



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.

Your adventure begins with your flights to Managua, Nicaragua. On the flight you will be given Nicaragua 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 Nicaragua. Put Wiwili, Nicaragua as your address.

After clearing immigrations and customs in Managua we will rent vehicles for transportation to a volunteer center in Ocotal. You will have a few minutes before we head out so go to the restroom and exchange some money if you like. It is about a 4 hour drive to the center at 1st Iglesia Bautista Monte Hermon Church in Ocotal. You should have at least one bathroom & lunch break along the way. On Sunday morning we will travel to Wiwili to begin our adventure.

Your trip cost covers all of your expenses while in Nicaragua. If you would like to have some Nicaraguan money for personal use during the trip this is the time to get it. There is a bank in the airport where you can exchange some money. The exchange rate changes daily but you should get about 18 Cordobas for each dollar so a \$20 bill will get you about 360 Cordobas. Do not let anyone see all of your money. Before you arrive in Managua put the money you want to exchange in a separate pocket and only show this money.

Our main goal is to see new churches planted in remote mountain villages in the departments of Nueva Segovia. Our primary means of sharing the gospel is through public showings of the Jesus Film. There will also be opportunities for sharing personal testimonies, 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 baseball, soccer or other games with the older children and young men. We may have opportunities of having a basic medical clinic in each of the villages – giving out vitamins, parasite medicine, over-the-counter medicine, wound care, etc. Alex, Raul 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.

We will have some of our meals 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, Spam, etc);

Pop tarts; crackers, candy & chips and the like. It's usually hard to eat without a hundred or so hungry Nicaraguans 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 air cushioned bed mats for everyone. 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 center 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.

We will travel back to Ocotol on Thursday for an overnight stay at the volunteer center. We will depart on Friday morning for our travel back to Managua for the afternoon excursions. You will have the opportunity to zip-line across a crater lake, take a tour of an active volcano and shop for souvenirs before having a relaxing dinner at a local restaurant. The zip-line and volcano tour are \$10 US each per person. These excursions are paid by each individual team member. We will all plan on participating in the volcano tour but, only the adventuresome may desire to take part at the zip-line and it is strictly optional. Saturday morning you will have breakfast at the hotel before heading across the street to the airport for your flight home.

Thanks again for joining our mission adventure! If you have any questions please email me at tparks@xmaonline.com or call 318-372-9262. Remember, prayer is the essential ingredient to a successful mission trip!

Terry Parks
Extreme Missionary Adventures