COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

Trip Dates:
Saturday, July 31 – Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011

Purpose of Trip:
The purpose of the trip is to partner with a missionary and a local church to help further God’s call on our lives to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. This partnership will include relationships, community worship, and a building project. In the process of sharing our faith and our love, we hope to grow in our own faith. We are committing to a long-term, intentional, reciprocal relationship.

Missionary Organization:
Wil, a seminary classmate of Pastor Alex’s, and Yolanda Bailey have been organizing short-term mission projects in Costa Rica for over two years. Wil has been taking trips to Costa Rica for over 10 years and is a certified United Methodist Volunteer in Mission. They host teams from the United States who partner with a Methodist church and the surrounding community to help build the Kingdom of God by assisting with construction and reconstruction of church buildings. Wil and Yolanda believe they have been called to provide opportunities for churches in Costa Rica and churches from other countries to serve one another and explore what it means for us to be part of the body of Christ that extends far beyond the walls of the church. They seek to foster long lasting, fruitful relationships.

Who can go?
We believe God calls certain people to certain mission projects. A strong commitment to Christ and to God’s vision for Christ Church is a basic prerequisite.

What is the commitment?
The commitment includes daily prayer regarding the trip, four training and team building meetings (to be scheduled in advance and at a time that fits team members), a commissioning service at Christ Church (the weekend before the trip) and the entire mission trip experience.

What building project will we be doing and where in Costa Rica?
NEW LOCATION – NEW PROJECT
Both teams will be working on a church project in the Alajuela area. Alajuela is 15 minutes from San Jose Airport. The first team will be staying at the work site and the second team will be staying at the Methodist Center approximately six blocks away.

Do I need a VISA? If you have a valid United States passport you do not need a visa. Applying for a passport is a long process so do not delay. If you have a passport from another country, you may need a visa.

COST: Team members are expected to raise their own funds for the mission trip. However, we would never want finances to prohibit someone’s involvement. We encourage each team member to write a letter to friends and family requesting donations on behalf of the team. This would allow others not able to go on a mission trip to be a part of our trip. We will supply a sample letter.
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THE TOTAL COST PER PERSON IS $1200 (BASED ON THE CURRENT AIR FARE.)

The cost includes air fare, meals, transportation in Costa Rica, construction materials, maestro, exit tax, insurance.

The payment can be made to church in as many installments as you wish. All payments are tax deductible and will appear on your contribution statement. Here are the essential deadlines:
- A $600 deposit and required forms need to be submitted to Donna Cleveland by Tuesday, March 1, 2011.
- The $600 balance for the second team is Friday, July 1, 2011.

What will be the lodging accommodations?
The first team will be staying at the work site in the church. Mattresses will be provided and you will be sleeping on the floor with inside bathroom facilities.
The second team will be staying at the Methodist Center and there will be bunk beds and bathroom facilities.

Do I have to know Spanish?
Spanish speaking team members are very helpful, but not essential to the effectiveness of a team. Someone who can communicate with the host community will be available to translate when necessary. We do encourage those team members who do not speak Spanish to embrace the opportunity to learn basic Spanish and we will do some of this at our training sessions.

Do I have to have construction experience?
Absolutely not! We welcome everyone from seasoned professionals to folks who have never held a paintbrush before. Will will always have knowledgeable people on the work sites to help those team members who have less experience. We are confident that no one will leave feeling that they were not able to contribute to the work of the team. While the most visible result of work teams is often the structures that they build, we are equally as concerned about the relationships that are built between teams and their host churches.

What about immunizations?
It is best to check with your personal physician. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendations for foreign travel can be found http://www.cdc.gov/travel/. The Department of Health in Fort Lauderdale provides shots and travel medications on Wednesday. Some suggest booster doses (as needed) tetanus-diphtheria, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever. Malaria has not been a significant problem in Costa Rica for about 20 years.

More information can also be found at www.costaricamissionprojects.com