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Orphanage Emmanuel - Guaimaca, Honduras
December 1 - December 6

Our Honduras Mission Team was formed in 2017 to assist Orphanage Emmanuel, a private Christian orphanage, in Guaimaca, Honduras. On our first trip, we traveled with Team Honduras from Bolingbroke, GA. And upon our return, we formed our own team. Over the last few years, hundreds of people have traveled from our church to work in the orphanage.

While at OE, we assist the staff on the farm, in the school, in the medical and dental clinics, in the wood shop, and in the toddler and infant houses. We also spend a lot of time with the children on the playgrounds after school. On some trips, we may have a specific project to complete while there. On previous trips, we have bought and installed playground equipment, built a bridge, planted vegetables, built greenhouses, planted trees, and coffee plants, painted, poured concrete, built frames for large banners we had made for the church and dining hall, installed sprinkler system in a field, and built raised planter beds.

With all that being said, the best and most important job we do is to spend time and give lots of love and attention to children who have known little, if any, love until they came to Emmanuel. We also like to have fun with the children and do things with them they usually don't get to do. On previous trips, we have had epic water balloon fights, massive waterslides, and pinatas parties for the smaller kids, we have cooked a special American-style meal for the older kids, and we have hosted soccer tournaments.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us on our next trip to Orphanage Emmanuel. It will change your life and will have an impact on many previously abandoned and unloved children. A trip to Emmanuel will help grow your faith and belief that we have an Awesome God who is at work everywhere and His people to help accomplish His desires and love for the less fortunate.

The Honduras Mission Team will be returning to Orphanage Emmanuel in Guaimaca, Honduras in 2025.

Emmanuel is a Christian Orphanage that can house over 600 orphaned, abused, or abandoned children. Currently, the orphanage houses around 250 kids. Its sole purpose is to provide the children with a Christ-centered living environment, a scholastic and vocational education, and especially to share the Word of God and His love for them.

They receive no government support and depend solely on donations and short-term volunteer missionaries. There are only 20-22 full-time employees, so they are very appreciative of the assistance of Christian groups in helping with the repairs and upkeep around the campus. But they especially appreciate the love and individual attention we help provide to the children who crave the love of the other Christians. Many of these children had never known love until they came to Emmanuel because they were severely abused or abandoned by their families on the streets at a very young age. We will worship with them, play with them, feed them, love them, and in return, they will steal your heart. But it will be the most fulfilling and rewarding 8 days you will ever spend with a wonderful group of children and their fantastic and committed leaders. We hope you will spend some time in prayer with God to see if it is His will for you to join us at Emmanuel.

Don't let the cost of the trip deter your will to go – we have learned over the past few years that if God wants you to go, He will provide the way and the money with your help.

Trip Dates: December 1-6

The team will decide if we want to attempt a project this upcoming year, like playground equipment or sprinkler systems, which we've done in the past. We can discuss this later after our Team is assembled and we have had time to seek God's guidance in this matter prayerfully.

Individuals will be asked to seek private funding through family and friends. We can't express enough how important it is to look to God to help you raise your money. He is an awesome and generous God. Give Him a chance to bless you when you are doing His work.

Payment Information:

- **Total Cost: \$1,600**
- **Deposit Amount**
 - **\$250 Non-Refundable**
 - **Due Date: May 25th**
- **Optional Payment Schedule**
 - **\$193 Per Month (7 Total Payments)**
- **All Money Due No Later November 15, 2025**

Trip Guidelines for Team Members

****Please Remember on these trips you are an extension of Rock Springs Church, and we want to dress and act accordingly. ****

DRESS CODE: remember they stress modesty to the children

Ladies:

- Dresses or skirts when on the playgrounds in the afternoons are preferred – required for church.
- Bring work clothes/paint clothes (pants okay) for working during the mornings.
- You may wear modest-length shorts in the Team house in the evenings.
- No halter or tank tops. No short shirts that show your mid-riff
- No spandex, yoga, or stretch pants
- Comfortable shoes are recommended—there will be lots of walking. Flip-flops are okay; however, keep in mind that the environment is rough and sometimes not paved.
- Need tennis shoes for working in the mornings.

Men:

- Pants or knee-length shorts
- Work shoes/tennis shoes
- No tank tops or shirts with no sleeves

Suggested list for packing:

- Small fan/clock if you want one - extension cord.
- Bible and journal
- Personal toilet articles/shower shoes
- LOTS OF DEODORANT

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- Insect repellant/sunscreen/hand sanitizer
- Comfortable shoes and several pairs of socks - your feet will sweat in the heat - change socks every day to prevent problems.
- Small tote bag for use on the playgrounds in the afternoons.
- Hat and work Gloves
- **DON'T OVER PACK - THIS IS NOT A FASHION SHOW!!**

Planned activities:

- Work around the campus directed by staff while children are in school- painting, yard work, repairs, building, farm etc.
- Hair clinic/nail painting
- Snacks to different playgrounds/younger children
- Taking small groups to the local store for snacks - no more than 2-3 children per adult - always ask permission.
- Playtime on playgrounds - games, bubbles. Kickball, etc.
- Bible Studies – at every house in the morning (little circles)
- Discipleship Bible studies for girls and guys in the evenings.
- Nightly devotionals after supper - need volunteers to lead.
- Lead Worship and Sermon during Sunday and Wednesday service.
- Nightly team devotionals.
- Arts and crafts for small groups, piñatas, water balloons, and slip and slide.
- We are allowed to observe in the classrooms, and they encourage any teacher willing to teach a class on anything you think is interesting (you will have a translator). The kids are excited to have you there.

General notes:

- No body piercings. (earrings are okay)
- Volunteers cannot enter the children's dormitories without permission from the team leader.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the children's dorms; they may eat only on the playgrounds. Also, limit the amount of candy you give the children—it's not good for their teeth.
- CURFEWS: Everyone must be inside the fenced property by 6:00 p.m.; the guards lock the gates and are instructed not to allow anyone in. DO NOT wander away from the Team House after dark. Guards patrol the property at night, and they won't know if you are an intruder.
- Your day will start very early (5:30-6:00 A.M.), so rest is important. Everyone is to be in their rooms by 9:30 P.M. and lights out by 10:00 P.M.
- The weather is hot and humid, and dealing with children can be very tiring – it is important that you take care of yourself. Drink plenty of water, eat regularly, and don't skip meals. Adequate rest and good washing are your best defense against illness.
- If you are on Rx meds. Bring a full 10-day supply in the original Rx bottle in case you are checked at customs.
- Perfume, scented lotions, and deodorant attract mosquitoes, so consider some that are non scented.
- There will be a rotating list of assignments for kitchen duty. We will have some local girls to do our cooking, but we provide some help with cleaning, set up, and cooking as needed.
- Always ask permission from one of the staff members before you take a child to the store or away from the play yard. We have a good reputation with the staff in this regard, and we want to keep it.

- Never leave the campus. Emmanuel is a very large campus, and everyone will be spread out on different projects, but we will have a few radios for different groups to use to keep us in touch. This is a safety precaution and just courteous to your other team members.
- Please, no electronics for the young people on our team if you have a device with you and it becomes a problem, then it will be held by the team leader for the duration of the trip. Some of our older team members own businesses and must keep in touch with the office, so they will need to bring their electronics. Wi-Fi is unreliable. But everyone else needs to unplug from the cyber world for 8 days and serve others.
- Family and friends will be able to view updates on the team through social media. The team leader can be contacted in the event of an emergency back in the States. Always remember that no news is good news.

New Information:

- Be aware that if you are traveling with a minor (under 21 years of age) without both parents or legal guardians, the Honduran government requires that all minors born in the United States must have written notarized permission to travel from the non-traveling parent/s (or legal guardian/s). Keep it with your important papers to present if needed.
- All team members and volunteers visiting Emmanuel will be required to sign a liability waiver stating that they realize the risks involved with coming to a foreign country and volunteering under the conditions found here.
- Each team member will be required to pass a background check.

And the most important rule of all - **HAVE SOME FUN AND LOVE THE CHILDREN**. That's why God is sending us to Honduras.

Sample Schedule

5:00am – Circle Times in Kids' Houses

6:00am – Kids' Breakfast

7:15am – Kids enter School 7:30am – Team Breakfast

8:30am – Team Projects/Time with Kids

12:00pm – Team Lunch

1:00pm – Team Projects/Time with Kids

2:00pm – Kids out of School- House

Parties 3:45pm – Kids' Dinner

4:00pm – House Parties

6:00pm – Team Dinner

8:30pm – Team Meeting and Devotional

We recommend you send one of these sample letters to family and friends, asking them to support your journey to the mission field. Raising the needed funds is very simple, and you will find they want to assist with your adventure.

Sample Support Letter

November 28, 2023

Jane Doe

123 Main Street

Forsyth, GA 31029

Dear Aunt Jane

I'm excited to tell you about an amazing opportunity that we, as a family, will be a part of this year. On December 4th, we will be traveling with a team of 30 to serve on the mission field in Guaimaca, Honduras, at Orphanage Emmanuel. Over the past 8 years, our church has been involved in serving in Honduras, and the times we have been a part of have been amazing! Although we have served in the mountains and in the big city of Tegucigalpa, as a team, we primarily serve at Orphanage Emmanuel, and it has become one of our favorite places to be.

There are, at any given time, up to 600 children at the orphanage at one time! Our time at Emmanuel will be filled with helping with repairs to some of the buildings, working on the farms, teaching school, doing crafts with the special needs kids, leading Bible studies, but most importantly, giving and showing God's love to these precious kids that call Orphanage Emmanuel their home.

The cost of each person to go on the mission trip this year is \$1500.00. This covers the cost of the flights and the supplies that will be purchased and shipped over prior to our arrival or taken with us when we go. Supplies that are purchased are (healthy) snacks to hand to the kids, water balloons (they LOVE to have water balloon fights), hygiene supplies, crafts and any materials needed for special projects we are asked to work on. We ask that you please consider supporting us as we embark on this journey. First, we covet your prayers for our trip; for safe travels and a good time of fellowship with these kids. We also need prayer during our time now as we prepare for our trip and try to raise funds. We will have some fundraising opportunities through our church (spaghetti dinner, car washes, raffles, etc.). However, \$1500.00 per person is a lot of money to pay out of pocket and try to raise through raffles, car washes and other events. Please prayerfully consider donating to the cost of this mission trip. All donations are tax-deductible as long as the check is made out to Rock Springs Church and the Honduras Mission trip in the memo line.

Thank you for your consideration!

Love,

Jane Doe

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Ima Sample Letter
123 Main St
Nowhere, Ga 12345
123-456-7890
imasample@gmail.com

Dear ???????,

I am very excited about being part of the 2025 Rock Springs Mission trip to _____. Our journey to _____ will allow me to see this beautiful part of our world as we share the love of Jesus Christ with the local people. I am part of a team that is prepared to share the message of salvation with the lost.

I am humbly asking for your invaluable support on our journey. Your role as a prayer partner for our team and me is crucial. I ask that you pray for God's guidance, protection, and that he would open the hearts of those we will minister to during our journey.

Each of our team members must raise the support needed to make a journey like this happen, and the total trip cost is \$_____per person. I understand that not everyone can physically go to the field and work, but everyone can play a significant role in a mission trip by sending a worker to the fields. I ask that you please consider how you can help financially with my journey. Your donations, if you feel led to give, will be a part of transforming someone's eternity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know. If you would like to partner with me financially as I make this fantastic journey, you can make checks payable to Rock Springs Church and return them to me in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support,

God Bless,

Ima Sample Letter