Together on His Mission

Dear Team,

When we return to Honduras February 9-16, 2027, it will be our 5th trip since beginning in 2016. Praise God that we are able to go once again!

Whether you've been before, or this is your first mission trip to Honduras, it's exciting no matter which! I pray that, with this decision to go, you will have the opportunity to experience everything you are hoping for from this adventure we'll be sharing together. God has a way of touching our lives with experiences far beyond our own imaginations. This is such an incredible privilege to share God's love with others!

Flexibility

This is the #1 ADVICE!!! EXPECT to be uncomfortable. Honduras isn't Iowa and the USA. Besides cold showers, a different bed, etc. there may be a lack of internet, air conditioning in some areas or electricity. The bus ride can be bumpy, curvy, up and down hills or mountains. There can be a lot of smoke in the air as using fire for cooking and heating is the norm in some areas. Sometimes plans change; sometimes our work isn't what we expected or the food/water/coffee doesn't taste like we thought it would, we don't understand the language…. Every attempt will be made to make us all comfortable and at ease but sometimes we simply need to……. be flexible.

Our Hosts

Dilia Zelaya is an associate missionary at Ministries of Faith New Life (Association Ministerios De Fe Vida Nueva) in Azacualpa. She is responsible for developing and supervising the ministries and school that we will be staying at in Azacualpa. This ministry is home to 5 children This home provides for all their basic needs - food, education, health and spiritual growth. The school is a bilingual school that includes a computer room, a feeding program that provides lunch five days a week to approximately 25 children in need; and a soccer program dedicated to teenagers from the community. We will also meet other family members & personnel while we are there who work alongside Dilia.

And speaking of other personnel: In February 2027, Chris & Lydia Schultz are beginning their leadership serving as missionaries at Ministries of Faith in Azacualpa with their children Jeremiah, Hadley, Daxton, Camden & Teagan. Their mission is to help people seek God, grow their faith, find purpose and make a difference.

Where we are going

We will depart from Des Moines early in the morning and fly into San Pedro Sula, Honduras about noon. We will then be picked up by the bus from the Ministerios de Fe Vida Nueva (Ministries of Faith & New Life) which is also the site of the Escuela Cristiana Vide Nueva (Christian School of New Life) in Azacualpa, Santa Barbara, Honduras, our home for the week. The bus trip goes northwest from the airport and is about 2 hours. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the countryside!

Costs & Needed Info

The cost is $1,600 per person. This includes round trip airfare, our project, food/ lodging/ground transportation, food & supplies to give away which are purchased there, and our project(s). **Not included** are the two checked bags we will need to have with our donations & our own clothing, going out to eat, a fun activity day, candy for children, school supplies, gifts for workers there, souvenirs, an Azacualpa t-shirt & coffee mug ($15), if you don't already have a shirt. etc.

****The airline reservations will be handled by Keren Terry (Dilia's daughter). Y**our payment of $1,600 will need to be made by November 15 to JROL**. Those going from Hopkins Grove will need to decide whether your payments will be handled through your church or not.
****For Keren to make the reservations and to order your unisex dry fit t-shirts, I need you to send **me** your full name, date of birth, emergency contact information, email address, phone number & shirt size, **also by November 15 please.**

Lodging and Meals, Safety, etc.

We will be sleeping in a bunkhouse at the school with a room for men and a room for women. There are multiple single beds in each. There are also men's & women's restrooms with multiple toilets and showers in each. We keep these clean ourselves while we're there. There is NO hot water for showers, but the bedrooms are air conditioned. There is a fence around the facility along with guard dogs. Dilia & Lydia & family will make sure that where we go and how we get there is always done safely. A washing machine, detergent and clothesline are available when needed.

We will have 3 delicious meals a day served buffet style. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Denise know ahead of time.

Required Vaccinations

Tetanus and Hepatitis A (usually two shots spaced some months apart, so don't wait until the last minute for your Hepatitis vaccination). You can also check with the CDC and WHO for others that could be recommended. John & I only have gotten the recommended two listed.

Not required, but it's up to you
Malaria medicine is up to you - John & I won't be taking it.

Passport

If you do not have a passport, please obtain that as soon as possible. If your passport will expire within 6 months of our trip, please obtain a new passport. Check to make sure you have a blank page in your passport.

Free Day

Yet to be decided!

Donations

We always bring all sizes of good clothing and shoes to give away. Mostly these should be usable in a warm weather climate. This can, however, include jackets and sweatshirts.

School supplies are also needed.

You might ask your dentist for a donation of toothbrushes, samples, etc. to bring.

In the past we have each brought 2 large suitcases that we packed with our clothing etc, but also clothing, shoes, & school supplies to give away.

Packing List for Honduras

Bible (can be on your phone) and Journal - you might want to write down your experience each day

Cash/Credit Card - If you plan on going out to eat, fun day, buying souvenirs, etc. In Honduras they are extremely picky about our dollar bills. They want newer bills with no tears, creases or marks on them. Go into your bank and request nice looking bills. **Do not get any $20 bills**, only $1, $5, $10 and $50's.

If you want to take your credit card, there are souvenirs at the airport and maybe in other shops we might go to that do accept a credit card. Make sure you call your credit card/bank provider to let them know you will be traveling outside the USA so that your card doesn't get declined when traveling.

Passport - make sure you have this in your carry-on bag or on your person! Make a photocopy and keep it separate from the original; can also take a picture with a phone.

Insurance information

Clothing

Please check the Azacualpa weather before our trip to assist you in making final decisions regarding what you should take to wear. Keep in mind that we are going on a mission trip to a third world country and leave your newer clothes and any expensive jewelry at home.

*Christians in Honduras wear modest clothing. Please pack accordingly. Women, leggings are only allowed IF you have a dress/shirt that completely covers your bum.

2-3 pairs of capris (women) or long jeans

2 pairs cargo (men) shorts

2 long sleeve shirts for nights (it might get down to 60)

5-6 t shirts (dri-fit if you have them as they absorb sweat better)

athletic shoes and/or sandals, should be comfortable and broken in

1 pair of flip-flops for showering

thick fleece jacket/sweatshirt

underwear and socks

pj's

work gloves

hat for sun protection

workout clothing for those that want to workout

1 pair of pants for church on Sunday night (men)

1 long skirt or maxi dress for church on Sunday night (women) (A dress with sleeves is preferred)

light rain jacket, just in case

*Towels and linens are provided unless you have a favorite pillow/towel/sheets that you want to bring with you. If you bring some with you, you can consider donating them at the end of our stay.

Toiletries

Shampoo/conditioner Soap/body wash Toothbrush/toothpaste Deodorant Razor/ shaving cream, Lip balm

Hand lotion
Contact lenses and supplies, a pair of glasses
If you wear glasses, consider bringing a spare pair
Sunglasses
Feminine hygiene products
Liquid products should be placed in a plastic bag prior to packing, if they break, your clothes will be spared the mess.

Miscellaneous

A passport holder for easy access to show your passport when needed.

A small can of mosquito repellent (up to you, we've never seen a mosquito while there)

Sewing kit (travel size), rubber bands, paper clips

Sunscreen/lotion, Nighttime sleep aid, battery operated fan, sound machine, ear plugs

Watch
Waterless hand sanitizer or antibacterial hand wipes
Hair ties/head bands/hat
Cell phone for contacting those back home and taking pictures/Camera

Flashlight or hands free headband kind and spare batteries
2 water bottles with your name on them to use during the week

Personal snacks and/or snacks to share with the team. There is a table in the bunkhouse where these are kept. No eating in bed though, as no one wants ants in their bed!

Medicines

Malaria tablets, if you're taking them
Prescription medications - make sure you have enough to last through the trip
Travelers diarrhea/constipation and/or motion sickness medicine Medicine that you normally use at home (Ibuprofen, Tylenol, etc.)

Thrivent??

If your someone you know are a Thrivent Financial member you may be able to fill out a form at:

https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

If approved, you may receive $250 that we can use to help in Honduras even more!

Whew! My brain is dead and I can't think of anything else to include at this time. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Can’t wait!

Together on His Mission,

Denise Hartford, denisehartford@gmail.com, 515-890-1406