

# PROMISE HOME ORPHANAGE



# MISSION TRIP HANDBOOK

# PROMISE HOME TEAM HANDBOOK

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## VISION

The vision for Promise Home Orphanage was conceived by Bill Hayden in the mountains of Nicaragua while visiting an orphanage.

Feeling an overwhelming prompting, Bill quietly separated from the larger group. He began to pray, "God, whatever you want me to do. Wherever you want me to go, I am willing."

God answered that prayer with the vision to build an orphanage in Honduras. Bill has been obedient to follow God where He leads—even to a nation where formal schooling ends at fifth grade; and where most children do not survive to become teenagers, as many die from malnutrition, starvation, sickness, and drugs.

***The vision is to save the children who have been abused and abandoned. We will exhaust all means at our disposal to save as many children as possible.***

We will begin with a few children at Promise Home in Honduras, but the effects are exponential. As these children grow into young adults, they will have the opportunity to attend college or get a job. We are providing a foundation so that these children can break the cycle of poverty within their families, their local villages and their country.

Promise Home will provide a family for children who have never experienced one. Love, education, nutritional sustenance and life-long direction will be liberally provided. Each child will know exactly what it means to feel the love of Christ in a family setting. Each child will receive a quality education, and the ability to attend college. Children will receive vocational training so they may plug back into their local community.

Initially relying on donations, Promise Home will become self-sustaining through agricultural and fish programs, and a hydro-electrical plant supplying a portion of its power. These programs will enable the young adults to eventually be employed by Promise Home or to start their own businesses.

Our vision is that Promise Home Orphanage will become a cause.

- A cause in which many people would feel compelled to come alongside and participate in helping humanity.
- A cause that would inspire short-term sacrifice for a long-term, greater good.
- A cause with the vision of life-change for children which in turn changes the world

## INTRODUCTION

Honduras is a democratic republic of 7.7 million people located in Central America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Guatemala and Nicaragua. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere where over 50% of the people live below the poverty line. Poverty, violence, and broken families are the norm in Honduras. Children that live in the streets dig through trash, beg, and become involved in drugs and other illegal activities just to survive. These children usually cannot afford to go to school. We want to show these children the love of Christ and help them to become productive citizens and eventually leaders in their communities.

All mission teams fly into San Pedro Sula, Honduras to Ramon Villeda Morales International Airport (SAP). Promise Home is located in the village of El Portillo about 1 hour east of San Pedro Sula in between El Progreso and Tela.

You are about to experience one of the most rewarding events in your lifetime. You will be part of something that will change the lives of the people of Honduras, as well as your own. This will take spiritual and physical preparation on your part. The following information will help make your trip successful.

Serving on a short term mission trip can be physical and mentally demanding due to the long hours and tropical climate. Due to these factors we ask that you are in good health and over the age of sixteen. Those under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We ask that you respect the policies and rules as well as the culture of the people you come in contact with. Seek God's guidance and wisdom as you begin preparing for this trip. Make prayer an integral part of your planning and preparation.

Once you arrive in Honduras, allow God to work through you for His glory. When you return home you will be a changed person and better equipped to minister to those in your local community. In fact, some of you may begin to feel God calling you further into mission work – maybe in Honduras or elsewhere.

It's possible that you do not feel comfortable asking people for money. You may want to pay for the trip on your own. However, the entire fundraising experience is easy and encouraging. You will learn in a very real and tangible way that God provides for His people! And it takes other people to make that happen. You cannot do it all on your own. Each person going on the trip will be encouraged to ask friends and family to give financially for your trip.

Donations given towards a specific individual are non-refundable and are not tax deductible. Donations given directly to Promise Home Orphanage are considered charitable contributions.

Thank you for your commitment to serving God with Promise Home Orphanage in Honduras.

If you have any questions regarding this team handbook or would like more information about Promise Home Orphanage please email [info@promisehome.org](mailto:info@promisehome.org).

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

### **I.OF THE SCRIPTURES:**

The Bible is divinely inspired from God. It is a perfect book that is able to guide us into all truth.

### **II.OF THE TRUE GOD:**

We believe there is but one God. The God of the Bible, Yaweh. He is represented throughout the scriptures via the Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

### **III.OF THE FALL OF MAN:**

We believe that man was created good. However, by virtue of Adam's choice to sin, all mankind have been corrupted and are now sinners by nature. Apart from Christ, mankind is without hope.

### **IV.OF THE WAY OF SALVATION:**

We believe that salvation is in Jesus Christ alone. We believe every sinner must repent and place their faith in God's grace to save them.

## COSTS

Typical Vacation Bible School, Sports Camp and Construction trips cost \$1475 per person.

Trip costs include the following:

- Airfare to be arranged by your team leader (originating from DFW, price may vary from other airports)
- Travel insurance (recommended and arranged by your team captain)
- Hotel while in Honduras
- All meals while in Honduras (excluding meals on travel days)
- Transportation while in Honduras
- Fun day activity
- Exit fee when leaving Honduras

Once travel tickets have been purchased the airlines have a non-refundable policy on all group purchases with the following exception - political or safety problems in the country of destination in which the United States has issued a travel advisory against going to that country. Most airlines will allow minor changes to correct a misspelled name on a ticket 48 hours prior to departure. Please contact your team leader immediately if any changes are necessary.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a new mandate in the fall of 2009 which require the passengers name on the issued ticket to **EXACTLY** match the Passport. In addition, the nationality of the passenger (country issuing the passport), the gender and birth date will be required for all tickets being issued.

**Project Funding:** Teams are responsible for funding the project or ministry activity while in Honduras. The project costs will vary by size and scope of the activity.

**Personal Expenses:** Please use discretion in the amount of cash you carry. All trip expenses are covered throughout the week. Personal expenses would include snacks & drinks while in Honduras, souvenirs and restaurant meals.

## PASSPORTS & VACCINATIONS

### Passports:

You must have a current passport. New passports cost around \$100 and take a several weeks to receive. Be sure to get the application process started immediately to avoid expediting charges.

Passport details are available online at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>

**\*\*\* PASSPORTS MUST BE VALID FOR 6 MONTHS AFTER DEPARTURE DATE \*\*\***

If you need an original birth certificate check your local agency or try [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com)

### Vaccinations:

Immunizations are recommended for travel into Central America. Details are available online at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/honduras.aspx>

**Hepatitis A** - {2 doses} Protection assumed 4 weeks after 1st dose however a 2nd dose is recommended 6-12 months after the 1st dose.

**Hepatitis B** - {3 doses} Vaccine series is recommended for those exposed to blood and body fluids. The 1st dose is followed by the 2nd dose 6 weeks later. The 3rd dose is administered 6 months after the 2nd dose.

**Typhoid** - {1 dose} This vaccination is good for 2 years and must be administered at least 2 weeks before you leave. An oral form of this vaccine is available but multiple doses must be completed 1 week prior to departure.

**Measles** - {1 booster if needed} If born before 1957, you are considered non-susceptible. Most born after 1957 have had 1 measles vaccine and therefore should have 1 booster vaccine administered unless you know for certain you have had Measles before. If you have already had the 2nd booster you do not need another.

**Tetanus-Diphtheria** - {1 booster if needed} This immunization is considered good for 10 years. If you cannot confirm your last tetanus-diphtheria vaccine was less than 10 years ago, you will need the booster.

**Other** - Oral anti-malaria prescriptions can be obtained from your primary physicians.

Check with your health care & insurance provider to see if the immunizations are covered or available. If not, check your county health department or a travel health company.

<http://dentoncounty.com/dept/main.asp?Dept=33>

[http://www.co.collin.tx.us/healthcare\\_services/immunization.jsp](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/healthcare_services/immunization.jsp)

<http://passporthealthtexas.com/>

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Your team leader will be managing your entire team's tickets, passport copies and applications.

Plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before the set departure time.

- Bring your itinerary and passport
- Be sure your luggage has your name and address
- Mark your luggage with a bright colored tag for all checked baggage
- Check luggage to final destination
- Keep your luggage claim ticket in case there are any problems upon arrival

Upon your arrival in Honduras each person will go through Immigration one at a time. You will need to show your passport and turn in your tourist/visitor form. Immigration will keep a copy of each and return one along with your passport. **Be sure to keep this copy with your passport and don't lose it. It must be turned in upon departing from Honduras.**

After clearing Immigration you will go to the baggage claim area and claim your baggage. Allow ample time for all baggage to come in before reporting it missing.

- It is a good idea to assign one or two people to wait in one place to collect the checked bags
- Once all luggage is located the group will go through the customs/inspection line together
- Keep all claim tickets until everyone on the team has confirmed they have their luggage
- If you are missing any luggage your team leader will assist you in the recovery process

When departing Honduras follow the same procedure as above. When arriving in the US you will have to claim your luggage and carry it through customs. This will take place at the first airport in the US (Houston, Miami, etc.) Once you have cleared customs you will drop your luggage off at the airline check station, usually immediately after you pass through customs.

When traveling, the unexpected can happen. Even though you have prayed for protection do not take unnecessary risks by exposing yourself to danger. Listen to your team leaders and take their suggestions. Never wander off alone or without permission from mission team representatives. If you encounter anyone negatively, be smart about it. Do not fight and always surrender valuables. Remember nothing is more important than human life. Be prepared for any contingencies that may be necessary. Be flexible and understand you cannot always be in control of what happens!

## CLIMATE & DRESS CODE

Honduras is hot and humid! The climate is tropical, around 100 degrees during the summer months and 80-95 degrees during the winter months.

Remember, you are in a more modest culture, viewed as missionaries and Christians. Please be sure that your clothing and appearance reflects this.

### Women:

- Wear pants or shorts to ministry activities.
- No spaghetti strap shirts.
- No tank tops during ministry activities.
- No questionable clothing (low neck lines, tight clothes, shirts that show midriff, short shorts or skirts).
- Full back underwear recommended
- Shorts must be slightly above the knee. No tight shorts.
- Bring a nice set of clothes for church services (no shorts). Some church services will not be air conditioned so please dress with light & appropriate clothing.
- Minimize or don't wear any jewelry

### Men:

- No cut-off t-shirts or tank tops during ministry activities.
- Wear pants or shorts & a presentable shirt for ministry activities.
- Bring a nice set of clothes for church services (no shorts). Some church services will not be air conditioned so please dress with light & appropriate clothing.
- Minimize or don't wear any jewelry

## PACKING LIST

Before packing, please make sure you adhere to the airline requirements: Each bag may be a maximum of 50 lbs and 62 linear inches (total length + width + height)

- Tag luggage with name and address in the event they are lost.
- Bring clothes that are cool, light and require little maintenance.
- No camouflage clothing.
- Pack enough clothes to last the entire trip. Washer and dryer are not provided.
- It's not a bad idea to pack your clothes in a water proof bag.
- Bring shoes that can be worn every day. Make sure they are durable, comfortable and cool. It is recommended to bring 2 pairs of shoes. Bring extra socks!
- Bring flip flops or shower shoes.
- If possible, avoid bringing hair dryers, curling irons, clothes irons and other large items. It not only takes up space, but adds to the weight of your suitcase. Power requirements for Honduras use the same voltage and plug types as those in the United States.
- It is a good idea to use a back pack instead of a purse. A purse is easier to misplace or for someone to pick up.
- Bible
- Notebook or journal
- English/Spanish dictionary
- Reusable water/drinking bottle to be used throughout the week
- Hats and sunglasses are recommended
- Flashlight
- Travel alarm clock or watch with an alarm
- Pack hand sanitizer, wet wipes & sunscreen
- Pack mosquito repellent. Avon Skin So Soft works best or any high deet repellent.
- Mosquito net (not always needed, depends on hotel/home and time of year)
- Prescribed medicine as well as your own for head & muscle aches etc...
- Bite and anti-itch medicine
- Get a prescription for traveler's diarrhea (better safe than sorry)
- If you are packing snacks, pack them in a Ziploc bag. This will help guard against the humidity and insects.
- Bring a camera and extra batteries/memory cards as you will want to document your trip and share with friends and family.
- A poncho or rain jacket. (It rains sporadically throughout the day)
- Wash cloth
- Toilet paper
- Bring your regular toiletries and 2 toothbrushes (use bottled water for brushing teeth)
- 2 packs of powder Gatorade

## RULES & POLICIES

- No alcohol or tobacco of any type may be consumed throughout the entire trip
- Do not give personal gifts, money, etc. to any of the Honduran people. All giving is done through structured programs and not on an individual basis.
- Keep valuables secured in your room.
- Do not leave cameras or other valuables misplaced during ministry activities.
- Always travel in groups of 3 or 4. Never wander off from the group alone, especially females.
- No one is to leave the property without permission of the team leader.
- No one is to leave the school or sports camp without permission of the team leader.
- Men are not allowed in females rooms; Females are not allowed in men's rooms.
- Be considerate of others in the hotel/home especially those that want to sleep.
- Cell phones are available for emergency use.
- Everyone is expected to be present for all devotions, meals and scheduled activities unless otherwise excused by your team leader.
- Everyone is to make your bed daily, and pick up items off the floor every morning.
- Do not drink water from faucets/spigots, use **ONLY** bottled water.
- Do not use the water from the faucets/spigots to brush your teeth, use **ONLY** bottled water.
- Report all illness, diarrhea, accidents, etc. to team leader.
- Keep personal items in rooms and not scattered throughout. Specifically, in your suitcases or under your bed.
- Keep your suitcase closed when you are not using it, this will prevent any insects from crawling in while you are away.
- Air conditioning and fans will run at night only. All air conditioning and fans should be turned off during the day.
- Modest conduct is expected for married and dating couples.