afraid to leave their home due to the violence happening around them.

## **What is happening in Honduras through the Buffalo Dream Center?**

In 2010 Pastor Michelle Johns, from Buffalo Dream Center, led her first mission team to Honduras. For the past twelve years the Buffalo Dream Center has returned several times a year with mission teams from the United States, Canada, and Guatemala. The Buffalo Dream Center is now an established ministry in the nation of Honduras called "LOVE HONDURAS".

Shortly after coming to Honduras, God opened a door in Montana De La Flor, the home of the indigenous Tolupane Indians. The Tolupane Indians are considered the poorest people in all of Honduras. Montana De La Flor is a very rural and hard to reach area in Honduras. When the Buffalo Dream Center first started working in the mountains, there were no churches, no missionaries, and no Christians living there. As the years have gone by, the Kingdom of God is now advancing in Montana De La Flor.

In 2021 the Buffalo Dream Center began to establish a more permanent presence in Honduras. One of the LOVE HONDURAS projects is a feeding program partnering with Feed the Hungry to feed approximately 1500 children in Montana De La Flor and in the garbage dumps twice each week. This feeding program also provides the opportunity for us to share the Gospel, build community relationships, and eventually plant churches in Montana De La Flor.

The Buffalo Dream Center partners with several local churches and ministries in Honduras. The ministry is involved in training church leaders, and ministering in churches, schools, hospitals, poverty-stricken barrios, remote communities, and jails. The Buffalo Dream Center also provides food and clothes for those in need.

## Expenses

### **Airplane ticket**

- Must be purchased no later than one month prior to departure. Although you will get a better deal the earlier you purchase your ticket.
- You are responsible to purchase your own airline ticket. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact us.
- Do not book your plane ticket until you know you have been approved to go on the trip and you have been given your booking instructions
- Most airlines charge \$30.00 for your suitcase.

### **Accommodations/travel/meals/ministry expenses while in Honduras**

- Payable to Buffalo Dream Center
- Must be received by the Buffalo Dream Center no later than two weeks prior to your departure date.

### **Other Expenses**

**Passport** – You must have a passport that does not expire for at least 6 months prior to your trip and you must have at least 1 blank page in your passport.

**COVID-** You must have a COVID test within 72 hours of your departure from your last flight from the US to Honduras. You also need a COVID test within 24 hours of departure for the US. In the event you tested positive for COVID you are responsible for any extra expenses incurred during your quarantine

**Spending Money** – You are responsible for your meals and expenses while travelling to and from Honduras, for any snacks, extra food, or special dietary needs you have during the trip. You are also responsible for any unexpected medical expenses and for any souvenirs you wish to purchase.

### **Daily Activities**

Most days the mission team will participate in at least two ministries. They will include the following but are not limited to the following:

Village outreaches  
Outreach in the garbage dumps  
School outreaches  
Slum outreaches  
Orphanage outreaches  
Elderly hostel visits  
Hospital visits  
Work Projects  
Children's feeding programs  
Door-to-door visits  
Community Campfire Outreaches  
Church services  
Youth ministry  
Movie nights  
Prison ministry  
Red light district

### **Other Important Schedule Information**

You will be scheduled with another team member to do devotions one day of the trip.

You, along with other team members, will be scheduled every day for a household chore at the mission house you will be staying at.

## Things to pack

**Besides your clothes here are some recommended items to pack:**

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport + 2 photocopies of it             | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel/Wash cloth              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of your flight itinerary              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag/bedding          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address you will be staying at             | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket/Sweater                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat/Sunscreen/Sunglasses      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible, pad, and pen                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pepto Bismol/Imodium          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear-you will be sleeping with others | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication/Tylenol            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes / hand sanitizer                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Band-Aids/antibiotic ointment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Masks                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion Sickness pills         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack (bag to carry daily supplies in)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spending money                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray / After bite                     |  |

Clothing: casual work clothes, at least one pair of long pants, something nice for Church

Running Shoes are a must for some activities. Sandals are fine but not for everything we do. Bring an old pair of running shoes that you don't care if they get dirty or ruined.

**Ladies' dress:** Please keep all clothes modest including the length of your shorts, skirts, and shirts. Tank tops are acceptable but not all the time. Capris are acceptable. You need a skirt that comes to your knee for church. No expensive jewelry. We recommend you pack clothes and shoes that you do not care about in the event they get ruined.

**Men's dress:** shorts, pants, and t-shirts. No tight muscle shirts except when doing work projects. Nice clothes for Sunday. We recommend you pack clothes and shoes that you do not care about in the event they get ruined.

When packing your clothes, keep in mind that it will be hot. You will not be in air conditioning. It may be cool in the evening. You will not have time to do laundry.

**La Mosquitia:** Sleeping bag, air mattress, mosquito net, Strong insect repellent, waterproof bag or extra garbage bags for your belongings, phone charger if you want to use your phone, duffle bag to pack your belongings in

**Montana De La Flor:** Sleeping bag, air mattress or small tarp for under your sleeping bag, warm clothes for at night, a duffle bag to pack your belongings in, phone charger if you want to use your phone

**Please consider filling 50% of your suitcase** with items to bless the ministry including but not limited to: balloons, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, pencils, school supplies, flip flops (all sizes), jump ropes, small toys and prizes for children, lotion, hotel size toiletries, stickers, nail polish, Frisbees, deflated soccer balls, and candy (individually wrapped, no chocolate)

## **What to Expect if you signed up to go to Montana De La flor?**

Montana De La Flor is a remote mountainous area in Honduras where the Tolupane Indians, an indigenous people group, reside. The only way to get to the mountains are by 4-wheel drive trucks. We will drive through rivers, mud, and other mountains to reach the communities. The time we spend in Montana De La Flor could be compared to camping. You will be sleeping on the floor of a church and the bathroom facilities are limited. You need to pack a sleeping bag and hiking mat. The mountain trip does involve some physical exertion and we have long days of ministry. We get an early start in the morning and we spend the day ministering in several communities. Ministry includes door-to-door evangelism, children's ministry, work projects, and evangelistic campfires. There is no phone signal in the mountains, It gets cold at night so pack appropriately. During the day the sun can be strong because we are in the mountains. It is strongly suggested you have one good pair of running or hiking shoes for the trip. Guaranteed you will fall in love with the people of Montana De La Flor and you will have an adventure you never forget.

## **What to Expect if you signed up to go to La Mosquitia?**

La Mosquitia, also referred to as "Central America's Amazon," is located in Gracias a Dios, a department in the easternmost part of Honduras. In order to get to La Mosquitia you will first drive in a truck for more than 10 hours and then you will climb into a narrow canoe-like boat and ride down a river through the swampy mangroves and the tropical rainforest jungle. Depending on what area we are working in depends on how long you are on the boat. It could be anywhere from a 2-8 hour boat ride. In La Mosquitia you will be sleeping on the floor so you need to pack a hiking mat and sleeping bag. There are a lot of mosquitoes in La Mosquitia so you will need a mosquito net and good repellent as well. You will be physically stretched on this trip because at times your team will walk up to an hour carrying all your supplies to minister in a community. You will be loading and unloading your boat frequently. Also since it is a tropical rainforest you will experience extreme heat and humidity and sometimes a lot of rain. La Mosquitia is a dark place filled with hopelessness. The people of La Mosquitia feel abandoned by the world. Ministry includes door-to-door evangelism, children's ministry, work projects, and evangelistic campfires. On this trip you will have the opportunity to bring the light of the Gospel and the hope of Jesus to many.

## The Traveler's Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home, for thou hast left thy home to find things differently.
2. Thou shalt not worry. He who worrieth hath no pleasures...and few matters are ever fatal.
3. Remembereth thy passport, so that thou knowest where it is at all times. A man without a passport is a man without a country.
4. When thou goest through customs and immigration points, be thou pleasant and smile at any cost.
5. Blessed is the man who can say "Thank You" in any language, for he will receive thricefold blessings.
6. Thou shalt not let other team members get on thy nerves, for thou art a missionary living and working CLOSELY together.
7. Thou shalt not become frustrated when traveling in a group, even when it's hurry, hurry, and wait, wait, wait!!!
8. When thou arrivest in a new country, forget all the stories thou hast heard. For then you will see it through your own eyes, perhaps seeing things others have missed.
9. Thou shalt ask questions and OBSERVE; not forming opinions too quickly; not judging a land or people by only one or two people.
10. Remembereth that thou art a guest in the land; treat the people with respect and you shall be treated as an honored guest. You have something to share and give. You have something also to receive and be taught. Do not form any quick opinions; but wait to get a bigger picture.

## **Your Promise To Your Team**

I will be patient with my leaders and teammates when I do not understand why.

I will be kind to other team members even if they are not kind to me, especially when they use my toothpaste without asking.

I would not even think of being jealous or envious of my teammates when they are asked to do something that I am good at doing, and what do I have to brag about anyway? For it is God who deserves all the glory!

I will demand of myself and not demand my own way.

After long and hard days with little sleep (and no coffee), I will not even know the meaning of the words or how to act with irritability or touchiness.

Certainly there won't be any room for holding grudges for my hands will be busy carrying luggage, candy, props, sound equipment, groceries, boxes, rakes, shovels, brooms, garbage bags , and praying for people.

I will be loyal to the members of this team no matter how badly they mess up or how bad the circumstances that come against them.

Because I am a believer, I will always believe the best of each team member and if there be any gossip or rumors, as far as I am concerned, it is a lie!

I will eagerly expect the success and the prospering of each team member. No matter what they set out to do, I have decided I am going to cheer them on!

I will believe in this team, I will stand by each member, and defend them in prayer, in word, and in deed, holding my ground, never giving up!