

# OPEN EYES MINISTRIES

## PREPARING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL OEM MISSIONS TRIP “ACTION TEAM”

Your mission trip will be tailor-made for your church or organization based on the needs of the Central American people and on your gifts, abilities, and strengths.

### INTRODUCTION

We pray you are excited about the upcoming mission's project!

Here is an opportunity:

1. To worship, work, and live together with believers from other cultures.
2. To be involved in something that lasts for eternity.
3. To increase your commitment to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of Central America.
4. Have devotion every morning with your fellow Action Team members
5. Have a time of sharing each night of the blessings you have experienced during the day.

What this trip can be:

1. A blessing in many lives:
  - a. Your church
  - b. Your missionaries
  - c. National Believers
  - d. YOU!
2. Life-Changing experience:
  - a. This trip will give you the chance to experience missions first hand.
  - b. It will broaden your perspectives about the real issues of life.
  - c. It will help you grow and become more like Jesus.

**“SEEK YOU FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUS AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU “  
MATTHEW 6:33**

# RESPONDING TO POVERTY

## **Problem: Natural Disasters and Wars**

The people have encountered many types of natural disasters, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, and volcanic activity. These along with the past wars have impacted the land, people and economics.

## **The Result: Poverty**

- Some houses are made out of tin, cardboard, plastic and any available building material that can be used.
- Many houses do not have electricity or running water.
- Proper waste disposal (sewer, water, trash) not available or by crude means.

## **The Lifestyle: Subsistence**

**Subsistence**. Not comfort is the rule.

The goal is to stay alive and find food for the day.

They depend on daily wages; if the family provider is sick or cannot find work then the family does not eat and many children cannot afford to attend school.

**Hopelessness** – People are locked in and cannot control the direction of their lives.

**Relationships** – With extended family are important. Poverty is very common.

**Slow Change** – Gradually conditions may improve but it could take years.

## **Word to the Wise**

- Focus on the long-term effect – both for them and for you.
- Focus on giving them hope in a hopeless situation – through Jesus. Eternal life in Heaven – “where there will be no more tears and no more suffering.”
- If you feel God is burdening your heart to help a person or family, consult with the missionary on how to help. Work through the missionary to provide help or assistance

# SIGHTS, SOUNDS, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY

**You will experience different sights, sounds, food, and accommodations than what you may be accustomed, especially in a developing or “Third World” country.**

## **Tips:**

- Consider it a learning (and growing) experience.
- Be flexible.
- Be courteous and respectful of your hosts.
- Expect to see a “different” way of life, culture, custom etc.
- Expect to see people with “**Real needs**”, not necessarily just “wants”, as we tend to grow accustomed to.
- Meals are prepared especially for the “Action Teams” using purified water, ice etc. and may be prepared in the missionaries’ home or by a local church. This can depend on the locations you will be ministering in. These meals will usually contain available fruit, vegetables and meats....and of course rice and beans.
- **Do not drink the water.** Use bottled water for drinking, brushing your teeth and even rinsing toothbrushes. This is usually provided by the missionaries.
- Do not expect air conditioning because you will usually not have it. Again it depends on the country you are ministering in.
- Expect cold showers; it is usually rather rewarding after a hot day of work.
- If you are staying in the missionaries’ home, there is a washer and dryer available but otherwise these will not be available.
- **Realize that God can help you through any situation or circumstance, if you will rely on Him.**

# **TRAVEL TIPS AND HELPS**

## **Packing Tips**

### **1. Try to pack lightly.**

- This is in reference to your personal belongings. You may wish to take items to leave for the missionaries or the nationals. Please check with the missionaries or your team leader on any special needs of the missionaries of nationals. (on the following page will be a list of suggestions)
- Remember, however, **YOU** will be carrying your own bags through customs and the airport. Hopefully for your departure trip, once you check your bags at the airport, you will not have to handle them again, unless changing airlines. For the return trip, you will have to reclaim your bags, to go through Customs; however, you will be bringing back less than you took.
- Please check with the airlines on any special embargos at the time you will be traveling. I.e. no liquids greater than 3 ounces and these must be in plastic bags.

### **2. Be strategic in your packing.**

- Take a change of clothing, your toiletries and all medication in your carry on luggage, in case your main suitcase(s) gets lost for several days.

### **3. Be sure to take a good pair of walking shoes.**

### **4. Always dress tastefully:**

- When attending church services, women should wear dresses or skirts and blouses. (No spaghetti strap tops). Men should wear dockers type pants and a collared shirt. (no blue jeans or sandals)
- When working in fiestas and evangelism women should wear the same as for the services. Men can wear long walking shirts and nice t-shirts.
- Men will not need a coat and tie unless you are preaching and usually a dress shirt and tie are sufficient. (check with the missionary if any questions about the attire)
- Women may wear shorts or caprice pants when sightseeing or at the place you are staying.

### **5. Do not plan on doing errands when you arrive.**

- Take with you all that you will need, including film and batteries. There usually is not time to go to various stores.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEEDS OF THE MINISTRY** **AND THE NATIONALS**

- 1. Spanish Bibles or New Testaments**
- 2. Any Christian book in Spanish**
- 3. Spanish tracts to be handed out in evangelism**
- 4. Candy to be used in the fiestas or evangelism. Suckers and small hard candies are the best. Chocolate, although loved by all, will only melt and be very messy.**
- 5. Small stuffed animals of all kinds. Medium size can also be used if there is room in your luggage**
- 6. Dolls**
- 7. Cars**
- 8. Baseball caps**
- 9. Baseballs, Soccer or basketballs (without the air to pack easily)**
- 10. Small lotions and soaps**
- 11. Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- 12. Crayons and coloring books.**
- 13. New t-shirts of all sizes**
- 14. Small games**
- 15. Frisbees**
- 16. Key chains**
- 17. Small mirrors**
- 18. Make up**
- 19. Perfumes**
- 20. New clothes for children (including socks and underwear)**
- 21. Jewelry**
- 22. Combs and hairbrushes**
- 23. Shampoo**
- 24. Flip Flops**
- 25. Deodorants**
- 26. Hair bows etc**
- 27. Notebooks**
- 28. Folders**
- 29. Colored pencils**
- 30. Whiteboard markers**
- 31. Back Packs**
- 32. Special gifts for women if doing a Women's Conference**
- 33. Writable CDs**
- 34. Antibacterial dishwashing detergent**
- 35. Music CDs in Spanish**
- 36. Used clothing for adults and children in excellent condition.**
- 37. The missionaries will provide a list of medicines that are needed if you are coming with a medical team.**

**Check with the missionaries for any other special needs at the time you are going with your "Action Team"**

# TRAVEL DAY AND ARRIVAL

## Baggage Notes:

1. **Baggage Limits:** Your baggage will be limited to one carry-on, a purse or briefcase and two (2) checked pieces of luggage. The carry-on cannot exceed 40 lbs. and the checked luggage cannot exceed 50 lbs. You will need to check with the airlines as to the size of the carry-on and/or the checked luggage.
2. **Your carry-on should include:** At least one change of clothes, comfortable shoes (if not already being worn), basic toiletries, all medications, documents (those not already carried on your person – passport, billfold, waist money pack, etc.) and any valuables.
3. **Your document pouch:** Could be a manila envelope containing airline ticket, passport, important phone numbers and keys to luggage (if using locks), destination address and pen.

## While in Airports:

1. Check in as a group at the airport
2. If you have problem with travel sickness, be sure to bring proper medications.
3. Stay with team members at all time, especially when you disembark.

## Immigration, Baggage Claim and Customs:

1. Fill out custom cards, correctly per your team leader's instructions including the foreseen address in the country you will be ministering in. (to be supplied by the missionaries)
2. As luggage is claimed, keep it all together. Make sure all team members have their luggage before anyone goes through customs.
3. Once contact is made with your host, load quickly into vehicles.

## Money Issues

1. You will need money for entrance / exit fees depending on the country and incidental travel expenses in airports, souvenirs etc. You may wish to take a credit card, but it cannot be used in all stores. Most of the souvenirs are relatively inexpensive, compared to cost in the U.S.
2. Take some new \$1 and/or \$5 that you may use for when the offering is taken during services at local churches. Remember most people in Central America have very little money. Do not flash money.
3. Leave expensive jewelry and unnecessary credit cards at home. Use secure purses and money belts while in transit. You may wish to leave all jewelry at home, other than possibly a wedding band or inexpensive watch.
4. Be prepared to tip fairly and quickly, when necessary. You generally will not be in a tipping situation, but there may be a few opportunities. Have some \$1 bills available. Use caution in displaying any amount of money.
5. Have clear identification tags on all baggage and carry-on luggage. Every time you change locations, count off the bags for which you are responsible. Never leave a bag unattended.

## Giving Issues

1. **Limit personal giving to individuals**, give only small gifts such as photos, key chains, bookmarks, etc.
2. **The best type of giving may be from one congregation to another.** If you are faced with a special need, consult with missionary or team leader.
3. **It is recommended not to hand out candy or money to children on the street.** There are appropriate times to give out candy. (At fiestas, children's ministry events, etc.) This needs to be coordinated through the missionaries.
4. **Don't brush beggars aside.** Acknowledge their presence and say "not today". (You might be able to buy food instead of giving them money for food)
5. **Do not make promises to local people.** Team members sometimes tend to forget their promises too easily once they return home.
6. **If clothing, school supplies or other items are taken or going to be left as contributions, do so through the local missionaries and / or local pastors.** Consult the missionary on any giving issues. Your team leader should be able to inform you prior to the trip what are acceptable gifts / contributions. (May consult with the suggestion list)
7. **Remember: work through the missionary to provide specific help of assistance**

# Flexibility

On vacation, we may think that all has to go just as planned or it's a failure. This is even more so when we get beyond the familiar surroundings of our culture. Our natural tendency is to become more rigid.

- 1. Be prepared for some things to go wrong:**
  - Sickness
  - Transportation problems
  - Lost luggage or money
  - Delays in the project
  - Disruptive team members
- 2. Make the best of the unexpected.**
- 3. Accept things as they are.**
- 4. Enjoy each moment for what it is.**
- 5. Relax**
  - We tend to get uneasy with the idea of international travel.
  - We are concerned about making cultural blunders.
  - We are fearful of the next surprise.
- 6. Be willing to be stretched.**
  - Learn to handle delays and hardship with ease.
- 7. Quit insisting on comfort and predictability.**
- 8. Focus on others, not yourself. Keep your main focus on JESUS.**

## “Why are you here?”

The questions most often asked are: “Why?” Why are you here? Why are you doing this?” Be ready to tell others why you are helping them but:

- Never point to yourself as a hero.
- Don't give people the impression that you are trying to convert them to your “religion” or way of living.
- Tell them what Jesus Christ has done in your life.
- Tell them that Jesus is alive and cares for them.
- Tell them that the power of Christ is available to them. Emphasize a new start, not past sin.
- Help people with the changes they are trying to make instead of the changes you think they should make.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit to enable you to minister. Without His power, our patience and love will soon wear thin. Ask God to help to see people as He sees them.
- Never ask if someone is a Christian but ask if he/she died tonight where they would spend eternity. (These are mainly Catholic countries and they believe they are all Christians.

## **PREPARING PERSONALLY**

# **YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW WORLD**

**What is the best way for you to personally prepare?**

- 1. Read and Study your Bible daily.**
- 2. Listen to what God is saying to you and apply the Bible to everyday situations.**
- 3. Obey God in the little things.**
- 4. Pray on a regular basis. (Pray with a friend.)**
- 5. Develop a prayer support team “Prayer Warriors”.**
- 6. Practice being a servant in familiar surroundings.**
- 7. Seek God’s direction.**
- 8. Develop goals for what you would like God to do in your life on this trip.**

## Ways your Church, Family, and Friends can support you

- Spiritually, financially and emotionally.
- Prayer, by far is the most important support you will receive. It will become the foundation on which other support is built. Prayer will be your greatest need – and your greatest blessing. Choose faithful prayer warriors as part of your prayer support team.

## Tips for Sharing Your Testimony

- Have a written outline or copy of your testimony in hand.
- Go over the outline with interpreter before the service and be sure to include any illustration. It will need to be something that relates to the nationals.
- Give the interpreter any Scripture reference you plan to use.
- Open with a greeting in the language of the people. i.e. “Dios le bendiga” (God bless you)
- Thank the people or complement them about something in particular.
- Use your notes to keep your train of thought and prepare only a 5-10 minute testimony.
- Avoid the most common mistake – **Do not listen to the translator**, but rather focus on what you intend to say next.
- Don’t hurry. Face the crowd, **not the translator**.
- Unless the interpreter directs you otherwise, use short phrases or sentences.
- At the close, thank the audience for allowing you to speak and thank the interpreter.

## Ten Ways to Wreck a Trip

1. Act like you are there alone.  
Stay to yourself. Isolate others
2. Think you are much too important for the work you have been assigned. If you are given dish duty, weasel out of it.
3. Do not pray or study the Bible.  
You won't have time for it anyway.
4. Be well organized and inflexible.  
That way nothing can interfere with your agenda.
5. Point out what host or team leader is doing wrong.  
Help them "improve". Help them to be more like you.
6. Get away frequently to spend time discussing things.  
Such as, how you would run things differently if you were the leader.
7. Don't bother trying to speak the language.  
Seek out English speakers and then communicate only with them.
8. Point out the faults of people on your team.  
Try not to be seen with the socially awkward people on the team.
9. Make sure you do not eat the local food.  
Try to find a grocery store that sells something familiar. If you are forced to eat the local cuisine, complain.
10. Be generally disappointed in how things are going.  
Whine when things go wrong.

## Back Home: Now What?

Your trip will be full of emotions. You will be excited, wanting to share your experience with everyone (whether they want to hear it or not). But you may also be sad, feeling the letdown of going back to the routine of daily living

Soon after returning home, take some time to reflect on your trip. Ask yourself questions and write the answers in your journal to help you process what you have experienced;

1. What was the highlight of your trip and how do you feel about it?
2. What was the low point?
3. What were the goals for the trip and did you meet them?
4. What do you think God wanted for you?
5. Is it different from what you wanted?
6. How did you grow spiritually?
7. What happens now?

Equally as important is what you do with the experience now that you are home. You'll want to work on a "reverse" testimony. Think about the questions that helped you process your experience. Then write a short testimony to share what happened to you spiritually:

1. How did God change you?
2. What is different about you as a result of your experience?
3. What happens now?
4. What will you do with your volunteer experience?
5. Is God possibly calling you into full – time overseas or local missions?

When you have finished your testimony, share it with others. Give them the opportunity to learn about another culture and what God is doing there. Allow them to see what God has done in your life. As you share, others may feel called to mission service. **What a blessing it would be for you to encourage and nurture others for missions!**

### Ways you can share with others

1. Speak to your cell group or Sunday school class.
2. Share with youth groups.
3. Speak to civic organizations.
4. Share information with school groups.
5. Show photos as well as any items you brought which show something of the culture.
6. Speak during a worship service, encouraging openness to missions' involvement.
7. Challenge others to be part of an "Action Team".
8. Share with classes during Vacation Bible School.
9. Write an article for the church newsletter.
10. Continue to share the gospel with others.

## Smile and Say it in Spanish

**A** – Always pronounced ah, as in father. (Spanish example: Gracias)

**E** - Always pronounced as a short e, as in best, ten, dress. (Spanish example: ingles)

**I** – Always pronounced as ee, as in fee, wheel, and bee. (Spanish example: si)

**O** – Always pronounced as a long O, as in open, but with lips a little more rounded. It is always a pure vowel with no trace of the u sound (wrong) which is present in the English pronunciation of “no” (Spanish example: Doctor)

**U** – Always pronounced oo, as in foot, pool. (Spanish example: mujer)

**Que** – pronounced ke as in kept. ( Spanish example: Que pasa?)

**Qui** – pronounced kee as in keep. (Spanish example: quince)

**Gui** – pronounced gee as in geese. (Spanish example: guitarra)

**Señorita** – Miss or if you do not know her marital status.

**Señora** – Married woman.

**Don** (for male) or **Doña** (for female) used before a first name to express rank and respect.

**Salud** – To your health, as well as bless you when someone sneezes.

**Feliz Cumpleaños** – Happy Birthday.

**Semana Santa** – Holy Week (week before Easter)

**Dios le Bendiga** – God Bless You.

### English

Hello

See you later

Yes

No

Friend (male)

Friend (female)

Thank you

Where is the bathroom?

### Spanish

Hola

Hasta luego

Si

No

Amigo

Amiga

Gracias

Dónde está el baño?

### Numbers

Zero

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

Twenty

Thirty

Cero

Uno

Dos

Tres

Cuatro

Cinco

Seis

Siete

Ocho

Nueve

Diez

Veinte

Treinta

### Days of the Week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Lunes

Martes

Miércoles

Jueves

Viernes

Sábado

Domingo

## Months of the Year

### English

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December

### Spanish

Enero  
Febrero  
Marzo  
Abril  
Mayo  
Junio  
Julio  
Agosto  
Septiembre  
Octubre  
Noviembre  
Diciembre

## Other helpful words

Children  
Son  
Daughter  
Father  
Mother

Niños  
Hijo  
Hija  
Padre  
Madre

Napkin  
Fork  
Spoon  
Knife  
Plate  
Water  
Coffee  
Milk  
Tea

Servilleta  
Tenedor  
Cuchara  
Cuchillo  
Plato  
Agua  
Café  
Leche  
Té

Black  
White

Negro  
Blanco

Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner

Desayuno  
Almuerzo  
Cena

### Jesus Christ

Saved

I am a Christian

Jesus loves you.

### Jesús Cristo

Salvo

Soy Cristiano (a)

Jesús te ama.

Good morning / Good day  
Good afternoon / Good evening  
Good night

Buenas Días (until 12 noon)  
Buenas Tardes (12n – 6 p.m.)  
Buenas Noches (after 6 p.m.)

How are you?  
My name is  
What is your name?  
What time is it?  
How much does it cost?  
How old are you?

Cómo esta usted?  
Mi nombre es  
Cómo se llama?  
Qué hora es?  
Cuánto cuesta?  
Cuántos años tiene?

**A Note from Terry and Arlene duPont:**

We look forward to serving you and experiencing the harvest that we pray will come through your obedience to serve Him through an “Action Team”.

Remember to pray as we are praying and as the people in Central America are praying that God will bless this trip and He alone will receive all glory, honor, and praise. AMEN!

If you have any further questions or needs, do not hesitate to write us at our email address: [openeyes2@peoplepc.com](mailto:openeyes2@peoplepc.com)

May God richly bless you as you prepare for a wonderful time serving Him in Central America with Open Eyes Ministries.

**Terry and Arlene duPont**