



Riverside Church of Christ

# Honduras Summer Mission Trip

July 14-24 2017



# Honduras...

...is a country in Central America bordered to the west by Guatemala, to the southwest by El Salvador, to the southeast by Nicaragua, to the south by the Pacific Ocean and to the north by the Gulf of Honduras (a large inlet of the Caribbean Sea). Honduras has an estimated population of about 8 million people.

The flag of Honduras is composed of 3 equal horizontal stripes, with the upper and lower ones being blue and representing the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. The central stripe is white. It contains five blue stars representing the five states of the Federal Republic of Central America, a political union which existed from 1823 to 1840. The middle star represents Honduras, located in the center of the Republic.



The national language of Honduras is Spanish and the currency used is the Honduran Lempira. As of March 15, 2014...

1 US Dollar = 23.62 Honduran Lempiras

Honduras was ravaged by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Mitch is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, destroying 70% of the crops and 70-80% of the transportation infrastructure in Honduras. Mitch completely destroyed 33,000 houses, damaged an additional 50,000 houses, killed 5,000 people, injured another 12,000, and damages in Honduras cost an estimated 3 Billion U.S. Dollars.

Again in 2008, severe floods damaged or destroyed around half the country's roads.

In 2009, the Honduran constitutional crisis culminated in a transfer of power from the president to the head of Congress. Countries all over the world condemned the action and refused to recognize the new government. This is an ongoing constitutional crisis, and there have been frequent but largely peaceful political demonstrations. (Sources: [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)).

## Tegucigalpa (“Teguz”)

...is the capital and largest city of Honduras. The city of Tegucigalpa is located in a valley in southern Honduras. In 2010, the population of Tegucigalpa was estimated to be about 1.2 million. Honduras is divided into 18 departments (similar to our “states”), and Tegucigalpa is located in the department of Francisco Morazán.

Of all the major Central American cities, Tegucigalpa's climate is among the most pleasant due to its high altitude. Like much of central Honduras, the city has a tropical climate, though tempered by the altitude—meaning less humid than the lower valleys and the coastal regions—with the annual average temperature between 66 to 74°F.



We will be working mostly in areas around Tegucigalpa...





# The Need...

Why go to Honduras? As Christians we are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with every nation (Matt 28:18-20). Just like in any country (including the U.S.) there are people who need to know about the Messiah. Additionally, Honduras suffers from terrible poverty, and our resources make it possible for us to provide real help for people in need there. Christ taught that how we treat “the least of these” is important (Matt 25:31-46).

According to the World Resource Institute, 44% of the Honduran population lives on less than \$2 (US dollars) per day! In addition, 21% of the population lives on less than \$1 per day!

# Our Trip...

**When:** July 14-24

**Where:** We will be working in small village areas around the capital city of Tegucigalpa. We will stay in a small gated compound called Villa Gracia located on one of the mountains ridges surrounding Tegucigalpa.

**With Whom:** We will be working with a mission organization called TORCH Missions. The missionaries living in Honduras overseeing TORCH's work there are Marc Connell. (For more information on TORCH, go to : [www.torchmissions.org](http://www.torchmissions.org).)

**Cost:** The total cost of this trip will be \$1500 per person. This amount will include airfare, transportation in Honduras, housing in Honduras, two meals per day, the Honduran exit fee, and temporary traveller's insurance against medical emergencies.

Additional costs you may face include passports, vaccines, souvenirs, and additional food/supplies you might purchase before or after arriving in Honduras.

## Passports/Vaccines...

Passports are necessary for traveling to Honduras and instructions for applying can be found at:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)

It is easy to apply, but it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that this is done **VERY SOON!!** It is \$110 for first-time passports for adults plus an execution fee of \$25.

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For your safety there are several vaccines that need to be up-to-date. General vaccines need to be current, and it is a good idea to be current on Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines. The following website tells you what CDC recommends:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/honduras>



It's very important that you are current on your Tetanus Vaccine due especially to the house building projects!



# Fundraising...

Since the cost of the trip will be \$1500 per person, you will likely want to raise some of that money so that you do not have to pay for it all yourself. Family members, family friends, and home churches are often willing to help cover the cost of mission trips.

I would recommend that you consider writing some fundraising letters. In these letters, you can inform the recipient of the value of the work you are going to do, and offer them an opportunity to contribute if they would like to. One thing you might consider doing is dividing up the cost into days so that individuals or groups might easily sponsor a single day of your trip. For example... \$1500 for an 10-day trip amounts to \$150 per day. Someone reading your letter might like to know that they can cover the cost of one day of your trip for \$150. If there were 10 people/groups that were willing to do that, then your trip would be covered.

Some things you probably will want to include in your letters...

- Personal section (“It was good to see you at Christmas. How’s the family...”).
- Tell them a little bit about the need for work in Honduras.
- Tell them what your mission will involve (again... our mission will specifically involve building houses for people with insufficient housing, feeding people, visiting orphanages and hospitals to show love to children, and showing CHRIST to people that do not know HIM).
- Tell them their donation will be tax-deductible if they send it to Riverside Church of Christ.
- Have them make checks payable to Riverside Church of Christ, indicating it is for the Honduras Mission Fund.
- Also have them include your name on a note along with the check (not on the check itself if they want it to be tax-deductible).

- Address: Riverside Church of Christ 200 South City Pkwy.  
Lafayette, LA 70503
- Thank them for their time
- Keep it to ONE PAGE ONLY. This is important.
- You should consider including a pre-addressed, stamped envelope with the letters sent to individuals. This encourages them to donate since it eliminates some of the inconvenience for them.

The following is an example fundraising letter specifically written for a Honduras trip...

Feel free to use parts of this letter if you would like, but make it your own.  
Show them your interest in the mission within the letter:

Jan. 22, 2017

To the elders of the My Old Church: -OR- Dear Sally,

(Enter some sort of personal greeting: “It was good to see you...” “School is going great...” “How’s the family...” “Thank you for your past help with \_\_\_\_\_”).

I want to inform you of a great opportunity God has put before me. From July 14-24, I, along with other members of my church, will be in the country of Honduras. Honduras is a country of about 8 million people, many of whom do not have relationships with Jesus Christ. In order to share with them the love of Christ, we will work to meet some of their physical needs as well.

Tegucigalpa is the capital city of Honduras, and although it is a fairly developed city, it is surrounded by poverty-stricken slums where many people are suffering every day. World Resource Institute estimates that 44% of the people in Honduras live on less than \$2 (US Dollars) per day! Beyond that it is estimated that 21% live on less than \$1 per day!

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 how we should treat “the least of these” among us. So we will build houses for families with insufficient housing. We will also feed people without food living in the villages around Tegucigalpa as well as those living in the Tegucigalpa dump. We will take time to visit orphanages and show love to children that rarely get that kind of attention. We will also visit one of the largest hospitals in Central America to spend time with children who are hospitalized there. All this will be done for the purpose of showing Christ’s love to the people of Honduras.

We will be working with TORCH Missions. There are missionaries who have been living and working there for some time and will continue long after we leave. Now we have this opportunity to be a part of the ministry in Honduras that they are carrying out.

I would like to ask you to partner with me in this mission through your prayers and support. The total cost for my trip will be \$1500, which covers all transportation and living expenses, as well as materials we will use to bless and help the Honduran people. One whole day of my trip can be sponsored for \$150. However, I will be deeply thankful for any amount you may decide to contribute. If you are unable to contribute financially, I ask that you would still pray for God’s love to be shown clearly to the people we encounter that they might come to know Jesus! God is able!

If you would like to contribute, please use the pre-addressed, pre-stamped enclosed envelope. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Riverside Church of Christ, earmarked “Honduras Mission.” Please include a separate note that mentions my name!

Thank you for your time and may God continue to bless you. Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Name Here Your Address Here

# Some Simple Spanish Phrases...

Hello\_\_\_\_\_

How are you? (informal)\_\_\_\_\_

How are you? (formal)\_\_\_\_\_

I'm fine.\_\_\_\_\_

And you?\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you?\_\_\_\_\_

You're welcome.\_\_\_\_\_

Goodbye\_\_\_\_\_

See you later\_\_\_\_\_

Where is... ?\_\_\_\_\_

My name is... \_\_\_\_\_

What's your name?\_\_\_\_\_

Where are you from?\_\_\_\_\_

I'm from the United States.\_\_\_\_\_

How old are you?\_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_ years old.\_\_\_\_\_

Sorry\_\_\_\_\_

I don't know\_\_\_\_\_

Yes / No\_\_\_\_\_

Hola

Como estas?

Como esta usted?

Estoy bien.

Y tu (pronounced "E2")

Gracias

De nada

Adios

Hasta luego

Donde esta... ?

Me llamo... ?

Como te llamas?

De donde eres?

Soy de los Estados Unidos.

Cuantos anos ("anyos") tiene?

Tengo \_\_\_\_\_ anos ("anyos")?

Lo siento.

No se ("say")

Si / No

# Contact Info...

Will Collins [wcollins@riversidechurchofchrist.org](mailto:wcollins@riversidechurchofchrist.org)

(337) 356-4466

In Honduras... if someone here in the US has an important need to contact us while we are in Honduras, have them email Marc Connell at [torchinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torchinfo@gmail.com) or in an emergency, they can call Marc's phone at:

011 504 9858 5397

Contacting Family while in Honduras: Trip leaders will contact Riverside Church on arrival in Honduras, departure from Honduras, and possibly with an update midweek. The church will forward the messages to the families of team members.