



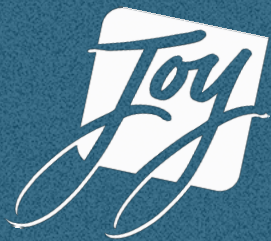
Team Members (July 2018)

# Honduras

# 2019 TEAM



LOVING LINARES  
AMANDO A LINARES



# Travel Guide 2019 Trip to Honduras

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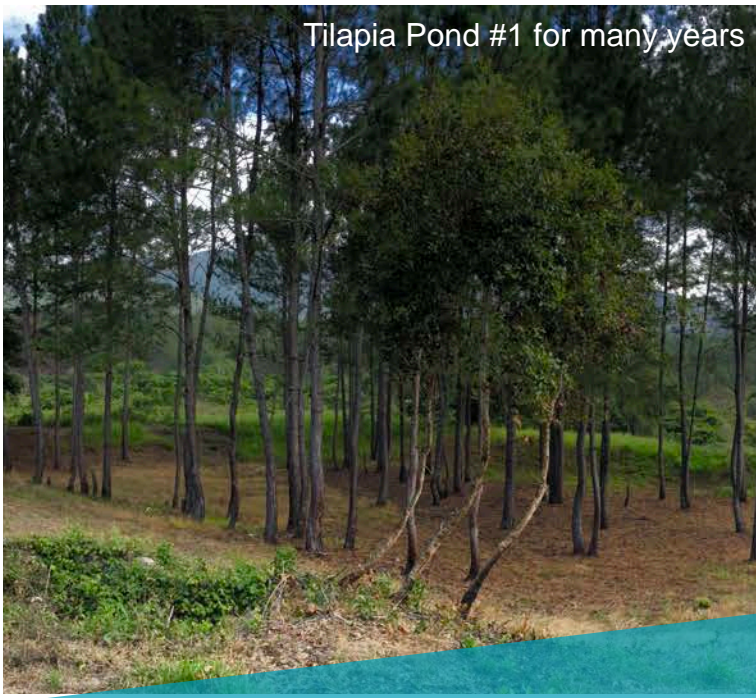
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Children of Linares (2008)



Ellen Playing at the School in Linares - (2018)



Tilapia Pond #1 for many years

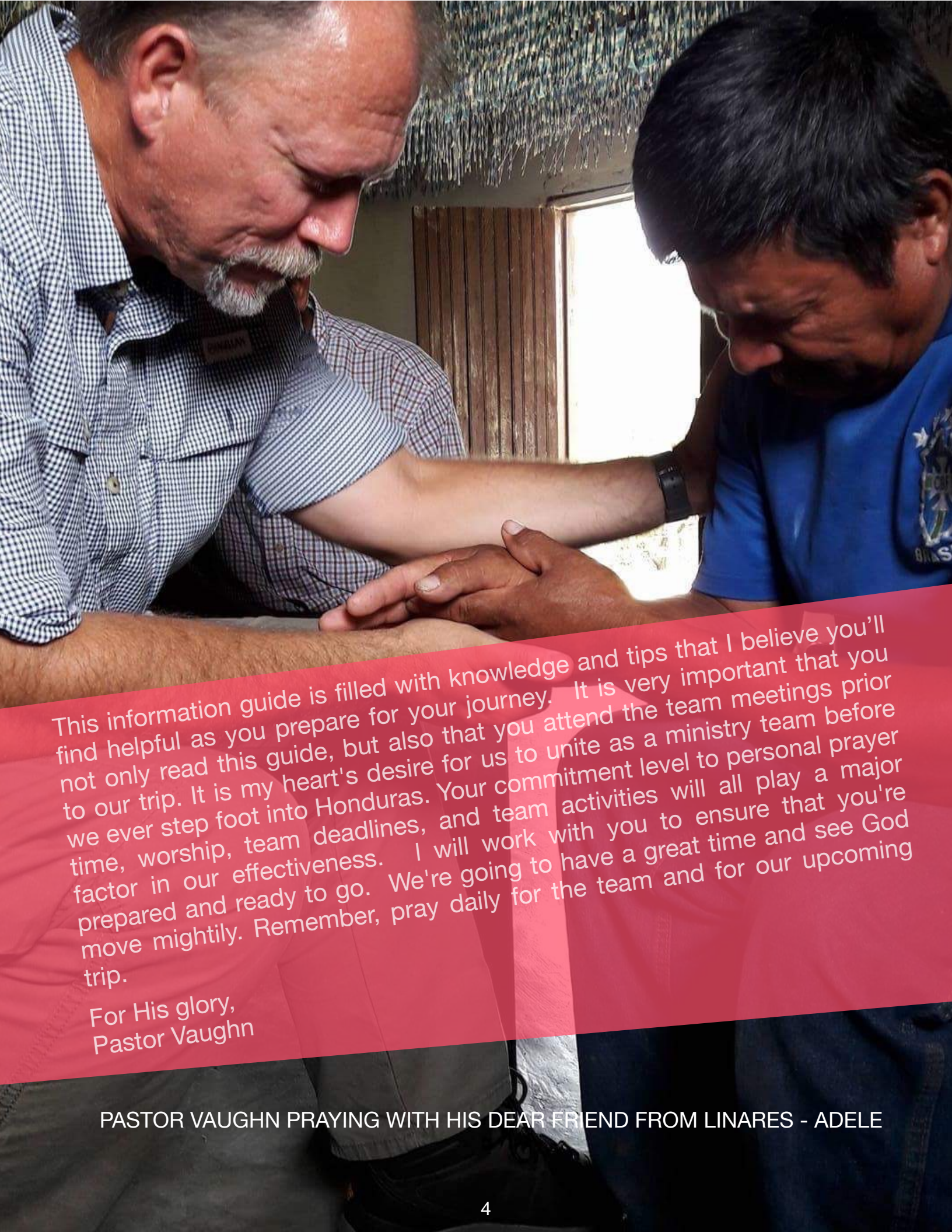


Tilapia Pond #1- Linares (2018)

# You are joining a love story.

As you pack your suitcase, board the plane and eventually step into the village of Linares, you are joining an incredible story of love, care and friendship that started in November 1997. On behalf of the precious people to whom you'll be ministering, thank you.

Thanks for sharing your life.

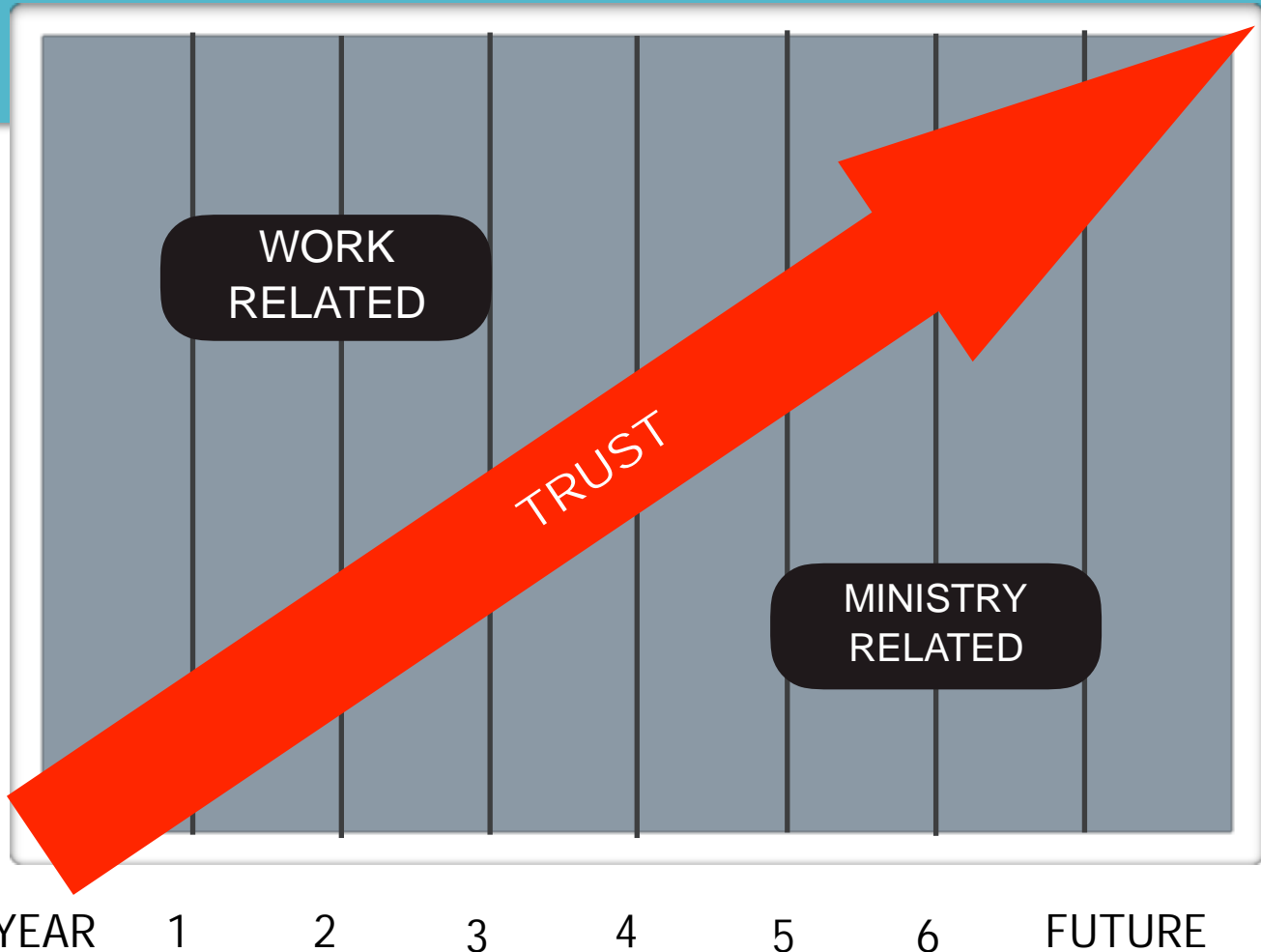


This information guide is filled with knowledge and tips that I believe you'll find helpful as you prepare for your journey. It is very important that you not only read this guide, but also that you attend the team meetings prior to our trip. It is my heart's desire for us to unite as a ministry team before we ever step foot into Honduras. Your commitment level to personal prayer time, worship, team deadlines, and team activities will all play a major factor in our effectiveness. I will work with you to ensure that you're prepared and ready to go. We're going to have a great time and see God move mightily. Remember, pray daily for the team and for our upcoming trip.

For His glory,  
Pastor Vaughn

PASTOR VAUGHN PRAYING WITH HIS DEAR FRIEND FROM LINARES - ADELE

# More than a Program...



We've had the privilege to walk through life with the villagers of Linares since 1997. This little village is in the beautiful mountains of Olancho. Though there have been challenging seasons for them, we've seen God at work and great improvement in their overall spiritual and physical health.

While pouring concrete and building structures has value for the village, we must also ask ourselves these questions:

- *Do we know the names of the families we're serving?*
- *Do we know the specific spiritual needs of these families?*
- *What can we do to strengthen the families of the village in order to hold them together as a strong community where God is exalted?*

Doing construction projects has led to getting to know the villagers, and now we have meaningful and strong friendships, which has fortified lasting change. Short-term mission projects must have a long term commitment to the same place and the same people in order to have strong relationships and make a long term impact.

# A Few Common Questions

## Why short-term missions?

The purpose of short-term missions is to allow the individuals of the Church to be personally involved in the Lord's work throughout the world. Short-term missions is not an end in itself, but a means to personalizing missions for our Church. Through this we develop long-term relationships with ministries in the world, disciple team members, and train long-term career missionaries.

## Can I go on a short-term mission project with The Church of Joy?

Yes, if you are:

- A Christian
- Walking closely and consistently with the Lord
- An active member of a local church
- At least 14 years of age (unless accompanied by a parent)

Note: All mission team members must fill out a "Short-Term Missions Application" and be approved by the Pastoral Staff or Ministerial Staff affiliated with the Church of Joy.

## How do I get involved?

Three to six months prior to the project, an information meeting will be conducted. (If attending The Church of JOY, a member of the Pastoral Staff will schedule the meeting. Look for announcements of these meetings in the weekly bulletin.)



How do I pay for the project/mission trip?

All teams are “Faith” supported:

- You present the need and allow God, by faith, to provide prayer and financial supporters.
- Financial support may be raised through your personal financial resources, team fundraisers, friends and family, and/or other churches. Ask God to direct you.
- The Pastoral team leader will assist you in your efforts to raise support for the project.
- All funds are due prior to the trip.

Where do I begin?

- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY
- Counsel with Pastoral Staff
- Read through this Guide
- Attend Information Meeting
- Apply for a Passport (See Page 10)
- Fill out Applications
- Send out Letters (For Prayer & Financial Supporters)
- Pay Trip Deposit, once airline tickets are purchased (Deposit is Nonrefundable)

## TEAM MEETINGS

**Is it really important for me to attend team meetings?**

- Team meetings draw us closer together as we worship, pray, and study God’s Word. Check weekly bulletin or JOY website for meeting schedule.
- We will discuss & walk through a Bible Study (book provided) prior to the trip
- We will be working on outreach strategies, as well as, discussing the basics of traveling outside the U.S.A.
- Even though you may have been part of a previous team, each team is different and each trip is unique. Meetings mold us into a unified team.

Pastor Vaughn has taken many teams to Honduras for over 20 years. He loves to talk about Honduras and his experiences from his trips. Give him a call. He would love to talk to you and answer any questions about traveling to Honduras.

# A Nation to Love - Honduras



## Modern History

In the early 20th century exports of bananas came to dominate the economy of Honduras. In 1932 General Tiburcio Carias Andino was elected president of Honduras. He made himself a virtual dictator and he held onto power till 1949. General Oswaldo Lopez seized power in Honduras in 1963. Then in 1969 Honduras fought a war with El Salvador. Lopez resigned in 1974 but civilian rule was not restored until 1981. Unfortunately Honduras suffered badly when Hurricane Mitch struck in 1998. However the country slowly recovered. Nevertheless Honduras remains a very poor country.

## Geography

Honduras is the second largest country in Central America, slightly larger than Georgia, and is home to six million people.

People (Population: just over 9 million)

Spanish-Culture: 89.7%

Amerindians: 8.1% Eight people groups whose languages are rapidly disappearing: Lenca, Garifuna (Black Caribbean), Miskito, Chorti, and Sumo.

English Speaking: 1.2% Other: 1% (Arab, Chinese, Armenian, Turk)

Economy \$1= L24.4

The broken terrain and unequal distribution of the land and wealth have hindered development. Insensitive exploration by multinationals and corruption of politicians have also helped to keep Honduras poor. The devastating super-hurricane “Mitch” in 1998 was a major setback with 60% of the country’s infrastructure destroyed. It will take decades for the nation to recover. The average rural family income is only \$1017 per year. (\$84.75 per month. Minimum wage is under \$4 a day.)



## Early History

For thousands of years indigenous peoples lived in Honduras. The greatest of them were the Mayans. However the first European to reach Honduras was Christopher Columbus on 30 July 1502. Columbus later sailed as far south as Panama. The area became known as Honduras from the Spanish word for



depths. The Spanish conquest of Honduras began in 1523. The native people resisted bitterly but by 1539 the Spanish were in control. The native people were forced to work for the Spanish but their numbers fell drastically partly due to European diseases to which they had no resistance such as smallpox. In the early 19th century the Spanish colonies in central and South America gained their independence. Honduras became independent from Spain in 1821 but in 1822 it was joined with Mexico and 4 other nations, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. However the 5 central American nations broke away from Mexico in 1823. Honduras finally became completely independent in 1839.

## Religion

The Roman Catholic church is officially recognized, but there is separation of Church and State with religious freedom. Since the 70's, many North American Denominations have focused many of their ministry efforts in Honduras. Presently there are about 69 missionary agencies working in Honduras. Most of these efforts lie within urban areas leaving approximately 2-3 million people without any help or hope.

## A Desire to Grow

The bulk of the population of Honduras lives a generally isolated existence in the mountainous interior, a fact that may help to explain the rather insular policy of the country in relation to Latin and Central American affairs. Honduras, like its neighbors in the region, is a developing nation whose citizens are presented with innumerable economic and social challenges, a situation that is complicated by rough topography and the occasional violence of tropical weather patterns, including the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

# PASSPORT INFORMATION



A valid passport is required for travel to Honduras. (Expiration date must be at least six months after your return flight to the U.S.) Passport applications and information may be obtained at the Clerk of Court's office, some U.S. Post Offices or online:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

You will need the following items:

1. Certified copy of your birth certificate
2. Expired passport (if applicable)
3. Two passport photos (can be obtained at RiteAid or Walgreens)
4. Current drivers license with photo and other citizenship evidence
5. Fees - Age 16 & over: \$135    Renewal: \$110    Under 16: \$105

Allow three to four weeks for processing your application. If you are in a hurry, you can pay \$60 Expedite fee and \$15.89 Overnight fee. A VISA is not required for U.S. citizens.

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

Travel to Honduras has some health concerns that you need to be aware of. The CDC and World Health (WHO) recommends some vaccines for our area:

- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A

Dengue and Zika are present in Honduras. Use of Mosquito repellents is recommended. Further preventive measures will be discussed at team meetings and during the trip.

Prescriptions must be in an original medicine container with YOUR name on it. Prescription on container must not be expired. Do not carry any other pills in unmarked bottles. Pills must match container. Over the counter medication must be in original packaging. (Don't forget your meds...the nearest medical care comparable to U.S. standards is in Tegucigalpa, and it is very expensive.)

Please advise Pastor Vaughn of ANY allergies or if diabetic prior to trip.

# Financial Contribution Info

When asking for contributions for your trip, please note that in order for the funds to be tax deductible there are a few guidelines that must be adhered to in accordance with the tax code.

**All contributions to The Church of Joy are non-refundable.** To be tax deductible you must:

- Make checks and/or money order payable to The Church of Joy
- DO NOT write the project or individual's name on the check (including the memo line). Attach a note stating which project and/or individual the check is for.

The Internal Revenue Service prohibits the Church from giving tax credit for donations designated to individuals.

To insure that the funds are credited appropriately, please place checks or cash in an envelope with your name and trip printed on the front. You may place these in the regular tithe boxes or turn them into the Church office.

## **The Church of Joy Team Members:**

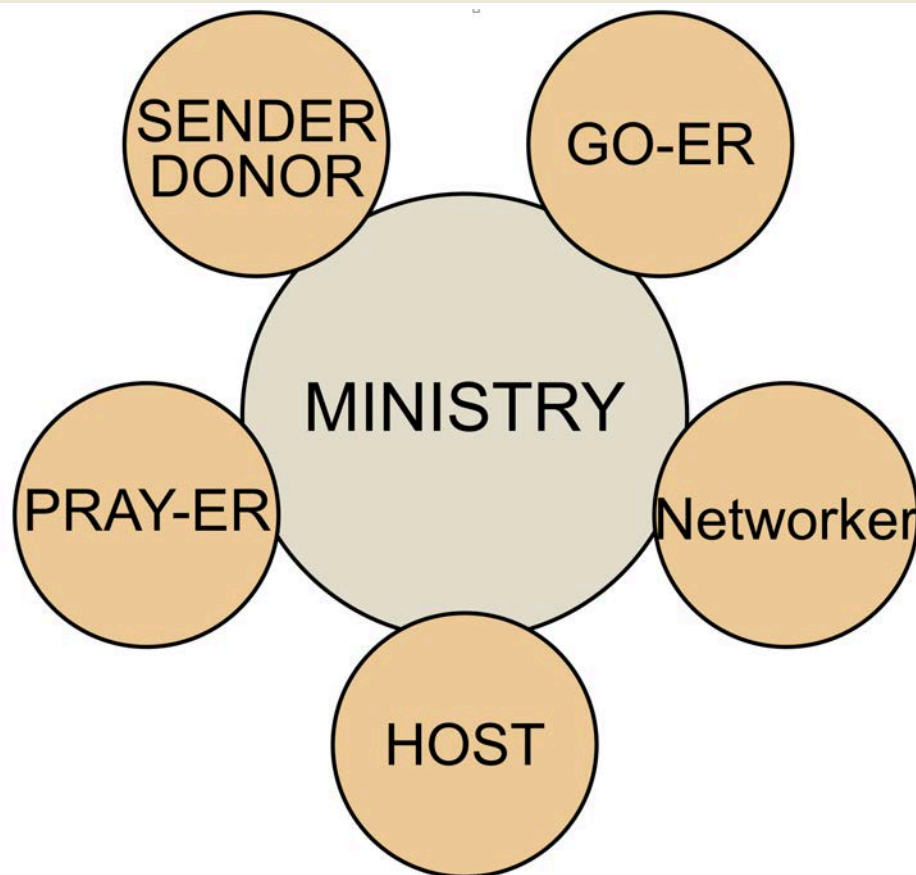
You will receive monthly reports showing contributions made toward your trip and balance due.

## **Affiliated Groups:**

For groups outside of The Church of Joy, the group leader will maintain appropriate records and send a consolidated payment to The Church of Joy.

# Building Your Support Team





## THE TEAM

Each individual team member is responsible for developing his or her own support team of sender/donors & prayer partners. Ministry work in Honduras has been effective and expanded because of the combined work of many doing their part. The idea of building a “support team” is to involve as many people in the mission experience as possible.

Your Team:

- Is a ministry through you (Your Team=goers+senders+prayer partners)
- Is a means by which others can share in the blessing of connecting with others (Phil. 4:17)
- Is a Biblical approach (2 Cor. 8:3-5)
- Is a means by which others invest into eternal things.

You should seek people that you want on your team, not just those who you think will give you money. Your prayer partners are just as vital.

For information on raising funds and writing support letters, ask Pastor Vaughn for the “Raising Funds” information hand out. You will find it very helpful.

# Wisdom, Rules & Guidelines

(Composed through the years: Wisdom, Rules & Guidelines from Pastor V and from many others.)

While in Honduras, we will be working independently of other organizations. In the past we have worked through other organizations in Honduras and have established many dear friendships and great working relationships. Since we will be based out of a small ministry compound in Gualaco for this trip, it is very important to follow a few rules to ensure everyone's safety and security. These guidelines are extremely important.

1. When you have questions or concerns, please go to Pastor V or Honduran Team Leader. They are there to help!
2. Safety is the number one concern. Please try to avoid situations where someone could be seriously injured or at risk.
3. Sit down inside the beds of trucks. No one is allowed to sit on the sides.
4. Never leave the immediate hotel or ministry area alone.
5. Only designated persons are allowed to operate the vehicles.
6. If you touch any animals, be sure to wash well.
7. Eat fruit only if it has a thick peel. It is the water used for washing that causes illness, not the produce itself. If you somehow have ice in a glass - avoid it, except at the hotel and approved restaurants.
8. If you are sick (even slightly) or hurt (even if it is a small scratch) tell Pastor V.
9. Be considerate of those who wish to go to sleep early or those who wish to sleep late.
10. Keep rooms and team areas clean and neat. Do not leave open food in the room since it will attract bugs, LOTS of THEM.
11. Dress modestly. While away from the hotel, wear long pants, skirts or dresses. Tank tops are not allowed. Sandals are not recommended in the village. (Close toed shoes and socks are recommended at all times when you are away from the compound (to protect from ticks, chiggers, and other hazards).
12. Do not give too much candy or rich food to the children. It can (will) make them sick.

13. If a tool gets broken, please let someone know so it can be replaced for the next day's work. When leaving a work site for the day, please be sure the tools are stored in a safe place, and don't forget to help collect them all when leaving the ministry area for the last time.
14. Alcohol and smoking are not permitted during the trip.
15. Turn off all lights and fans when everyone leaves the compound rooms. Also, be sure to lock the door of your room.
16. When traveling around the city, make sure you travel in groups. Never lay a purse, bag, or any item down. Always hand it to a team member to hold.
17. Your security is one of Pastor V's top priorities. Please cooperate and follow directions promptly.
18. When visiting the local villages, women are reminded to wear jeans, long pants, or skirts. Men need to wear long pants or jeans. Do not take any military clothes, especially camouflage. Shorts are acceptable around the compound only. Group members are asked to refrain from wearing any tank-top style tops, however sleeveless shirts are fine. We ask you to dress modestly and remember that you are representing Christ and respecting cultural differences (and not just working on your tan).
19. It is a good idea to have travel tissue and wet wipe packs easily accessible. We will stop on the way from the airport and purchase a couple of bottles of water each. Fill these each day from the assigned water tank and take them to the village.
20. Please leave valuable jewelry at home. Small earrings and watches are fine.
21. It is a good idea to tape closed any bottles you are carrying. You may also want to place each item in a zip lock storage bag. This can save your clothes from a mess during travel.
22. You may want to bring along Kool-Aid mix or something like that. Water can get pretty bland and boring.

# More Wisdom, Rules & Guidelines

23. Remember to pack your carry-on bag with care. You may be living out of it for a week! This is rare, but it has happened. If you do put your carry-on in the luggage truck, please take everything of importance out and keep these items with you (this is especially important for medicines, money, plane tickets, and passports). Also, please put small carry-on bags toward the bottom of the luggage pile, they can be more easily grabbed and stolen right off the truck.
24. Travel to and from Honduras can seem like two of the longest days of your life. Bring an iPod or mp3 player and plenty of worship music. Eventually the day will end, and we will make it to our destination.
25. Never pass a bathroom! The next one (if there is a next one) could be worse.
26. You should always take wet wipes or hand sanitizers, some tissue, water and enough Lempira (Honduran currency) to buy a drink whenever you go somewhere. You may end up going farther than you think, staying longer than you expected and make several extra stops along the way.
27. It takes forever to load all group members into vehicles. Sometimes, it can really seem like an eternity. Then someone has usually forgotten something, so they have to get back out to get it. They are invariably the ones in the back of the bus or van. And then, just when you think you are about to move off like a herd of turtles, the driver has disappeared. Don't be alarmed, this happens all the time. It is a good time to work on your patience or to meditate on the Word. A small consolation is the fact that it will take just as long to get out, so there is no need to get all wound up two times. Just relax, you are truly not in a hurry.
28. No matter where you are going or how many people are piled into the car, there will usually be someone in the vehicle you do not know. They may be only along for a lift or may just have been bored and wanted to go somewhere. Please talk to them and get to know them. The Hondurans are very forgiving with gringo-butchered Spanish, and they usually love to chat.



29. Think of how to serve your fellow team members. Tension seems to breed throughout the week. Keep your focus on Christ and allow His attitude of compassion to flow in and through you.
30. One of the most important things to make sure you maintain throughout the week is to BE FLEXIBLE and FLUID! There is a lot more going on in the trip than you would ever believe. God is at work...
31. It is advisable to keep one “emergency” bottle of water full at all times, just in case you find yourself out. Never drink or brush your teeth with any water from a tap or faucet.
32. Inevitably, people ask for things. It is hard to do, but we ask you refrain from giving things to individuals. Please, especially if they ask, but refrain. We all know it is very difficult to refuse someone in that situation, especially since it usually seems to be something that is simple for us to do. Remember that it will be better in the long run. Also know, the chances are if they’ve approached you, they have already asked or will ask someone else as well. If you feel like you must do something, trade for something, donate to the village program or ask the Pastor V what would be the most beneficial thing to do.
33. You can buy bottled water at more stores in Honduras. You do not need to pack any water for your trip.
34. Limit your purse to about \$50.00 for souvenirs. The more you bring, the more you spend. You can always buy more souvenirs on your next trip.
35. Take a lot of photos of the people you meet! You’ll always remember them and your time with them.
36. Spend as much time as you can with the children. So many team members get too focused on the work and miss out on the love.
37. Pack a few pictures of you and your family.
38. Please be respectful of cultural differences and see that you do your part to continue great relations with our Honduran friends.
39. Your turn—during or after your trip, add to the list of Wisdom, Rules, & Guidelines...

# TRAVEL DAY

Travel to Honduras can be an adventure! The whole travel day from meeting at JOY, driving to the airport, going through check-in and security, gate waiting, departing from Atlanta, arriving in Honduras, processing through immigration, playing the baggage find game, clearing customs, loading up, strapping down, piling in, then traffic (arghhhh), road trip, road trip, road trip... then, finally arriving in Gualaco. This all can be a bit physically and mentally exhausting. Pastor V has done this many, many times and has made it and you can too... it will be worth it! The main thing is, be flexible. (On travel days, team members have an assigned buddy to help one another. We will talk all about this at team meetings.)

## Departure

You will be briefed multiple times about check-in, TSA security and important things to know many times before and during the trip. Don't get in a hurry. Stop, think, ask. The main thing to remember on travel days - keep track of your passport. Keep it safe and secure at all times. You will need easy access to it throughout the airport departure and arrival part of the trip. Pastor V will constantly talk about keeping it safe and secure. He will not let you forget. Carry a pen with you on the flight, and have your passport readily available for filling out the immigration/custom form. From the moment you arrive at the airport in Atlanta to the moment you leave the airport in Honduras, you will need your passport about nine times. Keep it safe, secure and handy. You will be allowed one carry on, a personal bag, and a checked bag. Your maximum checked bag weight is 50lbs. Certain carry-on items are prohibited. We will talk about this in our team meetings.

## Arrival

When we arrive in Honduras make sure that you and your travel partner have collected all personal belongings from around your seats. Once you disembark the aircraft, you will not be allowed back on for security reasons. We will then proceed to immigration and customs. Lines are long, be patient. Present passport, immigration form (filled out on flight) and paper that says where we are going. Be polite; this is your first field of harvest. They may ask for your finger prints and even take a photo. Once finished, they will stamp your passport and may staple a paper to your passport. **DO NOT REMOVE THAT PAPER. THIS IS YOUR TRAVEL VISA.** If you remove it, you will pay \$75 to leave the country.

Once you finish at immigration, secure your passport on your body and proceed to baggage claim. Pastor V will instruct you from there. Keep an eye on each other's belongings.

\*Luggage at airports: We load, unload & carry our own bags. NO BAG PORTERS

# DAILY SCHEDULE

## Saturday (Travel Day)

- Meet at JOY, load up, travel to airport
- Depart Atlanta for Honduras (San Pedro Sula or Tegucigalpa)
- Arrive in Honduras
- Immigration, customs, load up, drive to hotel in Juticalpa or drive all the way to Gualaco (depends on weather, traffic, delays at airport)
- Check in hotel or settle in at compound, eat supper, team devotional & debrief

## Sunday

- If in Juticalpa hotel: Eat breakfast, brief and pray, load up, drive to Gualaco
- If in Gualaco (compound): Eat breakfast, devotion and pray, load up, head to village
- We will enjoy this day catching up and attending their morning worship service
- Lunch back in Gualaco
- We may go back to Linares, each trip is different...
- Evening after supper, team devotion and prayer time.
- Brief for next day

## Monday-Thursday

- 6:30-7:30 Breakfast
- 7:45 Morning Team Meeting (devotion, prayer)
- 8:15ish - Depart for village
- Noon - load up, lunch in Gualaco
- Back to villa after lunch
- Clean up and depart village daily by 5pm-ish
- Supper and team debrief (shine time)

## Friday (Travel Day)

- 7am Breakfast
- 8am Team meeting  
-schedule varies
- Leave Gualaco by noon
- Lunch at Mininote Restaurant
- Arrive in Tegucigalpa (hotel) -
- Supper at hotel
- Debrief on roof veranda

## Saturday (Travel Day)

- Breakfast
  - Load up, head to airport
  - Depart Honduras
  - Arrive Atlanta
- (Let Pastor V know if someone is picking you up at the airport)*

# PACKING TIPS

- About \$50-100 for souvenirs and snacks
- Wash cloth, if desired (towels & linen are provided)
- Flip-Flops (shower shoes)
- Pocket-size tissues
- Wet wipes, anti-bacterial gel
- Snack food (if not adventurous)
- Phone charger, camera charger, extra batteries
- Small flashlight
- Sunscreen and sunglasses (hat - if like Pastor V)
- Insect repellent
- Personal toiletry items (nearest Walmart is Miami) Put in a plastic bag to prevent from leaking in to suitcase
- Work clothes, as well as clothes for relaxing (remember dress code). You can pay the ladies at the compound to wash your clothes, line dried.
- Socks, pj's, underwear
- Work gloves, knee pads, hat, bandana
- Bathing suit for swimming at hotel and a surprise place
- Poncho, raincoat, or small umbrella (you'll wish you had one)
- Small backpack for days in village
- Bible, journal, pens, Spanish/English Dictionary
- Work boots / tennis shoes /hiking boots (to wear in village each day)
- Clothes for Church (a skirt or khakis are adequate)
- A few clothes hangers
- Ear plugs (snorers go on mission trips, too)
- Some plastic grocery style bags for dirty clothes and what nots
- Don't forget your personal medical kit: Prescription Meds with your name on the bottle. (Meds for diarrhea - over the counter brands are fine, antacids, analgesics, calamine lotion for bugs bites, allergy meds, etc. NOTE: keep all meds in original plaster packs/bottles with brand name.)







Maritsa  
and  
Jonathan Eric...



As you prepare for this trip, remember that God has called you to go and has equipped you to be His ambassador. He will be faithful in all your needs. You will make new friends, grow stronger in the ones you have, and you will be greatly blessed as you pour your life into the lives of many others.

In the story,  
Pastor Vaughn



LOVING LINARES  
AMANDO A LINARES

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