

"The time has come," Jesus said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15

Greetings and Blessings to Family and Friends:

The time has come for our 21st mission trip to El Salvador this summer August 1-10, _____.

The kingdom of God comes near as we see:

- **Churches being built** in communities where no church stood before (www.buildresurrection.org and the Pastoral Team)
- **Scholarships enabling** low income students to go to elementary school, high school, college, and seminary (Scholarship Programs)
- **Donations** of computers, school supplies, and medical supplies arriving to Christ-centered ministries
- **People** who formerly were on drugs **living fruitful lives** (Hope House)
- **Modern day prophets** proclaiming LIFE in all its fullness for every child of God (Bishop Medardo Gomez)
- **Solar Systems** being installed in churches, schools, shelters, and homes, bringing life changing power to the country's poorest citizens

So much GOOD NEWS! We believe that God will truly use us to experience the Kingdom in life changing ways.

Each member participating is being invited to raise support for this mission. Would you commit to praying for us? Would you consider supporting us financially?

Should you wish to partner with us through prayer and/or offerings, please fill out the enclosed response card and send it back to us. Please make checks out to "Pilgrim Lutheran Church" and write "El Salvador- Johnsons" on the memo line. Your contribution is tax deductible. All funds will be used for trip expenses or for offerings for the Lutheran Church of El Salvador.

May God bless your summer in the name of Jesus!

Our Love and Thanks,

Kristian, Anna-Kari, Hope, Emanuel, and Xavier

Please detach and send in with prayer or financial commitment:

EL SALVADOR STUDY/MISSION TRIP RESPONSE CARD

[Your name, name of your church, and Address of Church Receiving Sponsorship Dollars]

I commit to praying for you and your ministry in El Salvador

I commit a gift of \$500 _____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____
\$50 _____ \$25 _____ other _____

toward your trip and ministry in El Salvador

Please make out checks to "

Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

El Salvador Packing List

We encourage participants to pack as many of their personal belongings in a carry-on bag as possible. This way, in case any luggage is lost you have all your essentials, and this allows us to fill checked bags with donations. Please make sure that you check your airline's restrictions on luggage.

Check with your airline if you have more questions.

Things to Bring: Check off box when packed ☺

- Money Belt (This can be purchased at a Target or other travel stores. They provide safety for carrying money and passport because it is worn on the person.)
Things to include in your money belt are: passport, money and address of where we are staying which is:
 - Casa de Huespedes Concordia**
 - Calle Antigua a Monserrat, paralela Boulevard los Proceres**
 - Contiguo a Fabrica Duraplex**
 - San Salvador, El Salvador**
 - Telephone inside El Salvador: 2273 1252**
 - Telephone from the US: 011 503 2273 1252**
- Passport (Make sure your passport is up to date and that you have filled out the Personal Data and emergency contact information on page 7)
- Copy of your Passport (keep this in a different location than your actual passport. You will only need a copy of the information page of your passport)
- The remaining trip cost of **\$575**. (On the brochure the total trip cost was \$775 plus airfare. You sent in a deposit of \$200, and the remaining cost of the trip is to be brought with you. This money will be collected when we get to El Salvador and goes to paying for our housing and food so it is not for your personal use, but group expenses. We would ask that you bring this in cash and in smaller bills. Make sure you do not have bills over 20.) You will be giving this \$575 to the group leaders once you arrive in El Salvador.
- Additional Spending/Personal Money in SMALL bills (This money can be used to buy souvenirs and leave donations. It is also important to have for meals in Antigua. Once again, make sure you bring this money in CASH and in smaller bills. The smaller the bill, the easier it will be to use. Please DO NOT bring traveler's checks.)
- (Optional) ATM card (This is nice to have as a last resort. However, please do not count on using an ATM card as your only source of money. The machines are not always convenient to find and use).
- We recommend you secure travel medical insurance. This year, we are not purchasing travel insurance for you, you are invited to take care of this yourself. Below you will find a link that will take you to a company we have used in the past.

http://www.hthtravelinsurance.com/travel_medical.cfm

At least in our case in 2013, clicking on one time trip insurance on the HTH website took me to Geoblue travelinsurance, and I purchased coverage for my family with them. In the past, we have purchased trip insurance through HTH directly.

- ❑ Back Pack
- ❑ Bible (with the New and Old Testament)
- ❑ Any Medicines or Vitamins you take. (If possible bring them in their original packaging and have a copy of the prescription.)
- ❑ Empty water bottles labeled with your name (You could use plastic bottles or a Nalgene. Bottles are important to have to fill with purified water everyday) At least four bottles.
- ❑ Changes of Clothes
 - Laundry services will be provided, so you do not need clothes for everyday of the trip, but please do intend on tipping the women who wash our clothes about \$10.

Please also take note on what dress is respectful and culturally acceptable while in El Salvador:

DRESS- In El Salvador, we will want to look presentable as we are representing our church and country. The weather is warm, around the 70's and up this time of year, with a few rain showers. **Men**, please wear long pants while we are in El Salvador, shorts are not considered respectful. There is no need to bring a suit or anything like that, and regular t-shirts will be fine for most of the days. **Women**, below-the-knee skirts and below the knee shorts are good, and pants are acceptable. Sandals are comfortable when it gets hot. One nice outfit for Sunday church is the only nice clothing you'd need to bring.

- ❑ At least one pair of pants and long sleeve shirt (this is important to have when we are in more rural areas to be protected from bugs. Most of the time we will not be in areas where long sleeves are necessary)
- ❑ (Optional) One pair of shorts (Once in Antigua we are able to wear whatever we want.)
- ❑ Pair of walking shoes (make sure you have at least one pair of closed toe shoes)
- ❑ (Optional) Pair of Sandals
- ❑ 10 pair of Underwear (a pair for each day)
- ❑ At least 2 pairs of socks (more if you plan on wearing socks everyday)
- ❑ Pajamas or something comfortable to sleep in
- ❑ All necessary Toiletries. Do not forget: Toothbrush, toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Brush ect.
- ❑ Shaving Equipment (non-electric)
- ❑ Feminine Products if needed (Tampons are hard to come by in Latin America so it is much easier to bring any products you foresee needing)
- ❑ Glasses (Make sure to bring glasses along even if you wear contacts just in case dust irritates your eyes. Still bring your contacts along, but make sure you have the option of glasses)
- ❑ Roll of toilet paper, and plastic baggie of tissues (many public restrooms are not stocked with toilet paper and it is important to carry some with you)
- ❑ Bottles of Waterless Hand Sanitizer (like Purell)
- ❑ Insect repellent containing DEET
- ❑ Sun block
- ❑ Thin towel and wash cloth
- ❑ Swimsuit
- ❑ Raincoat or Poncho

- ❑ Sun hat or baseball cap
- ❑ Camera (with extra film and batteries)
- ❑ Sunglasses
- ❑ Snacks for yourself (such as fruit snacks, granola bars, dried fruit or crackers)
- ❑ Medicine to help with diarrhea or constipation. Some doctors prescribe Cipro for diarrhea.
- ❑ Flash light (with extra batteries)
- ❑ Notebook and pens (for use during devotaions)
- ❑ (Optional) Journal
- ❑ (Optional) Your pillow (We will provided with sheets and a pillow, but sometimes the pillows are a little lumpy)
- ❑ (Optional) Gatorade drink mix
- ❑ (Optional) Cheap watch to use
- ❑ (Optional) Travel Alarm Clock
- ❑ **Donations (both Monetary and Physical) Please see other document about specifics about donations**

Things to Leave at Home

1. A photocopy of the first pages of your passport. This way if you lose yours while in El Salvador your family will be able to fax it to the US embassy. The US embassy in El Salvador's phone number from the U.S. to El Salvador is 011 503 2278 4444 and then fax number is 011 503 2278 5522
2. Copy of the address we are staying (see #1 on packing list) and flight times
3. Wedding Rings or other precious jewelry. Make sure not to wear something you would be sad losing or that attracts attention
4. Leave nice watches. Buy instead a cheap watch that does not attract attention.
5. Leave nice clothing or things you would be upset if you lost.

In Short: If you would be upset if an item was lost or ruined LEAVE IT AT HOME!