



Doce Iglesias
TWELVE CHURCHES

MISSION TEAM INFORMATION

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OUR MISSION

Our ministry was created to work alongside the local Nicaraguan church to encourage, train and equip pastors and their congregations.

OUR VISION

We believe that lasting change comes from Jesus Christ - not from our own hands. God will work through these local churches for the glory of His Kingdom, and we understand that these local churches, embedded in their culture, have a unique and vital role to play in the mission of God in Nicaragua.

OUR HISTORY

In 2008, two members of Killearn United Methodist Church had an opportunity to meet with pastors of local Nicaraguan churches during a mission trip. While witnessing the tremendous work God was doing there, God placed a desire in their hearts to provide additional encouragement, training and support to these pastors and their churches; a way in which these pastors could be mentored, nurtured, and challenged through the guidance of a more mature pastoral team. After much prayer and consideration, the concept for Twelve Churches was presented to the local pastors and enthusiastically accepted!



We desire all our short-term missions methods and activities to produce lasting fruit.

As short-term mission practitioners, we strive to appropriately express God's redemptive mission throughout his world, and to glorify him - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in everything we do.

We understand that short-term mission is not an isolated event - but rather an integrated process over time affecting all participants. We desire to pursue excellence and to strengthen our overall effectiveness through these principles:

GOD-CENTEREDNESS

An excellent short-term mission seeks first God's glory and his Kingdom, and is designed to restore all involved to his original design for our lives.

EMPOWERING PARTNERSHIPS

An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, ongoing relationships between sending and receiving partners.

MUTUAL DESIGN

An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific activity to the benefit of all participants - the host ministry, the mission team, and those we came to serve.

BUILDING A TEAM

This information is important to consider as you prayerfully consider to gather, plan, and lead a team with Twelve Churches.

We will develop a schedule that fits your team members' gifts, but that will also support the vision of our Nicaraguan pastors and congregations. We focus on building up the children, staff and lay leadership - building relationships and encouraging them as the Church. We also do some construction or work projects on our trips. We approach these types of projects with a cooperative spirit - hiring local labor who is often underemployed, working financially and physically alongside the Nicaraguans of the church, and never imposing our own desires on the locals.

Examples of projects and activities:

- Developing and hosting a VBS
- Participating in English lessons with the youth
- Taking children on field trips to the beach, pool, or a movie
- Providing medical or dental care
- Helping with building or repair projects (classrooms, kitchens)
- Teaching health and hygiene practices to parents and students
- Training and encouraging pastoral and lay leadership
- Hosting a soccer or baseball tournament for youth

SAMPLE BUDGET PROPOSAL

Team leader may adjust prices according to fluctuations in airline tickets.
Expense for your team's ministry supplies not included.

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS (PER PERSON)

Airline tickets (round trip)	\$850.00
Travel insurance	free
Twelve Churches fee*	\$535.00
Entrance fee at Managua airport	\$ 10.00
Friday lunch	\$ 10.00
Friday dinner	\$ 15.00
Cultural Day activity	\$ 20.00
Friday night hotel room (Camino Real)	\$ 45.00
Tips, offerings, etc	\$ 15.00
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TOTAL	\$1500.00

*TWELVE CHURCHES FEE

This fee covers housing, meals, transportation, and translators for the week (does not include cultural day or air conditioning). Air conditioning costs \$20/night per room, and money should be given to your team leader, who will pay on-site.

A WEEK IN NICARAGUA

Teams are usually scheduled to arrive on a Saturday and return the following Saturday.

DAY 1: ARRIVAL AND TRAVEL TO LEÓN

Flights from the US to Augusto C. Sandino International Airport in Managua arrive from lunch through early evening. Twelve Churches staff will be waiting with transportation to meet teams after they clear customs and claim their checked baggage. The team then departs for a two-hour drive to Hostel Phoenicia, our “base camp” in León.

DAY 2 - 6: MINISTRY IN LEÓN

On Sunday the team will attend or serve at a local church and prepare for the week’s activities. The team’s daily ministry schedule is determined according to the members’ gifts and talents, while strategically coordinated to build on the work of Twelve Churches. Ministry typically occurs between 8AM and 5PM. Evenings are often used for times of rest, reflection and team meetings. It can be arranged to attend additional worship services in the evenings, as well.

DAY 7: CULTURAL DAY

Teams leave León on Friday after breakfast. Potential cultural or touring sites include Masaya Volcano National Park and a Managua zip-line over the lagoon of an inactive volcano. Shopping for local crafts is also included in the day’s events. The team spends their final night in Managua at Camino Real, a hotel just three minutes from the airport. The hotel provides a shuttle to the airport the next morning.

DAY 8: DEPARTURE TO US





MISSION TEAM COVENANT

Carefully read the following list of expectations, and discuss them with your team leader and team members for full understanding. Signing this covenant is a pledge of your commitment to this mission trip.

While participating in this mission trip, I will seek to demonstrate my love for Christ and others by:

1. **Representing Christ in a way that will build others up.** I will refrain from activities that may be considered inappropriate in some cultures (e.g., tobacco products, alcohol, gambling, profanity).
2. **Maintaining a safe environment for my fellow team members.** I will not do anything that would potentially jeopardize the safety of the team or any member.
3. **Working to the best of my ability.** I am excited about demonstrating my love for Christ by ministering and working hard for the duration of this mission trip.
4. **Following the mission trip schedule.** I understand that I must remain flexible because schedules often change. I also understand that any schedule changes must be made by or approved by the team leader or our hosts.
5. **Staying in the designated mission trip area.** I agree to stay with the team at all times. I understand that I cannot leave the ministry site or lodging areas without permission from the team leader.
6. **Respecting the privacy of others.** I understand that the possessions of others must not be tampered with or taken. I will respect the lights-out time each night. I will also respect others' quiet time with the Lord.
7. **Maintaining a clean environment.** I will do my best to keep all areas of the church, work location, and lodging areas clean and free of litter. I will respect the property and grounds serving as my "home away from home". I understand that any property damage caused by me will be my responsibility.
8. **Demonstrating a Christ-like spirit.** My attitude will be like that of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11). I will love those with whom I work and those around me throughout the mission trip. As Christ did, I will strengthen myself daily with prayer and quiet time.
9. **Being aware of my witness 24 hours a day.** I understand my attitude at restaurants, at my lodging site, or during free time is just as important as when I am "doing my mission assignment." I will serve with this maxim in mind: "Do no harm."
10. **Sharing my faith.** I will come prepared to share my personal testimony and faith with others as the opportunity arises.

I have read and understood these principles and expectations and agree to follow them.

Date _____ Signature _____

**INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH
UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (FLORIDA CONFERENCE)**

2014 International Medical / Accident Insurance
Underwritten by: ACE American Insurance Company

Eligibility: Covered Persons ("volunteers") of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for medical expenses due to treatment, services and supplies for accident injuries or sickness while participating in volunteer activities sponsored by the church, outside the United States of America. This policy is excess over any amounts payable by any other health care plan.

Volunteer Activities

The Covered Accident or Sickness must take place while:

1. Participating in activities sponsored and supervised by a Florida Conference affiliated church/ministry as a volunteer, or
2. Traveling with a group in connection with such volunteer activities.

Benefits are Full Excess: (If the injured has benefits under any other plan, this policy will be excess)

Medical Expense Benefits

Maximum from all Accident or Sickness Expense Benefits	\$50,000
Maximum for Dental Treatment (Injury Only)	\$1,000
Maximum for Dental Treatment (Alleviation of Pain).....	\$500
Maximum Period of Coverage	180 Days
Maximum Benefit Period	End of Trip or 26 Weeks from Covered Accident or Sickness
Deductible per Covered Accident or Sickness	\$250
Deductible for Emergency Room Visits (if Admitted as Inpatient)	\$0

Emergency Medical Benefits

Maximum	\$10,000
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Emergency Medical Evacuation Benefit

Maximum	100% of the Covered Expenses
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Repatriation of Remains Benefit

Maximum	100% of the Covered Expenses
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Emergency Reunion Benefit

Maximum	\$2,000
Daily Maximum	\$200
Maximum No. of Days	10

Lost Baggage Benefit

Maximum per Trip	\$250
Maximum per Item or Set of Items	\$250 subject to a Maximum of 2 Bags
Deductible per Trip	\$0

Personal Property Benefit

Maximum per Trip	\$250
Maximum per Item or Set of Items	\$250
Deductible per Trip	

Security Evacuation Expense Benefit

Maximum	\$100,000
Aggregate per Occurrence	\$500,000

Trip Interruption Benefit

Maximum	\$5,000
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Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefits

Volunteers – Principal Sum	\$50,000
Spouse of Volunteers – Principal Sum	\$50,000
Children of Volunteers – Principal Sum	\$10,000
Time Period for Loss	365 Days from Date of Covered Accident

Coma Benefit

Initial Benefit	1% of Principal Sum up to 11 Months
Remaining Benefit	Lump Sum of 100% of Principal Sum

VACCINATIONS

Vaccine recommendations are based on the best available risk information. Please note that the level of risk for vaccine-preventable diseases can change at any time. Ask your doctor or go to a travel clinic to receive your vaccines.

All the information provided here is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Check their website at any time for the most up-to-date information. (www.cdc.gov)

VACCINATION	RECCOMENDATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS
ROUTINE	Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.
HEPATITIS A	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in countries with an intermediate or high level of hepatitis A virus infection (see map) where exposure might occur through food or water. Cases of travel-related hepatitis A can also occur in travelers to developing countries with "standard" tourist itineraries, accommodations, and food consumption behaviors.
HEPATITIS B	Recommended for all unvaccinated persons traveling to or working in countries with intermediate to high levels of endemic HBV transmission (see map), especially those who might be exposed to blood or body fluids, have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment (e.g., for an accident).
TYPHOID	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in Mexico and Central America, especially if visiting smaller cities, villages, or rural areas and staying with friends or relatives where exposure might occur through food or water. <i>Note: the typhoid vaccine is four pills that need refrigeration.</i>

MALARIA

Present in rural areas of Nicaragua. Ways to prevent contracting malaria include the following:

- Taking a prescription antimalarial drug
- Using insect repellent, wearing long pants/sleeves to prevent mosquito bites
- Sleeping in air-conditioned or well-screened rooms or using bed nets

Primaquine is the preferred antimalarial drug (only after G6PD testing) in Nicaragua. Atovaquone/proguanil, chloroquine, doxycycline, and mefloquine are alternative choices. For information that can help you and your doctor decide which of these drugs would be best for you, please see *Drugs to Prevent Malaria* on the CDC website.

ZIKA VIRUS

Local mosquito transmission of [Zika](#) virus infection (Zika) has been reported in Nicaragua. Local mosquito transmission means that mosquitoes in the area are infected with Zika virus and are spreading it to people. Most people infected with Zika virus do not get sick. Among those who develop symptoms, sickness is usually mild, with symptoms that last for several days to a week. Pregnant women are advised not to travel to areas with Zika.

Ways to prevent contracting Zika include the following:

- Using insect repellent and wearing long pants/sleeves to prevent mosquito bites
- Sleeping in air-conditioned or well-screened rooms or using bed nets

DENGUE FEVER & CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

These are viruses transmitted to people by mosquitoes. The most common symptoms are fever and joint pain. The only way to prevent the contraction of these viruses is to protect from mosquito bites.

Ways to prevent contracting Dengue or Chikungunya include the following:

- Using insect repellent and wearing long pants/sleeves to prevent mosquito bites
- Sleeping in air-conditioned or well-screened rooms or using bed nets

PASSPORTS

YOU WILL NEED A VALID U.S. PASSPORT FOR THIS MISSION TRIP

The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace or change a passport.

NEW APPLICATION FOR A U.S. PASSPORT

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of 7,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. You can download the application from the website.

Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and one Gateway City Agency, which serves customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You'll need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time: if your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession; if your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago; if your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16; or if your currently valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

RENEWAL OF A U.S. PASSPORT

You can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change.

You can get a passport renewal application form by downloading it from travel.state.gov/passport . If your passport has been altered or damaged, you cannot apply by mail. You must apply in person.