

Belize

November 2014

Mission Trip

**November 2-8, 2014 and
November 8-15, 2014**

Application Checklist

- Pray for God to help you decide if this is the right time and place for you to serve.
- Read cover letter carefully.
- Fill out application completely.
- Turn these things in by Friday, August 29:
 - Completed application
 - 3 Color copies of passport picture page (turn in 2 and keep one copy to leave with friends or family)
 - Turn in at the church's reception desk or mail to:
- First Presbyterian Church
c/o Walter Thompson
800 W. Texas Ave.
Midland, TX 79701

Belize 2014 November Mission Trip

August 17, 2014

Dear 2014 November Belize Mission Trip Applicant,
Praise God that you have decided to apply for our first mission trip to Belize! This is an exciting opportunity and I believe God has big plans for our church in Belize. This cover letter is intended to give you an overview of what we'll be doing before, during and after the trip and what will be expected of team members.

What the trip is all about

We will be partnering with existing ministries in Belize to further God's Kingdom and build relationships between Belize and our church. We will work through the same organization we did for our January 2014 trip, The Word at Work (TWAW). TWAW has been hosting mission teams in Belize for over a decade now and has built an extensive network of different ministry opportunities and possible connections. From playing with children in an orphanage to ministering to prisoners at Belize's national prison, just about any ministry you can imagine is within reach through TWAW.

We are offering two trip opportunities in November. You can participate in either or both of them.

- 1) November 2-8 – Hospice Training. A few people from FPC will join with another group to train local pastors around Belize in hospice care for their congregants. The one-day workshop will be shared in 3 different locations November 4, 5 and 6. That will be the main mission of this trip. Help is needed in logistics as well as those who might have an expertise for teaching part of the workshop.
- 2) November 8-15 – Back to the village of El Progreso. Our plan will be to continue developing friendships with the people of El Progreso that we began with our trip back in January. We will partner with them on a construction project and leave ourselves open to God's leading on joining them in other activities as well.

What is expected of team members

Team meetings

Team members will be expected to participate fully in all team meetings. In these meetings, we'll be working on teambuilding as well as training for our team. The culture and setting in Belize is much different than our own situation in West Texas, so we'll be learning a bit about what to expect and how to deal with the differences we'll see. The better prepared we are as a team, the more useful and lasting impact we can have there.

Prior to our trip, we'll need to meet together as a team for a total of about 8-10 hours. Once our team is set, we will decide how best to handle our meetings. We can do a few longer meetings or several short ones. Depending on what exactly we'll be doing in Belize, we might have to have some extra meetings to prepare supplies, etc. Team meetings are an extremely important part of this mission and are required for all team members. If you have an unavoidable conflict and cannot attend, please clear it with Pastor Walter before the meeting. The material for that meeting can be made up, but the relationship and team building cannot, so please only miss when it is absolutely necessary.

Our ministry to those who send us on the trip (our church family and friends) is an important part of the mission. Because of this, team members will be expected to participate in sharing and reporting opportunities upon our return from the trip. These opportunities will vary, but could include sharing stories in a worship service, Sunday school class, special event or small group.

Raising Support

Each team member will be expected to send out letters asking people for both prayer and financial support for the trip. We'll talk about this in our first meeting. If a team member wishes to fund the trip on their own, then he or she will still need to send out letters asking for people's prayer support. The total cost per person for the trip will be about \$2,000 (will be more if you plan to go for both trips).

On the trip

Team members will be expected to participate fully while on the trip. This will include our daily devotions and debriefing times as well as the main ministry opportunities God gives us. The construction work will be physically demanding, but we will usually have other relationship-building activities available as well.

The climate in Belize is warm and humid, but during November it is usually quite nice. It will be humid with highs usually reaching the 80s. Belize is a peaceful, small country and is quite safe for us to travel around. For about one day at the end of our trip, we'll debrief on one of the beautiful, small islands off the coast. This time will be important for us to identify what God has done in and through us on the trip and how we are going to share with our friends, family and coworkers back home.

Passport and Immunization Requirements

If you have a passport, the expiration date needs to be at least six months after we arrive in Belize. If you do not yet have a passport, please talk to Walter as soon as possible about getting one.

You will need a current tetanus immunization (within the last 10 years) for the trip. No other immunizations are required. You may consult your doctor and/or the CDC's list (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/belize.htm>) for recommendations (including anti-malaria medication).

Application process

Once you have turned in your completed application, Pastor Walter will contact you with any further questions. The deadline for applications is Friday, August 29, 2014. Please adhere to this date so we can purchase plane tickets as soon as possible.

Again, I am very excited about what God has planned. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email me. I would love to talk with you about it. May God bless you!

With the Peace of Christ,



Walter Thompson
cell: 432.312.8295
office: 432.684.7821
wthompson@fpcmid.org

Belize 2014 November Mission Trip

Belize 2014 November Mission Trip Application

General Contact Information			
Full Name ¹			
Street Address			
City, ST ZIP Code			
Home Phone		Work Phone	
Cell Phone		E-Mail Address	
Male or Female		Birth Date	
Marital Status		Occupation	
Church of Membership			

Passport Information			
Passport Number		Issued by (Nation)	
Date of Issue		Date of Expiration ²	
Place of Birth		Citizenship (Nation)	
Names of family members applying with you			

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency	
Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

¹ Your full name as it appears on your passport (if you have one)

² Expiration date needs to be at least 6 months after our arrival in Belize.

Health Information

Please describe any health problems you may have, including chronic diseases and allergies.

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Please list any long-term medication you use and the reason.

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Do you experience claustrophobia or motion sickness?

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If you believe you have a chronic condition or allergy that might make participation in this mission trip inadvisable, please consult your physician and talk with Pastor Walter.

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Self-Analysis / Experience

Describe briefly your relationship with God.

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Why would you like to go on this mission trip?

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What do you have to offer (i.e. special gifts, skills, training, etc.)?

What do you hope to receive?

In what ways have you been involved in the ministry of FPC and/or other churches?

What do you consider your strength(s) and weakness(es) in working on a team?

What experiences have you had in missions, foreign cultures, etc.?

Expectations

As an applicant for the 2014 Belize Mission Team, I understand and agree to the following expectations:³

- Team Participation
 - I will be expected to attend all team meetings possible prior to the trip.
 - I will be expected to participate in all team activities while on the trip (including devotions, evening debriefing, end-of-trip debriefing, etc.)
- Fundraising
 - I will be expected to send out support letters asking for prayers and financial support. If I cover the expenses myself, I understand that I will still need to send out prayer support letters.
- Physical demands
 - I understand that though we have time to rest in the evenings, this is a physically demanding trip.

Understanding and agreeing to the above expectations, I commit my time, talents, energy and prayers to the Lord to make a success of the Belize 2014 Mission Trip.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

³ See Cover Letter for more detailed information regarding expectations.