

Refuge Christian Ministries International



Picture by Beau Deorsam, Nov 2019 Belize Team Member

**“Concerning missions: you are either a radical goer, a radical sender,
or you are radically disobedient.”**

- Brett Hicks

Belize Mission Trip Information Packet



REFUGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTL

Dr. Paul & Marcy Olson

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info@refugecmi.com

Dear Team Member:

We are excited that you have decided to be a member of an RCMI short-term team to Belize. In RCMI's first 15 years, 46 people made their first short-term mission trip with us. Each of them brought something to the team they were a part of that made the mission of encouragement, equipping and engaging those we ministered to; making a lasting impact for the kingdom. Some trips will include medical teams, construction teams, evangelistic-outreach teams, or teaching-training teams.

Regardless of whether you are a minister, a lay professional, or a skilled craftsman, with or without missions' experience, there will be a place for you on the team when you come to Belize. It is almost impossible not to be forever impacted, and not leave with a life-changing experience.

There will be a number of meetings throughout the next months that you need to commit to as well. These meetings will be used to clarify various issues as they come up and to spend significant time in prayer for the mission and the team members. These meetings will be monthly to start; then bi-weekly until the tour begins, and daily during the tour. For those team members in another location, a leader will be designated to lead these meetings and, occasionally, speaker phone or Zoom communication will be included.

Attached to this letter (in this packet) is some additional information for you to review. There are forms (application, release of liability, individual information sheet for your team leader, and trip agreement) to complete, sign and return with your \$100.00 deposit; as well as some general information sheets and a checklist of things to get done over the next few months. Make sure you communicate your areas of expertise, as well as areas of interest to work in, on the forms and to your team leader. If after reviewing this information you have questions, please feel free to contact us or your team leader.

We look forward to working with you on the mission field in the next few months. We believe God wants to be a blessing to the people as we get in tune with His will and plans for each of us as we come together as a team. God has a plan for you to make a difference in the lives of the people we are going to minister to, as well as in the lives of your fellow team members.

Thanks so much and may God richly bless you!

Moving Forward In His Service,

Paul L Olson

Dr. Paul & Marcy Olson

Our Belize - A Land of The Fatherless

Belize is the only English speaking country in Central America, a country booming with opportunity. It has gorgeous mountains, rivers, and rainforests. However, what you will not find on Expedia is a large population living in extremely impoverished conditions. Nearly fifty percent of the population live in huts, without running water, or beds. Here you will find a very friendly culture in need of Jesus.

Belize is a place where men do not know how to be fathers. Being part of Great Britain's common wealth of nations, slaves were brought into the land to cut lumber. In the 1800's the Spanish controlled most of Central and South America. Belize was one of the few places where the British could get beautiful hard woods for its castles and government buildings. So, thousands of slaves were brought and immediately separated from their family units. This separation went on one generation to the next. Because of this, after receiving their freedom, there was little knowledge of a family unit. When WWI and WWII came, many of the fathers went off to war. Many stayed in Europe never to come home. Since WWII, because Belize is so close to the US, thousands of fathers left to go and find work, and send funds back to their families. Knowing the English language made it very easy to find work and blend in. Unfortunately many found relationships with women in the states and never came back. This has happened over and over again, leaving a fatherless society.

Belizean People (Population: 347,369): Belize is a melting pot of many cultures; it is the most ethnically and culturally diverse nation in Central America. Although Belize has the lowest population density in Central America and one of the lowest in the world, it also has the highest growth rate in the western hemisphere. This means over half the people in Belize are less than 18 years old. Sadly most of the Belizean children are born into a broken family. So Belize faces social problems due to the crumbling of family life and lack of male leadership in the homes and churches. *Do you see why missions to Belize are so very needed?*

Cultures: Mestizo 52.9%, Creole 25.9%, Maya 11.3%, Garifuna 6.1%, East Indian 3.9%, Mennonite 3.6%, Caucasian 1.2%, Asian 1%

Languages: English 62.9% (official), Spanish 56.6%, Creole 44.6%, Maya 10.5%, German 3.2%, Garifuna 2.9%

Religions: Roman Catholic 40.1%, Protestant 31.5% (includes Pentecostal 8.4%, Seventh Day Adventist 5.4%, Anglican 4.7%, Mennonite 3.7%, Baptist 3.6%, Methodist 2.9%, Nazarene 2.8%), Jehovah's Witness 1.7%, other 10.5% (includes Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Mormon, Muslim, Rastafarian)

Unemployment rate: 12.9% (2014 est.)

Population below poverty line: 41% (2013 est.)

Belize Wildlife: Belize has often been called the green jewel, because about 70% of Belize is still prime jungle. When flying over Belize you will see it is covered with teeming jungle rainforests in the lowlands while the Maya Mountain range is decked with pine trees. Wildlife includes jaguars, howler monkeys, snakes, lizards, crocodiles, birds, toucans, storks, and sea life. Twenty miles offshore, and near many of the cayes, lies the second longest barrier reef in the world and the longest barrier reef in the western hemisphere. Diving and snorkeling opportunities are plentiful out on the reef. The average rainfall is 50 inches in the north to over 150 inches in southern Belize. Rain falls almost every day, except during the dry season from February to May. This creates an everlasting summer. Though it is hard to distinguish any form of weather seasons, Belizeans go by two seasons a year instead of four. There is a cooler dry season that often stretches from January - March and then gives way to the rainy hurricane season lasting from June - September.

Belizean Government: Belize is a democratic nation. In many ways it is similar to the American government system. Belize became independent from Great Britain on September 21, 1981. Keeping their ties with Great Britain Queen Elizabeth stayed on as head of state, and is represented in Belize by a governor general who acts on the advice of the prime minister and the cabinet. The Belizean constitution safeguards include freedom of speech, press, worship, movement, and association. Belize-United States relations have traditionally been close and cordial. The United States is Belize's principal trading partner and major source of investment funds. It is also home to the largest Belizean community outside Belize, estimated to be 70,000 strong. Because Belize's economic growth and accompanying democratic political stability are important U.S. objectives, Belize benefits from the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative. The United States is the largest provider of economic assistance to Belize, contributing via various bilateral economic and military aid programs.

Belizean Economy: Belize struggles to raise enough food to feed its population. It depends heavily upon imported food and goods. Belize City is the center for the fishing industry, for shipping, lumber, coconuts, sugar, and lobsters. Spanish Lookout, the Mennonite community is a farming community providing most of the grain, Agricultural exports, mostly sugar, citrus fruits, and bananas, provide over half the nation's foreign exchange. Belize has increased their tourism in the cruise industry in the past 10 years. It is not uncommon to see a cruise ship or two docked a short boat ride from Belize City.



BELIZE FLAG



MAP OF BELIZE

Getting Started

After deciding to experience missions in Belize, follow these steps:

Step 1: Determine who the adult leaders are for your group. Choose responsible adults who can keep their commitment to God, to you, and the youth.

Step 2: Develop a budget. Start fundraising NOW! Present a budget to the church, to keep them informed of the trip, and opportunities to support with prayer, and finances. Include actual trip cost, distances, and other details.

Step 3: Advertise and promote the trip, right away. Bold promotions that include flyers, posters, church bulletin announcements, and much interpersonal communication, will get people excited, and want to participate, or help.

Step 4: Recruit trip candidates. People listen when they are interested and informed. Keep everyone updated with organized information. Emphasize that being committed to missions is a serious matter, not merely a summer fling. Emphasize all dates, and deadlines, holding people accountable for their decisions.

Step 5: Fill out the trip application, release form, individual information sheet, and trip agreement, and send it in promptly with the \$100 deposit. We will review all applications and references for approval. If an application is denied for any reason, the deposit will be refunded.

Step 6: Make sure everyone applies for their passport immediately. Don't delay!

Ages of Youth Team Participants:

1. Minimum age of youth is 13 years old by the date of the trip (under 13 can participate, if accompanied by parent/guardian).
2. For every 5-7 youth, there needs to be 1 adult chaperone (18 yrs. of age or older). All chaperones need to be background checked by their church and cleared in writing to Refuge CMI.

Fundraising Tips:

There are hundreds of ideas and ways to do fundraising. The important thing is that you line up what fundraisers you are going to do, then prepare, and follow through on each one. Here are 3 key points to remember about fundraising:

1: Organize: Once you have settled in your heart that God has told you to go, begin to think about how you would like to fundraise! Think about various activities and align them with dates that work for you and your team.

2: Plan: Determine how much time each member has to raise this amount. Try your best to keep all members involved, and exercising their trust in God. You never know who will give towards a mission trip and how much they will give towards it!

3: Be Creative: Get the youth to call upon that creative ability that God has given them. The youth will come to a whole new level of understanding and walk with the Lord! Some examples: Car wash, Bake Sales, Church Dinners, Creating T-Shirts to sell, Church-Wide Garage Sale, Silent Auctions, Selling Candy, Etc.

Any questions call us at 325-453-7610.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Where should we fly into for the campaign?** A. You will fly into the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport in Belize City.
- Q. When will I receive a packing list?** A. Your final trip packet (includes final instructions, luggage tags, ID tag, etc) will be mailed out about 3 weeks before your departure date. You can request one sooner and it will be sent to you.
- Q. Do I need an adapter for my electronics?** A. No, Belize has the same voltage as the USA.
- Q. Can I bring my small children on a campaign?** A. Yes, small children are welcome with their parents.
- Q. Can I call home after I arrive? Is there internet?** A. Yes, there will be phones available for you to call home. You may have to pay for the minutes to use it. There is Wi-Fi provided on campus and in hotels, so you can call home on Messenger. Cell phone use needs to be limited to the evenings unless there is an emergency.
- Q. When should my paperwork and deposit be sent in?** A. Your paperwork and \$100.00 deposit should be sent in as soon as possible so your application can be approved and your in-country health insurance purchased.
- Q. Where will we sleep while in Belize?** A. When you arrive in Belize City, you will be staying in a hotel. Most of the time you will be staying in the dorms. While on a ministry campaign, you may be sleeping on the floor in a school or a church – but that is rare, and you will know ahead of time so you can come prepared. (Sometimes a hotel is available with an extra small fee).
- Q. What about the money in Belize?** A. Belize uses Belize dollars and US dollars. One US dollar equals two Belize dollars. It's very easy to buy things in Belize and you do not need to do a money exchange. The businesses will make change from your US dollars.
- Q. When should I apply for my passport?** A. As soon as possible!! It can take a long time to receive your passport during the busy travel season.
- Q. What about safety while I am in Belize?** A. You will always have RCMI staff and with you while you are in Belize. Belize is a pretty safe country to visit and our hosts will make sure we are safe.
- Q. How will I get around after I arrive in Belize?** A. Refuge CMI will provide transportation and a local chaperone or your RCMI team leader will drive and accompany the team wherever you go while in Belize.
- Q. What are the minimum and maximum number of people that can travel on a team?** A. We prefer that there be at least 3 people per team. The maximum number of people that can join a team is 10.
- Q. What will the schedule consist of?** A. We will provide you with a full and detailed schedule as we get closer to the dates of the trip.
- Q. Where do we keep our valuables?** A. All valuables will be your responsibility. All money, passports, plane tickets can be kept in a safe at some of the accommodations. We recommend that you keep cameras, etc. on your person, or nearby, at all times.
- Q. What are the necessary inoculations and medications needed?** A. We recommend that you contact your local health department / tropical disease clinic or the W.H.O (World Health Organization) for the most up to date information. The Western Hemisphere has fewer suggestions than other locations. One note, avoid taking Larium for Malaria as it has severe side effects.
- Q. How do we get visas to enter our host country?** A. You must have a current passport. Latin America: we complete the visa paperwork on the plane and pay the fee in the airport.
- Q. Will we be able to interact with the children?** A. The children will often interact with you. You will also be able to visit with widows and children throughout the day.
- Q. Will we be able to communicate in English?** A. In almost every situation you will be able to communicate with people in English. Most people in Belize speak good English. In other situations, we will have interpreters.
- Q. What is the weather like?** A. The weather is very moderate throughout the year in most Belize locations. Warm weather clothing all year is the norm.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 325-203-4900, or 325-453-7610

GENERAL PACKING LIST

BELIZE

We are excited to have you join us in Belize. This will be a life-changing experience for you. Here are a few suggested items to bring. Remember, Belize is tropical and the need for warm clothes does not exist.

Shirts/tops for number of days of trip (include extra for church services)
Pants/skirts for church
Shorts OK for every day wear
Night wear
Comfortable walking shoes and working shoes
Nice shoes for church
Shower shoes if desired
Underwear
Modest swim suit & earplugs (good for light sleepers)
Sunblock & hat
Work gloves
Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, shampoo, soap, deodorant)
Sunblock, lip balm, sunglasses
Bug Spray with DEET or Picaridin
Water bottle (there will be filtered water and bottled water)
Rain gear
Wet ones and/or hand sanitizer
Kleenix
Toilet paper (2 rolls)
Tylenol, Imodium, Antacid
Camera
PASSPORT (3 copies of information page)
PLANE TICKET
Spending Money (approx. \$100.00)
Power cords
Bible, notebook, pen
Fanny pack/purse
Small flashlight
Plastic bags (various size zip locks and one large enough for dirty clothes)
May Need: travel pillow, washrag
Gatorade powder

DO NOT BRING:
No spaghetti strap tops, no see through clothing, no sagging pants, no flashy jewelry
Airbed and pump, sleeping bag and pillow (only if we contact you for your trip)

Security Concerns for Mission Team Members

From time to time we are asked about security for mission teams while in Belize. Belize is a parliamentary democracy that has been peaceful for many decades. We have gained experience in utilizing information resources within the country and security procedures. Logistically, group members are always accompanied by members of our ministry and our hosts. Our hosts are well aware of any issues we should know about. RCMI would never take group members into an area where a known threat exists, or where there might be a protest.

HANDS-ON MINISTRY

When altar calls are given, and people come forward for prayer, everyone on the team will be expected to assist with praying for the people as needed. We will have opportunity to minister at other times as well. Here are some guidelines to help you be prepared:

.....

Ministry to the people

Ministry Effectiveness

Your personal effectiveness in ministry will be determined on your personal intimacy with Jesus.

Your team's effectiveness in ministry will be determined by your team's intimacy with Jesus. In other words, it is **absolutely essential** that you have personal time and team time with the Word and prayer.

Remember...

- People are always watching you. What you do when not "in ministry" speaks as much about you and the team as does the actual ministry activities
- **Smile!** Making people smile and laugh is one of the best ways to open hearts to your message
- Relate to the people. Ask questions, share yourself, talk with them about their life
 - Hello, what is your name?
 - Do you live in this village/town?
 - Tell me about your family. Kids, married, brothers, sisters?
 - What do you do (profession)?
- Don't bash their beliefs or culture. Instead, always point out how awesome Jesus is
- Show compassion. Empathize with them when they share their heart with you
- Play with the children. That is what Refuge CMI is all about. Besides, it's fun and opens the hearts of the children, their parents and those watching you
- Speak their language. They love to hear you try to speak their language (we will help you with a few words in your greeting)
- Check the spiritual environment of the ministry site
- Follow and support your team leaders
- On the plane ride, memorize the 4 Spiritual Laws and scriptures to use when sharing the gospel.
- Always be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Always stay together for ministry effectiveness and safety

Ministering to the people

- Seize opportunities to love people
- Pray for healing (laying hands), family members, other needs

Salvation is...

- Salvation is not saying a prayer. It is believing (trust, cling, rely upon) in Jesus. "Giving your life to Jesus, committing your life to Him"
- Ask the person what this decision means to them in their own words
- When praying for salvation, use translators.

Discipleship things to point out after someone gives their life to Jesus

- Prayer is talking to God and can be done anywhere
- Read the Bible daily
- Plug into local Bible believing and Bible teaching church
- Share your new life with others (may need to encourage caution in some countries)

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope things are going well with you. I have some really exciting news that I want to share with you.

A group from my church and area will be going on mission trip to the country of _____. I have thought about this, prayed about it, and talked it over with many close friends. I feel that this is an opportunity I cannot pass up.

We are making the trip with Refuge Christian Ministries International, an organization that has worked since 2003 spreading the Good News of the Gospel by providing food, medicine, construction, and training in Central America, the Caribbean Nations and Africa. The dates for this trip are _____. The total cost of the trip is \$_____.

I am writing to you to ask for your financial support. Anything you are able to give would be helpful! Gifts made out to Refuge CMI or _____, and designated for my trip expenses, are tax deductible. If I am unable to participate in this trip, your gifts will be used to support the mission.

If you are unable to give at this time, I completely understand! I truly covet your prayers as I begin to plan for mission trip. As you can imagine, raising support is sometimes difficult, but I know that if it is the Lord's will that I make this trip, then He will provide.

While in _____, I will have the opportunity to:

- Work in an orphanage
- Work on construction teams building churches and other mission buildings
- Work in the mission's clinic and pharmacy
- Share Jesus with a country that has very little

If you are able to help, please check the appropriate box on the response card below and send it with your check, payable to **Refuge CMI** or _____, in the enclosed envelope to me by (DATE). I need to know where my support is coming from and what other support I will need to raise before I leave.

To learn more about the mission and ministry, please visit their website at www.RefugeCMI.org.

My desire for this trip is to make a small difference in the life of the _____ people. Please continue to pray for me as these plans fall into place.

Love,

John Doe

.....
Response Card

We want to partner with Refuge CMI to provide hope for _____ and are sending our gift of \$_____. We prefer this gift be used to support the short-term trip of _____. We understand that the use of our gift is subject to the discretion and control of the mission, as outlined in IRS regulations.

Donor(s) Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

EMAIL: _____ (I give permission to use my email to keep me informed on the progress of this and other RCMI missions).

REFUGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL BELIZE TEAM GUIDELINES

These RCMI guidelines are designed to ensure the safety and well-being of each member of the team, to ensure each team member fully experiences the impact of being a ST missionary, and to make sure we are culturally sensitive. It is essential that each team member maintains the highest degree of maturity, integrity, honesty and morality to be effective on the field. We will be like fish in a fishbowl, and anything we are seen doing at any time, can totally negate any advances made for the kingdom. We must look proper for the setting, behave professionally at all times, and most of all, love those we are ministering to on the field.

PROPER ATTIRE:

TRAVEL, SIGHTSEEING, AND DAILY (non-ministry) ATTIRE:

MEN: Slacks or modest shorts, and shirts with sleeves. Footwear of your choice.

WOMEN: Slacks or modest shorts, and shirts with sleeves. Footwear of your choice.

PLATFORM/MINISTRY ATTIRE:

NOTE: Platform/ministry includes actual platform ministry such as preaching, teaching, and singing; as well as ministry with children, outdoor crusades, traveling to crusades and meetings, etc.

MEN: Whether ministering in America or a foreign country, the platform/ministry attire for men will include slacks, shirt, and sometimes a tie and jacket (unless wearing a native cover shirt).

WOMEN: Whether ministering in America or a foreign country, the platform attire for women will include dresses or skirts that are at or below the knee, or dress pantsuits, blouses with sleeves (no sleeveless blouses or shirts allowed in platform ministry), sweaters or dress jackets if needed, etc.

NOTE: The team leader, prior to the meeting or event, MUST clear any exceptions to the above guidelines.

SWIMMING ATTIRE:

Occasionally there may be opportunities to swim. Please wear shirts and tops to and from the pool or beach.

CONSTRUCTION ATTIRE:

NOTE: While doing construction work, a somewhat relaxed dress code will be followed as outlined below. However, workers in construction attire should not enter into a ministry event, until they meet the PLATFORM/MINISTRY ATTIRE guidelines.

MEN: Jeans will provide more protection than shorts, but shorts are allowed as long as they are no shorter than just above the knee. Sleeveless shirts and tank tops are allowed. These relaxed guidelines are at the construction site only.

WOMEN: Jeans will provide more protection than shorts, but shorts are allowed as long as they are no shorter than just above the knee. Sleeveless shirts are allowed – but no string tops or tank tops. These relaxed guidelines are at the construction site only.

BEHAVIOR:

NOTE: Again, remember that we are in a fish bowl during our visit. Our behavior and actions should always be a testimony to Christ who is the reason we are doing this ministry. This mission trip is not about you, it's not about me, it's not about us...it is about Him, our Savior. Think about how your actions may look to those watching you, and how your comments may sound to those listening to you.

STAY TOGETHER:

At no time should you walk away by yourself from the area where the team is without a team member/native host going with you. Never leave the hotel complex alone. Most countries have areas that are dangerous for foreigners to be alone, especially at night, and our hosts will know those areas, and will keep you out of trouble.

PUNCTUALITY:

Be on time. Do not keep your team, or our hosts waiting on you.

PAGE 2 – RCMI TEAM GUIDELINES – Your Copy

FOOD AND WATER:

When we are being hosted for a meal, please watch your manners. You will have the opportunity to try many interesting and unique foods, which will be prepared by housemothers, pastors and church members. It may not suit your tastes, but please do not make faces about the food. Take a small amount of most of the food (let us know if you have food allergies on your application) and eat it graciously. These folks have often “killed the fatted calf” for you, so please receive it with gratitude for their hard work. Cooked food and peeled food is usually safe to consume. You will have plenty of bottled/filtered water and sodas available.

BUYING THINGS:

When buying things, check with your team leader or host. In some cases you might get a better deal somewhere else.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/ILLEGAL DRUGS:

Many denominations and individuals in the Christian faith find alcohol consumption unacceptable, both in America and abroad. So no alcohol consumption will be allowed throughout the duration of the trip. The same applies to tobacco use and illegal drugs.

OTHER UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS:

No porn – No fighting (including verbal) – No fireworks or weapons – No profanity – No secular music – No body piercing except modest earrings (one pair only) on women only - In some cases cover your tattoos – No romances or appearance of romances.

ATTITUDE:

It is essential that our attitudes be positive, even in situations when things don’t go as planned, or the team leader decides not to use your idea at that time. Ministering in these settings can be a challenge to say the least. **If there is disharmony and negativity among the team members, ministry effectiveness can be seriously affected.** If you have a personality that is easily offended or hurt, you may want to think a lot more, and pray a lot more about going on this trip.

MINISTRY:

Many of these countries separate the men from the women in church settings. Therefore, it is highly recommended that men minister to men and women minister to women.

GIVING MONEY AND THINGS:

It is unwise and **strongly** discouraged to hand out money, gifts, candy, etc to people in other countries. Why? It draws attention to yourself, you could end up with 300 kids for a small bag of candy, and could make you a target for crime. The idea should be to blend in as much as possible, not stand out. You are encouraged to bring things for people. However, at NO TIME should you start handing out anything UNTIL you have cleared it with your team leader or the pastor; then in most cases it should be given to the pastor to hand out at his discretion. Bottom line, remember **Situational Awareness** (know who and what is around you).

CELL PHONES:

It has become necessary to address cell phones. Cell phones can be a problem for three reasons: #1 – a cell phone is a desired item in many countries that can be worth stealing; #2 – a cell phone can be a distraction from what is going on around you (**Situational Awareness**), ministry opportunities, and seeing the country you are in; #3 – healthy group interaction and hearing important announcements and information being shared to the team.

So here are the rules regarding cell phone use on the mission field:

- 1 – Keep your cell phone in your pocket or purse when not in use so you do not lose it, forget it, or tempt someone to steal it.
- 2 – There will be NO cell phone use (include games) during ministry activities during the day. Cell phone use will be permitted in the mornings before breakfast and in the evenings (not during meals). Only exceptions, emergencies and the Team Leader.
- 3 – Don’t buy extra out of country time on your phone. You will not be using it enough to be worthwhile. ALL your communication can be done on your phone through Messenger (WiFi available). We have a Belize phone number for family to reach you in an emergency. Exceptions must be pre-approved.

I agree to abide by these guidelines and rules, for my safety and the well-being of my team.

Signed _____ **YOUR COPY** _____ Dated _____

PAGE 3 – RCMI TEAM GUIDELINES – *Sign and Return*

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I agree to abide by these guidelines and rules, for my safety and the well-being of my team.

Signed _____ Dated _____

REFUGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.
APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM TEAMS

Personal Information

Legal Name: _____ **Preferred Name:** _____

Street: _____ **Mail:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

H Phone: _____ **C Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

Sex: M ___ F ___ **Marital Status:** Married ___ Single ___ Divorced ___ **Date of Birth** _____

If under 19, have your parents approved your participation? Y N

Education Level: ___ HS Grad ___ College ___ Grad School ___ Trade School

Citizenship: _____ **Country of Birth:** _____

Passport Number: _____ **Issue Date:** _____ **Exp Date:** _____

Country of Issue: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

In case of emergency, please notify: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Date of Last Physical: _____ **Doctor's Name:** _____

Name of Medical Insurance Company: _____

Individual or Family Coverage? _____ **Group #:** _____

Insurance Phone Number: _____ **Policy Holder Name:** _____

Does your insurance cover you overseas? Yes ___ No ___ You will not be able to attend the trip without international insurance coverage. We have a company we use that specializes in this insurance.

Describe any medical conditions we should know about (ie: allergies, heart, diabetes, etc.): _____

Do you use alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs? Y N To what extent? _____

List any medications you will be taking:

Name of Your Church: _____ Address: _____

Pastor's Name: _____ PHONE: _____

References: (min.2)

1-Name _____ Email _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

(i.e. pastor, manager, leader...)

2-Name _____ Email _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Describe your previous ministry experience (especially missionary experience):

Country _____ Missions Organization _____ Dates _____ Tasks Performed _____ etc _____

Please list any special skills, talents, or service experience that you feel may be helpful:

Why do you want to participate in this mission trip and do the types of ministry checked above?

Any foreign languages? _____ Proficiency: _____

Are you a Christian? Y N What is your denominational background? _____

Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ: _____

Participation Agreement

Project.Description: _____

Location: _____ Date: _____

I agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless, Refuge Christian Ministries International, Inc., its employees, agents, and members from any and all claims or demands due to personal injury, illness, or death as well as any and all property damage sustained of any nature which may be incurred by me, whether in foreign or domestic territory, while participating in the above described event or activity. I also agree to be directed by and responsible to the designated leadership for this short-term project. Further, I agree to hold harmless and to indemnify Refuge Christian Ministries International, Inc. as a result of my participation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If under 19 years old)

REFUGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

This is a legally binding document. If you have any questions, you should contact an attorney.

1. Medical emergencies can be a challenge in a foreign country. Therefore, anyone who has had severe medical issues, or are over 70 years of age, must provide a written statement from your physician stating that you are able to attend a physically demanding work trip, that may involve desert conditions, high altitudes, or extreme humidity.
2. Medical insurance will be included in your package price and includes emergency evacuation, death and dismemberment, medical expenses, hospital confinement, and more. This is required and is not optional.
3. Refuge Christian Ministries International uses the trip fees collected to purchase food, transportation and lodging in advance; in some cases two months in advance of your trip. Therefore, NO refunds of any amount for any reason can be made. You will have the option of applying any funds you have paid as a credit to a future trip within the next 12 months, if you give notice at least 14 days prior to departure; minus the \$100.00 deposit. The credit will be issued only if the reason is for death, illness or injury. No funds will be returned.
4. All trip costs need to be in to the Refuge CMI office no later than 30 days prior to departure to avoid a \$50.00 late fee.
5. Refuge Christian Ministries International is not a travel agency. Therefore,
 - a. Refuge CMI does not act as an agent for any travel/transportation company
 - b. Refuge CMI shall not be liable for any costs associated with transportation delays due to weather conditions, civil disturbances, military actions, labor disputes, strikes, government regulation, or any other reason beyond the control of Refuge Christian Ministries International.
 - c. Refuge Christian Ministries International does not act as a guarantor regarding travel activities.
 - d. The applicant shall bear any and all costs associated with his or her transportation delays.
6. Waiver of Claim for Damages and Release of Liability: In consideration of Refuge Christian Ministries International, Inc. granting me permission to participate in a mission trip, I hereby waive any and all claims for damage or loss for personal injuries or property damage which may be caused by any act, or failure to act, of Refuge Christian Ministries International, Inc., its officers, directors, agents, volunteers or employees.

By signing this application, I agree to the terms and conditions set forth herein, and this Waiver and Release shall be binding upon spouse, my legal representatives, heirs, and me, whether the signed document is mailed or faxed.

In witness whereof, I have signed this Waiver of Claim for Damage and Release of Liability this

____ day of _____, _____.

DOB _____

Signature of Applicant / Date

Signature of Witness (not related) / Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (If applicant is a Minor under the Age of 18)

Relationship: _____

REFUGE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTL

PO Box 58

GOLDTHWAITE, TX. 76844

WWW.REFUGECMI.ORG

RCMI.TX@GMAIL.COM



TRIP AGREEMENT

This agreement is between you, the applicant for attendance on a short-term mission trip and Refuge Christian Ministries International, to let you know what is expected of you on this trip, and what you can expect from us.

Your completed application, release of liability, trip agreement and \$100.00 non-refundable deposit (covers health insurance and transportation to US airport) needs to be sent to our office (address above) no later than 60 days prior to departure.

If your trip fees are not paid in full 30 days before departure, a \$50.00 late fee will be added to your balance.

If you have serious health issues, we must have a written physician's statement stating that you are able to participate in a physically demanding trip in climates including hot dry desert, high altitudes, and hot humid tropical climates.

You must have a valid passport to go on any Refuge CMI foreign mission trips.

You need to contact our office to see if any flights have been scheduled by other team members so you can try to schedule your flights in close proximity to theirs. Once your flight is booked, send our office a copy of the flight itinerary. This will help ensure that transportation and accommodations at the destination airport are in place for each team member.

No refunds of any amount will be made for any reason in the event you cancel. Cancellations need to be made no less than 15 days before departure, and for only death, illness or injury reasons. Your \$100.00 deposit is not refundable, and the balance of your fees paid can be transferred to a future mission trip in the next 12 months, or donated to the mission. No refunds will be returned.

Your trip fees include transportation, lodging, food and emergency doctor, hospital and evacuation insurance while in the destination country.

We will send you a travel and information package that will contain a t-shirt and/or name tags about 3-4 weeks prior to departure.

Refuge CMI is here to make your mission trip a great success, and a memorable life changing event, that will be an impact for you for the rest of your life.

Signature_____Date_____

