Mission Arlington FAQs

- **What is a "Mission Trip"?** This is a focused experience where we take people out of our normal level of comfort and live in the area where we're serving. We will gain a better understanding of the under-resourced community as well as first-hand experience with different forms of poverty: physical, resource, and spiritual.

- **Is this the right trip for me?** Yes! This is a great first step mission trip for anyone who has never been on one before! It's also great for those who have more experience in engage ministry because that experience will be valuable to our team!

- **What is Mission Arlington?** Mission Arlington is an evangelical ministry functioning in partnership with most of the local churches in Arlington from across all denominations. Essentially, they do two basic things (which are closely intertwined): 1) they begin Bible Studies which over time grow into churches in neighborhoods (mostly low-income apartment communities) all over the city and 2) they meet a variety of physical needs through free "benevolent" programs like medical clinics, food pantries, after-school tutoring, and more. We will be partnering with them by leading evangelical programs in the apartment communities and other neighborhoods where they have ministries.

- **What will we do?** Our primary focus will be:
  Rainbow Express: Rainbow Express is the name of the Backyard Bible Clubs we will be leading while you are there. When these programs first began, the volunteers that were leading them had a large portable stage built on a trailer that they pulled from site to site for puppet shows. This trailer, which was decorated with a rainbow, came to be known to the children as the Rainbow Express. Rainbow Express then became the name for all the Vacation Bible Schools. Students will likely take on multiple roles and responsibilities at Rainbow Express. We will assign these roles based on an interest form that students fill out, as well as our own best discretion. These roles include:

  - **Bible Storyteller**
  - **Testimony Teller**
  - **Site Host**
  - **Memory Verse**
  - **Supplies Manager**
  - **Worship Leader**
  - **Games Leader**
  - **Puppet Team**
  - **Attendance Taker**
  - **Craft Leader**

- **Where will we be staying?** Mission Arlington uses several different types of facilities to house guests. All of them boil down to the same basic concept: a safe, clean floor to sleep on, showers, a refrigerator and microwave, and a locked door. Groups generally stay in one of their community centers or in a local traditional church that partners with Mission Arlington. Because group sizes tend to fluctuate so much at the last minute, they do not make final assignments of where we will stay until the week before our arrival.

- **It is safe?** Yes! We are staying together, in the city, in a spot Mission Arlington has specifically set aside for us. We will not allow students to wander off or be alone. We will have supervision.

- **How will we get there?** We will be taking 15-passenger vans as well as an additional leader's car for the trip, along with the church's trailer for luggage.

- **What about food?** Part of the experience is sacrifice. We will pack sack lunches, have basic breakfast items, and have a heartier dinner each night that will include occasionally eating out. Feel free to bring your own snacks, we'll be working hard, and you'll get hungry! *If you have any specific dietary needs, please make those known to our leaders ASAP! We will try our best to accommodate dietary needs, and we'll communicate food logistics ahead of time.*