

Belize

Spring Break 2016

Mission Trip

March 5-12, 2016

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 Sunday, November 1:
 - 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

Spring Break 2016 Mission Trip

September 22, 2015

Dear 2016 Spring Break Belize Mission Trip Applicant,

Praise God that you have decided to apply for our Spring Break 2016 Mission Trip to Belize! This is an exciting opportunity for our church to build on the relationships we have begun to develop with our friends 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.

Who the trip is for

Our plan for Spring Break is to take an intergenerational team to Belize. The trip is open to those going alone as well as those going with the whole family. We welcome families to apply for the trip with children ages 4 and up. Basically, it is open to children who are old enough for our children's choir. If you have a younger child that you would like to go with you, please talk to Pastor Walter and/or Chrissie Mee. Children 1st thru 6th grade would need at least one parent to go with them. We encourage our youth (7th – 12th grade) to apply either on their own or along with their family. **Each team member (regardless of age) needs to fill out a separate application.** Parents, please assist younger children in filling out the applicable parts.

What the trip is all about

We will be working through The Word at Work (TWAW) and our focus will be on building relationships with Belizeans while we work on various projects. We will connect with our friends in the village of El Progreso (where we have worked on previous trips). We will be planning activities that can safely involve our youngest team members. In partnership with the villagers, we will work on a construction project as well as several opportunities with children both during and after school. Our children will be able to sing at different schools and interact with local children through other activities. Depending on the size of our team, we might also be working in a second location.

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 4 or 5 meetings. 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. **See below for the schedule of our team meetings.**

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 as well as writing up stories for church publications.

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.

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 all the ministry opportunities God gives us. We will give priority to building relationships whether through construction work or other activities.

The climate in Belize is warm and humid in March with highs in the 80s and 90s. Depending on where we stay, some accommodations will have air conditioning. 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 plan to debrief on one of the beautiful, small islands off the coast. This time will be important for us to reflect on 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.

Children

With children on the trip, we will arrange our schedule as best we can to accommodate bedtimes and plenty of time to rest. We will give priority to families so they can stay together in their own rooms.

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/Becky Holmes/Chrissie Mee will contact you with any further questions. The deadline for applications is Sunday, November 1, 2015. Please adhere to this date so we can purchase plane tickets as soon as possible.

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

With the Peace of Christ,



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Becky Holmes
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Chrissie Mee
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cmee@fpcmid.org

Spring Break 2016 Mission Trip

Belize 2016 Spring Break 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	

Health Information

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.

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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Please describe any dietary restrictions you have.

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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.

Why would you like to go on this mission trip?

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 2016 Spring Break 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:
 - Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 5:30-8:00pm
 - Sunday, January 24, 2016, 4:00-7:00pm
 - Sunday, February 7, 2016, 4:00-7:00pm
 - Sunday, February 21, 2016, 4:00-7:00pm
 - I will be expected to participate in all team activities while on the trip (including devotions, evening debriefing, end-of-trip debriefing, sharing opportunities, etc.)
- Fundraising

³ See Cover Letter for more detailed information regarding expectations.

- 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 2016 Spring Break Belize Mission Trip.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	