

Visionary Trips

“Lift up your eyes and look”

Information regarding
your upcoming trip to Honduras

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Please feel free to use any text or photos in this packet and to make any number of reproductions needed for your church group.



I want to invite you to come along with me and my staff on one of our Visionary Trip to the country of Honduras.

The people, like the man pictured above, are friendly and courteous. Hondurans love Americans and enjoy our company. They are thrilled to see us in their villages and love to giggle at us when we “try” to speak their language. Their smiles are abundant, their food is delicious, their land is beautiful and their hearts warm to welcome you. It is a safe country and only a three hour flight from Miami, Houston or Atlanta.

Honduras has everything from deserts to rain forests and from lush green mountains to white, sandy beaches. But most of all it is filled with over seven million souls who need to hear the Gospel and are open and eager to hearing it from you.

Whether you are a teenager or a senior citizen, I invite you to come spend eight days with me on a trip that will change your life forever.

Why take a Visionary Trip:

Imagine visiting in homes like this one:

- The entire family lives in one room
- There is no bathroom, no kitchen, no bedroom.
- There is no bed, only one old plastic chair and a few plastic plates and metal pans for cooking.
- There is no heating, no electricity, no running water, no ceiling and only a dirt floor.
- The roof is made of grass or plastic sheets so when it rains the floor floods and they have to sit all night in the one chair or on top of an old wooden box.
- The family must bathe in the nearby river or stream.
- They carry drinking water home in an old paint can or discarded pesticide container.
- They wash their clothes by hand on the rocks in the river.
- The mother cooks outside on top of rocks so that their "house" does not fill with smoke.
- They eat only one meal a day which consists of rice and sometimes some beans.
- They have no salt, no tortillas, no meat and no vegetables.
- The father works on a farm and earns only \$20-\$40 a month. The mother washes clothes for others and earns about \$4-\$10 a month.
- By the age of twelve their sons will be working full time, though they started part time work at the age of eight. They are no longer in school.
- By the age of thirteen their daughters may well be pregnant and renewing the cycle of poverty. They too are no longer in school.
- They have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Visionary Trips are a ministry of the Final Frontiers Foundation and our children's ministry partner, Touch A Life. Our trips are designed to change lives - not just the lives of the preachers and children you will meet, like those described above - but your life as well.

We all need a spiritual boost from time to time to shock us back into the reality of why Christ saved us and what He wants us to do for Him. Our Visionary Trips are just what the doctor ordered, whether in Honduras, India, Thailand or any of the other 80+ countries where we serve. You will meet dedicated servants of God and have a chance to give them hands-on help for a week. Each trip will be unique to your group, your country of choice and your spiritual needs.

We do not ask you to bring a hammer because we really don't want you stuck in one spot for a week staring at bricks and nails. We want you walking through the village streets, giving out food bags to poor families, playing with the children, talking to their moms and dads (with interpreters of course), helping out in the feeding centers, passing out tracts and giving testimonies at night in church services. You may even be privileged to help us start a new church in a village that does not have one.

In short, we want you to have a chance to serve as you never have before. Service that will change your life forever. Service that will give you that spiritual boost you are looking for.

On the following pages we have printed the material we feel you will need to prepare for your trip. After you have made your decision and settled on a date, please contact us so that we can reserve your dates and begin to make the arrangements for you.

Jon Nelms 800-522-4324 ext.110 or jnelms@finalfrontiers.org

Guidelines for your Visionary trip to Honduras

Weather:

The climate will be mostly warm to hot during the daytime but the evenings can be cool, especially in the mountains. It is recommended that you bring a light jacket or sweater only. It will rain!

Accommodations:

- Whenever possible we try to put two-four people to a room. Whenever possible couples stay together, other times, it's men in one room and women in another, depending on the arrangements made and approved by your group in advance.
- The rooms are safe, clean and air conditioned and have a private bathroom and ceiling fan and unlimited hot water. It is recommended however that you do not leave valuables in your room..
- We provide all sheets, blankets, pillows, bath towels and wash cloths. If you want to bring your own and leave them behind for our future use, that will be appreciated.
- Our rooms are designed for your comfort. We even have a covered patio between the two dorms where you can "hang out" in the evenings and enjoy a cup of freshly brewed Honduran coffee



Clothing:

- There is no need for formal clothing such as suits. You can dress casually and comfortably. We do provide a laundry service for a small charge, but it is recommended that you bring enough clothing for the week so that you do not need to incur that extra expense.
- If you are a preacher you may want to bring a tie for when you are preaching but that is entirely up to you. Some local pastors wear ties, others do not. Either way you will not offend.
- Ladies can wear slacks if you like. More and more the women of Honduras are wearing jeans so it should not be a problem. If you have a casual dress for church on Sunday it would be best. Try not to “dress up” too much as you will be among very poor people. However, do be aware that our staff will dress according to your church’s standards.
- Avoid a lot of jewelry as it attracts thieves and emphasizes your wealth and their poverty.
- Wear comfortable, casual shoes or tennis shoes, as we will be doing a lot of walking.
- Be modest in your clothing. If not, we will have to revoke your participation with the group. No halter tops, mini skirts, etc. If you plan to swim be sure to have modest swimming clothes such as cut off jeans. Have your apparel approved by your group leader.
- You will be riding mules or horses unless you choose to opt out of that day trip, so wear comfortable, appropriate clothing.
- If you are prone to sunburn, bring a cap and definitely bring sun block and be sure to bring insect repellent and a water proof poncho or a light rain coat. We virtually guarantee rain.

Life style:

- Of course there is no smoking, drinking, cursing, or rude or vulgar behavior.
- Men and teenage boys should be very careful not to touch the young girls and ladies in any unusual manner.
- Remember that you will be representing not only your church and our ministry, but Christ Himself.

In General:

- If you are not an experienced traveler, then let me say this. In third world nations you primarily hurry up and wait. Try to be patient. Remember, you are a guest in *their* nation and a stranger to *their* culture. They are very friendly and generally love Americans. Many of them will have friends and family that live in the USA (mostly illegal). Some will try to speak English with you and will want to strike up a friendship.
- In some cases, groups are made up of Believers from different churches that may not agree on all nonessential doctrines such as music styles, clothing styles, etc. Please refrain from debates and discussions on your differences. You are here to serve, not to argue. Groups of 12 or more will have only their own church members present unless other provisions have been approved by all involved.
- Because you are going on a missions trip (and not a vacation), the expenses of the trip, including air fare, may be tax deductible. Contact your financial advisor in regards to this.
- Honduras is a modern country so you will have no problem buying batteries, etc. The electrical

outlets are 110, just as they are in the USA.

- Our Wi-Fi or hot spot is available for a small fee. It is not extremely fast but is available.
- Let us know if you have any special medical or dietary needs. If physical needs have certain requirements, please check with us in advance so we can determine if you can buy those items there or if you need to bring them with you.
- Check with www.cdc.gov/travel/ to gain their insight on what shots are recommended. Do keep in mind however that they, as do all sites, go to an extreme in their recommendations. This is perhaps so that they cannot be held liable legally. Many of those who have gone with us in the past to various nations have settled on getting pills for malaria. Of course, it is good no matter where you live or travel to be current with tetanus immunization. Your local county health department can make recommendations as well as provide you with the immunizations. You can also check <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> for up to date notifications regarding any health concerns.
- If you do not already have your passport, order it immediately as the process is now very slow.

Before you leave for Honduras:

- A non-refundable deposit of \$100 needs to be made **four months** prior to your departure date, unless other arrangements have been made for your church group with your pastor.
- The balance of your travel cost should be paid no later than **three months** in advance of the departure date. The trip costs must be paid to our office in the United States and not brought to Honduras. Make your check payable to "Final Frontiers" and mail it to:

Final Frontiers and put "Visionary Trip" in the memo field and send it to:
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434

- Contact your airline regarding the number of bags you may bring and the weight limitation. They are very strict about this so be careful when packing. The airline WILL charge you extra for heavier luggage or forbid it to go, so make sure you are not over their limit. This restriction could change so it would be a good idea to call the airlines before packing to make sure you comply with their luggage weight and regulations.
- If you need last minute information before leaving, call our office at 800-522-4324 and leave your question with either Jon, Daniel or Michael and they will get an answer back to you. Emergency contact can be made with you while in Honduras by calling this number as well.. Here are their extensions:
 - Daniel Nelms #101
 - Michael Horne #102
 - Jon Nelms #110
- Be at the airport at least two hours before the departure time to be sure you have adequate time to check in and go through security.
- You are welcome to bring candy and small items with you to give away to the children. Just remember that they do take up both space and weight for your baggage. We will have tracts, Gospels of John, etc. for you to pass out. We will also have opportunities for you to purchase candies, food bags (\$10 each) etc. while in Honduras. **If you plan to purchase food bags to give away, we need to know at least two weeks in advance how many you want. You can include that amount in your check for the trip costs. (For more information see page 10.)**

Upon Arriving at the Airport in Honduras:

- We will be leaving for Honduras before you so be assured that we will meet you all at the airport once you arrive there. You won't see us until you have cleared customs and have your bags and enter the airports common area..
- On the flight they will give you an entry form to fill out. The answers to most questions will be obvious however there is one that you need to know. They will ask "your hotel" or "where are you staying". The appropriate answer to write is: "Touch A Life Center Cantarannas".
- When you walk out the door into the airport lobby, you will see a crowd of people. We will be standing there waiting for you.
- We will also have a friend there who is a legal money changer to change money for you. Don't do it on your own or you will most likely get cheated. We will assure that you do not.
- Generally we go directly to get you lunch and after eating head off for our facilities. The drive over the mountains will take about two hours.
- Once we arrive we will have a short orientation with the group, then you will head off to your rooms to unpack and relax, take a tour around the town or a nap, whatever you prefer. Now the fun begins!

While in Honduras:

- Do not give your personal contact information to anyone. Give an email address if you like but realize you are under no obligation to give them money or assistance should they ask for it in the future. Don't allow yourself to be abused financially and please notify us if you feel that is happening.
- Before you leave we will take you to a shopping village where you can find handicrafts and souvenirs. They do accept all major credit cards and getting cash advances at a bank is no problem if you desire to do so. They can also arrange shipping should you wish to purchase larger items such as hand made, solid wood furniture.
- We will be with you all the time to make sure you are safe and not taken advantage of and help you to bargain for a better price.
- Before you leave we will provide you with an emergency number where you can be contacted. It will be an international call so it will be a little costly. My office will be in constant contact with me daily so your family can also leave messages with them to relay to me by calling 800-522-4324.
- All our staff, preachers and children have been told not to ask you for anything. If you are approached for money or gifts, please inform the Final Frontiers group leader. While this may not be offensive to you it is to others and that action can cause our ministry to have a bad name. Please help us by informing us if this occurs. All our national staff are on salary and have been forbidden to make requests for funds or gift items. It is important that you help us police any efforts made to bypass our regulations so that future guests are not taken advantage of. If you wish to help out someone you see in need, please consult the Final Frontiers group leader privately before doing so.

Trip Expenses:

- Please be aware that all ministries charge for trips like this one. We have made an effort over the years to charge less than all others and during the economic crisis we have lowered our prices to make it easier for our guests. However, we do not want to hide the fact that there is a “profit” made. This profit goes to help our ministry needs in Honduras, improve and repair our facilities and purchase needed equipment. The cost of the eight day trip is \$700.00 per person.
- The \$700.00 covers your three meals a day, snacks, unlimited purified water, lodging and travel within Honduras
- It does not include your international air fare, souvenirs and extra snacks you would like to buy.
- The \$700 must be paid in full at least three month in advance of the departure date.
- We have learned through experience that many groups like to give out food bags to needy families, accompanied by tracts or Gospels of John, which we can provide. The cost of the food bags are \$10 each and will help to feed a small family for up to a week. They contain such items as rice, beans, corn for tortillas, salt, cooking oil, coffee, margarine and other essentials. If you or your group are interested in providing some of these, then please inform us at least two weeks before your trip of how many you wish to purchase. You can give us the cash when you arrive but we prefer that you mail a check in advance.
- It is recommended that you encourage your church and friends to take up offerings to help with the trip expenses and food bags, toys etc. Let them share in the blessing and be sure to take plenty of photos to show them when you return.
- When booking your international flight, be sure you arrive in Palmerola International Airport, Comayagua, Honduras (The airport code is “XPL”.) If you have any questions, give us a call. The airlines that fly there are American, United and Taca.

Upon Leaving Honduras:

- We will be with you the entire time you are in Honduras. When your trip is over we will return you to the airport and walk you through the departure process.
- Your home bound flight to the entry city in the USA will be between two and three hours. There should be a meal service on the plane. Once you are back in the States you may have a layover for a few hours. Be sure you have enough funds left over to buy a snack if you want one.
- When you get home, don't forget what you have seen and the people you have met. I can assure you that they won't forget you!

A Typical Schedule

Day One: (Thursday, for example)

- Arrive in country.
- Check into our facility and get your room assignment.

Days Two-Six: (Friday thru Tuesday, for example)

- Visit feeding centers and help feed the children.
- Visit in homes of children and preachers.
- Visit some national pastors.
- Option to ride horse back to some rural churches and feeding centers.
- Do street evangelism and testimonies and tract distribution.
- Help with evening services.
- Help us host a meal and evangelistic service for the elderly.
- Opportunity to conduct VBS style ministry if you would like to. Please contact us before hand to organize such activities.

Day Seven: (Wednesday, for example)

Do some personal souvenir shopping.
Debriefing.

Day Eight: (Thursday, for example)

After breakfast, go to airport for your return flight home.

Suggestions on how to raise funds for your trip:

Most adults will be able to pay for their trip from their own income or by church assistance. It is always good to include your church and family when raising funds for your trip. Make sure they understand that this is not a vacation but a ministry venture. Here are what some (youth groups) have done in the past to pay for their trip:

- Car washes
- Walk-a-thons
- Bowl-a-thons
- Church-wide yard sales
- Sending our letters asking for help
- Sponsoring banquets (such as Valentines)
- On our website at www.touchalife.net you will see a three minute video presentation on our Visionary Trip to Honduras. You can encourage people to watch it so that they will be more willing to help you with your trip expense. You can also download it and show it at your church to raise funds and interest in the trip.
- For more ideas go to www.fundraising.com

If you are planning a trip more than a year away, a savings of \$100 monthly will more than pay for your total trip costs, including air fare. (Total costs are estimated at \$1200-\$1400.)

In Closing:

We are thankful for the ministry God has given us and that you are interested in going to see it. We try to make our Visionary Trips unique to the group and to the country, so if you have any special needs or desires, please let us know. We can tailor our trips for your taste, whether comfortable or rugged. Whether adult or youth. Whether just to observe or to minister. Let us know what your ministry gifts are in advance and we will try to accommodate you.

It is our desire that you will impact the lives of the people you meet while at the same time making a great impact on your own life. You will see things that you have never seen or even dreamed of. You will see how the poor of the world live and how easy it is to reach them with the Gospel. And you will be impressed by the wisdom of funding national preachers to reach their own people.

One pastor from West Virginia who went on our first trip, returned to his hotel the first evening. When the group met together for dinner he stood to pray. With tears rolling down his face he started his prayer with these words: *"Lord, thank you for the greatest day of my life."* I believe you will feel the same as he did.

A youth leader from California brought a group of nearly 20 with him. They take trips every year. He remarked that this was the best trip they had ever had, not only because of the opportunities to serve but also because of the way our trips are organized and the fact that a single price pays for the entire trip. That way, no one from his group over spent and ran out of funds in the middle of the week.

Each year, at least half of our guests come for their second, third, fourth, or fifth year. This says to me that we are doing a good job in caring for them and blessing them, or they would not want to return.

We welcome you to join us in ministry in Honduras and pledge to do our part to make yours a life changing experience.

If you have any further questions, please contact Jon Nelms at 800-522-4324 ext.110 or call my cell phone which is 478-494-1526. Remember, we typically only allot ten weeks in the summer for these trips so do not delay too long in reserving your week.

A final word to Pastors who want to bring a church group.

The cost information on the preceding pages is a breakdown for individuals coming whether as a family or as part of a group. Over the years we have had a problem with church groups reserving a week, which we then denied to others, but failing to come. That caused us to have a “wasted week” and greatly affects our budget. Many others delay making the payment which greatly inconveniences us as we have to have all food purchased and preparations made in advance of your arrival. Some have even brought the payment with them not realizing we need it so badly in advance so food is on hand, beds are prepared, etc. For that reason we have instituted a policy asking churches upon booking a week, to give us a \$1000, non refundable deposit.

If the church does come then that \$1000 is applied fully to their overall costs. If the church backs out less than three months prior to their trip reserved date, the funds will not be refunded, they will be considered a gift to our ministry and we will use them to feed children in Honduras or purchase necessary equipment, etc.

We hope that the pastors planning to visit with their church groups will understand that this is merely a necessity to insure that those coming are serious in their commitment and will follow through as planned. If you have any question, please contact us.

Check list

The group leader should give a copy of this to each person going then follow-up to make sure all funds are collected and sent in (together if possible). Also pay close attention to the food bag questions and inform us as soon as you can.

Do you already have a passport?

If not, apply for one immediately. It now takes up to two months to receive one. With an extra fee you can get expedited service if necessary.

Do you need any shots?

If you desire malaria pills or a tetanus booster, contact your doctor or country health department.

Four months before departure date:

Have you mailed in your \$100 non-refundable deposit? (\$1000 for church groups.)

If not, do this right away so we can reserve your room.

Three months before departure date:

Have you mailed in the balance for your trip? (\$600.00)

If not, do this quickly. If more time is needed, please approve this with us.

Will you be wanting to give away food bags?

These cost \$10 each and we can prepare as many as you want and have them waiting for you to give away when you arrive. This is something experience has taught us that many people want to do. As you go from village to village your heart will yearn to help and this is a good way to do just that.

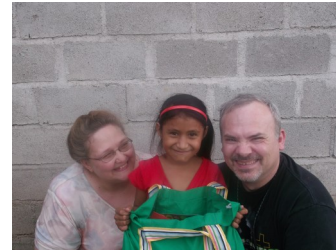
We need the number of bags and funds for these at least two weeks prior to the trip. If you know in advance how many you want, it would be best to send this in with the balance of the trip costs. You can add extra bags later if more funds are raised for additional food bags.

This is something that your friends at church may want to help with.

How many food bags do you want to purchase? What is the name of the person ordering bags?

_____ x \$10 = \$ _____ _____

Meet the children we feed through Touch A Life



Experience our exciting, fast paced, luxury transportation
(just kidding) and beautiful scenery.



Explore the towns, villages and visit in homes.



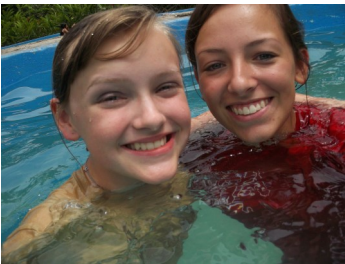
Visit local churches, preach or teach if you like, conduct a VBS or help out with film evangelism in remote villages at night.



Help feed the children in our various feeding centers.



Enjoy the fellowship, good food, activities and souvenir shopping.



Visit in their homes, share your testimony, pass out tracts and have the time of your life. (ample interpreters provided)



Have a blast making food bags and giving them to poor families.

