

## ***Side by Side* INTERNATIONAL**

### **GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP**

**JULY 6 to JULY 14, 2019**

**BACKGROUND:** San Lucas Toliman, a market town in the central highlands of Guatemala, is a commercial, educational and medical center for thousands of people from the many nearby village communities of indigenous Maya people. Fr. Greg Schaffer of Minnesota, who served as priest at the mission church there from 1962 until his death in 2012, began a program of development in response to the expressed felt needs of the local people. Components of this program include education, health care and nutrition, housing, agriculture, community development and support of women. Since his passing, the organization Friends of San Lucas is continuing this work. (See [www.sanlucasmision.org](http://www.sanlucasmision.org))

Since 1998, Rogers Strickland has been involved in building projects in partnership with the Mission through the nonprofit, Side by Side International. Side by Side exists to bring hope and help to oppressed and impoverished peoples of the developing world by providing the gift of buildings to be used as churches, schools, medical clinics or community centers. The buildings serve primarily as a means to enter into relationship with these people as we seek to work side by side with them, rather than simply construct the building for them.

**PURPOSE:** The goal for Side by Side trips is for participants to become students and servants by participating in the lives of the Guatemalan people in the San Lucas Toliman area; and to participate in community by sharing our lives with our fellow travelers.

**PROJECTS:** At this time, the plan is for our primary work to be assisting with the construction of simple houses and fuel efficient wood burning stoves in Guatemalan homes; and possible involvement in other mission projects. There may be a building project, but we do not know yet.

**GENERAL SCHEDULE:** We will depart Kansas City early on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>, traveling via Houston to Guatemala City. We will be picked up by drivers from the San Lucas Mission and transported by van to the highland city of San Lucas Toliman. Hotel accommodations are simple and clean and are run by local people. All meals are provided at the San Lucas Parish "biblioteca", or library/dining room, and are simple nutritious fare. On Sunday, there will be an opportunity to attend mass and we will take a boat trip to visit other lake communities. We will have an orientation to the projects of the mission on Monday and will begin work on parish projects or a building. Transportation to work sites is usually in the back of pick up trucks, as this is the usual mode of transportation for local people. Our goal is to work alongside the local people as much as possible, learning from them and offering our friendship, encouragement and resources. In the evenings we will see films to enrich our understanding of the area's history and we will meet local people to learn about their lives. On Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>, we will travel to Antigua, to experience the former Spanish capitol of Guatemala and spend our final night there. Departure home will be on Sunday.

**COST:** \$1,500, which includes airfare, travel insurance, local transportation, lodging and most meals.

OTHER COSTS: Passport fees, immunizations, souvenirs, meals on travel days and in Antigua, snacks and alternate food if desired.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarship assistance may be available for students. Please use contact information below to request information.

PASSPORT INFORMATION: Please visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html> for information on passport applications. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the final travel date, until January 14, 2020.

IMMUNIZATIONS: It is *strongly recommended* that travelers have an up to date tetanus immunization status (within the last 5 years is best); also typhoid and hepatitis A vaccines. Information about recommended vaccines and travel guidelines can be found at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/Travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/Travel). Travel immunizations can be obtained at some health departments or travel clinics.

**DEADLINES: Our maximum group size is 20. Several people have already expressed interest in this trip so we are asking that a \$200 deposit be sent to the address below as soon as possible to reserve your spot. The deposit will be applied to trip costs and is fully refundable until the first deadline below.**

**If you have a trip that you obtained at an auction, no payment is due but you must let us know as soon as possible that you want to use the trip in July.**

**\*March 15, 2019: Non refundable, nontransferable payment of \$1,000 due on or before this date, along with complete trip application and color copy of your passport. (\$800 due if deposit was made)**

**\*May 6, 2019: Final payment of \$500 due.**

A REQUIRED ORIENTATION MEETING will be held in late May or early June, date to be determined.

QUESTIONS? Contact information: [info@sidebysidekc.org](mailto:info@sidebysidekc.org). You may also call

Peg Strickland at 816 719-4127, or Rogers Strickland at 816 223-3432.

**Side by Side International PO Box 422 Weston, MO 64098**