



extreme missionary adventures

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Dear Extreme Missionary Adventurers,

Just a few lines to give you some idea of what to expect on our upcoming trip. Remember, the key word in missions is flexibility – so be ready for changes in our plans. Just look at these changes as God showing us what He really wanted us to do all along. The most important thing is to be ready and willing for God to use you in whatever way He chooses.

Our adventure begins with your flights to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. On the flight you will be given Honduran customs forms to fill out. They are pretty easy to fill out and the customs agents are not very strict so don't worry too much about this. One of the forms asks for your address while staying in Honduras. Put Olancho, Honduras as your address. **Please wear your xma team t-shirt since this will help expedite your team getting through Honduras customs.**

Randy Pierce is your team leader. He is flying from Monroe, LA and will meet you in Houston at the gate for the flight to San Pedro. After clearing immigrations and customs you will be met by the driver who will transport us by small bus to our river house on the Mame River outside of Olanchito. You will have a few minutes before we depart to go to the bathroom, we'll get something to eat at Wendy's and exchange some money if you like.

Your trip costs covers all of your expenses while in Honduras so you really do not need any local currency. However, if you would like to have some Honduran money for personal use during the trip this is the time to get it. There are moneychangers (they are the guys flashing a handful of money calling out "cambio", the Spanish word for change) outside the San Pedro airport and they are fairly reliable – just be sure to watch them closely. The exchange rate changes daily but you should get about 18 Lempiras for each dollar so a \$20 bill will get you about 360 Lempiras. Do not let anyone see all of your money. Before you arrive in San Pedro put the money you want to exchange in a separate pocket and only show this money.

It is about a five hour drive from the airport to our river house. We will stop a time or two for breaks and arrive at our house around dark. We will spend Saturday night at this house. Early Sunday morning we will head up into the mountains in our 4 wheel drive trucks. This drive will take from 2 to 8 hours depending on which village we go to. We plan on spending four nights (Sunday-Wednesday) in villages. We do plan on hiking to some villages which are only accessible by foot. These hikes can be anywhere from a leisurely hour or so walk to a grueling, all-day, hotter-than-you-can-imagine death march (well maybe not death march but it will seem like it at the time). Be prepared!

Our main goal is to see new churches planted in remote mountain villages in the departments of Olancho and Yoro. Our primary means of sharing the gospel is through public showings of the Jesus Film. There will also be many opportunities for sharing personal testimonies, oral Bible stories, witnessing, preaching and whatever else the Lord leads you to do. We want to develop relationships with the people in the villages and show

them that we really care for them. We will be making balloon animals, coloring, blowing bubbles and other activities with the children. Those so inclined can play soccer or other games with the older children and young men. We plan on having a basic medical clinic in each of the villages – giving out vitamins, parasite medicine, over-the-counter medicine, wound care, etc. Dario and the other pastors will use these times to witness to the unsaved and disciple new believers. Our job is to attract the crowds so the nationals can lead them to the Lord and teach them.

You will have some of your meals at the river house and some in restaurants but most will be eaten out in the villages. We will have your food for the trip but you may want to bring some of your favorite snacks along. We usually have military MREs, canned food (tuna salad kits, chicken, Beanie-Weenies, Vienna sausage, Spam, etc); beef jerky; Pop tarts; crackers, candy & chips and the like. It's usually hard to eat without a hundred or so hungry Hondurans watching so we'll just grab something when we can. You won't have gourmet food but you won't go hungry either.

We plan on sleeping on the floor in small one-room open-air schools out in the villages (the floors may or may not be dirt). Occasionally we sleep outdoors in tents. I have tents, sleeping bags (these are laundered after each team) and foam bed mats for everyone. You will need to bring a twin size bed sheet for additional cover. While we are out in the villages there won't be much opportunity for bathing and there is no need for a lot of clothes. When we leave for the villages I usually take only one change of clothes plus extra socks and underwear with me. For the whole week I usually take 3 extra pants (the light weight hiking pants with zip off legs work really well), 4 or 5 shirts (I wear long sleeve for sun protection-if you wear short sleeve be sure to bring heavy duty sunscreen), underwear, plenty of socks, a hat and well broken in hiking boots or shoes. There is no need to bring anything dressier than blue jeans. We will be up in the mountains so plan on warm (sometimes very hot) days, cool nights and the chance of rain anytime. Please pack as light as possible. Our room will be limited when we go up into the mountains. We will leave most of our stuff at the volunteer house while we are out. **Please do not bring any jewelry other than a wedding band (if applicable) and an inexpensive watch.** Anything else will only cause problems and is not needed.

Extreme Missionary Adventures are very challenging physically. It is imperative that you prepare yourself for the challenges. If you are not already doing so you need to begin daily walking or jogging. We may be hiking from 2 to 10 hours over very rugged mountainous terrain to reach some of the villages. We try to arrange mules for the longer hikes but they do not always show up.

You will leave the river house early Friday morning to La Ceiba to visit a neat little souvenir shop called *The Rainforest*. They have a great selection of unique gifts such as jewelry, woodcarvings, pottery, coffee and t-shirts. After the shopping and lunch you will go to the Hotel Canadien for an afternoon of rest and reflection on all that the Lord has done this past week (if rooms are not available at the Canadien you will return to our river house for the night). Saturday morning you will be up early headed to the La Ceiba airport for your flight to San Pedro. You will have time for breakfast at Wendy's in the San Pedro airport before catching your flight home.

Thanks again for joining our mission adventure! If you have any questions please email me at rpierce@xmaonline.com or call 318-728-6346. Remember, prayer is the essential ingredient to a successful mission trip!