



### **Why send your child on an international mission trip?**

In Acts 1:8, Jesus says, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and ***you will be my witnesses*** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and ***to the ends of the earth***" This verse applies to us today just as much as it applied to the early Christians. Going on a mission trip brings perspective to your life and how blessed we are to live in America. And what do we do with the blessed life we have received by God's grace?

### **We're blessed to be a blessing!**

Did you know that if you have an annual household income of \$100,000 yearly, you are in the top 3% of the world's wealthiest people? That means that over 7 billion people are worse off than you... This fact should stir our hearts to act. Imagine being born in India, Africa, or Guatemala, where you have to boil your water every time you want to drink it. Many of those 7 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. I am not saying all of this to make you feel guilty. I'm saying this because we have been blessed by God with resources upon resources, and He expects us to use them not just on ourselves but the less fortunate. James 1:27a is a theme verse for Child Beyond International; it says, *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...."*

Not only allow but encourage your child to experience a mission trip to the nearby country of Guatemala with other Hephatha leaders, and I will help them fight against entitlement, selfishness, and spiritual apathy that our American culture tries to convince them of. I am sure you agree that living in America can have serious disadvantages spiritually. We don't think much about depending on God for our daily needs. Even if we lose our job, there are government programs to help us so that we won't starve. Guatemala doesn't have these luxuries. That's where we come in. On a week-long mission trip, your child will help build a 3-room house for a needy family, along with a water filter so they can all drink safely for years. We will also visit the life-saving orphanage that Child Beyond International started several years ago. Your child will be able to hold orphaned babies and play with the ones Jesus says are the most vulnerable and precious to Him.

Safety is our number one priority. During every phase of the trip, safety is at the forefront of our minds. Before a location is even selected as a potential area to serve in, it is evaluated for political stability, as well as any national issues that may have the potential to escalate. Our in-country mission director Jorge scouts out each area and connects with the mayor and or the pastor to see what the needs are in that community and to evaluate any potential problems to see if it's a good fit for our youth.

Please pray about this fantastic and rare opportunity for your child. It may just put them on a path of following Jesus wherever He may lead them when they grow up, and I know in your heart that this is your #1 purpose for your child's life.

Once we know who is going on the mission trip, we will have weekly Bible studies from October to the actual trip during Christmas break. This will adequately prepare us for what we see, taste, touch, and smell as the hands, heart, and feet of Jesus. Being ready for a mission trip is critical. Not just the logistics but spiritually and mentally prepared as well. After the mission trip, we will meet regularly for further follow-up and discipleship. Unpacking what we see and experience is vital for the young teen's heart. We will also discuss how we can be missionaries in our community. Going on a mission trip can help us see the needs that maybe we have looked over. *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'" Matthew 25:40*

Mission trips are not cheap, but so worth it! Below is a breakdown of your child's trip. We will have several fundraisers from now until December. You won't have to pay the total amount. It all depends on how many fundraisers your child attends. Whoever attends a "Guatemala fundraiser" will earn money for their trip. If ten teens show up at a particular fundraiser and we make \$1000, each would receive \$100 for their trip.

Tickets:	\$500-\$700
Passport:	\$110 ( <b><u>Get this done ASAP, it can take several months</u></b> )
Shots:	\$300 (Normally only typhoid and hep. A are required)
Room/Board:	\$700 (once in the country, this will cover all expenses)
Donation to orphanage:	\$300 (optional but encouraged)
Total =	About \$1,800 - \$2100

Please don't hesitate to contact me, Mike Mueller, Hephatha Lutheran church's Director of Christian Education, with any other questions or concerns. I would love to talk to you about this truly life-transforming experience for your child or you!

541-705-5254 (phone is the best way)

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**HEPHATHA**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



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