

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
Sweetwater Baptist Association
2018 Guatemala Mission Projects
June 19-26, 2018

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MISSION VOLUNTEERS:

- **Mission Application Forms:** Due 3 months prior to travel.
(Return signed/completed forms to Sweetwater Baptist Association, 696 Anderson Street, Madisonville, TN 37354).

- **Background Check:** *Background Screening* form included with Mission Application paperwork.
(Background checks are not processed for minors, however the form must still be completed and returned to SBA).

- **Passport:** Volunteers must have valid passport. Must be good for 6 months AFTER your return date. **Copy of passport must be included with Application Forms.**

- **Payment:**

1.	Deposit Due: With Paperwork	\$200.00 March 5th
2.	2 nd Payment Due: 8 Weeks prior to travel	\$700.00 April 5th
3.	Balance Due: 2 weeks prior to travel	June 5th

- **In-Person Training:** *Orientation; Travel/Safety/Evangelism Training*
(Sweetwater Baptist Association Office)

- **On-Line Training:** *Fort Sherman Travel Security Training*
(additional instructions included in handout) <https://fsa.digitalchalk.com/dc/guest/login>

LOCAL CONTACTS

- Sweetwater Baptist Association 423-442-6604
- Becky Jones becky.jones@bellsouth.net
- Sheri Stephens sweetwaterassoci@bellsouth.net

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Garry Eudy 011-502-4743-2120 (Emergency only)
- American Consulate in Guatemala City 011-502-2326-4000
- Kim Margrave, Tennessee Baptist Convention 615-812-0886 (Emergency only)

MORE LIFE (Evangelism)

- Witnessing tract – free download *More Life* app
- Download *More Life* Instructions in Spanish at Google Play Store or Apple App Store

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

- Valid passport is required.
- Copy of your passport will be on file at the Sweetwater Baptist Association (if needed).
- Keep the following items in your possession at all times. Pack in carry-on bag; do NOT pack in checked baggage.
 - Passport
 - Driver's License
 - Plane Tickets
 - Insurance Card
 - Money
- Guatemala is a Malaria and Dengue Fever Zone.
 - *Required Vaccines*
 - Routine Vaccines/Childhood Immunizations and Tetanus
 - *Recommended Vaccines*
 - Tetanus booster
 - Hepatitis A & B
- The following items will be needed:
 - Insect Repellent (with Deet)
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Disinfectant Wipes
- Meals, snacks and water are provided
 - Extra snacks may be brought
 - Use only bottled water (even for brushing teeth) (water will be furnished)
 - Fruits must be peeled and scrubbed using bottled water
 - Do not eat foods that have not been cooked thoroughly (lettuce, strawberries, etc)
 - Staying hydrated is extremely important (powdered drink mix, such as gatorade, kool-aid, crystal light, instant coffee, etc can be brought to flavor your water)
 - Wash hands often and use hand sanitizer
- Airline Guidelines
 - Toiletry Items/Liquid items must be in a plastic bag and cannot be over 3 oz.
 - All medicines (prescription and over-the-counter) must be in their original bottle/packaging
 - Pack all medicines in carry-on bag, not checked bag
 - Banned: Samsung Galaxy Note 7

ENTRANCE/EXIT GUATEMALA

- No visa required
- No entrance/exit fee

GUATEMALA WEATHER INFORMATION

- Hot/Humid; Rainy; Costal/Tropical Climate

BAGGAGE INFORMATION (effective March 2017)

- **Delta Airlines**
 - Free –1 Carry-On Bag, 1 Personal Item (purse, briefcase, laptop, etc.)
 - 1st Checked Bag - \$25.00 (each way); \$ 35.00 for 2nd checked bag if you have 2
 - Checked Bag Limits: 50 lb. Maximum, 62 In. Maximum (H x L x W)
 - Carry-On Limits: 45 In. Maximum (H x L x W)
- **American Airlines**
 - Free –1 Carry-On Bag, 1 Personal Item (purse, briefcase, laptop, etc.)
 - 1st Checked Bag - \$25.00 (each way); \$35.00 for 2nd checked bag if you have 2
 - Checked Bag Limits: 50 lb. Maximum, 62 In. Maximum (H x L x W)
 - Carry-On Limits: 45 In. Maximum (H x L x W)

HOTEL/ACCOMMODATIONS

- Group will arrive in Guatemala City, travel west and turn south along coast for approximately 7 hours before reaching hotel
- Clean accommodations, Wi-Fi sometimes available; electricity current same as here
- Group will spend last night at the Baptist Seminary in Guatemala City.

PREPARATION/BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- Check the State Department website for any Travel Warnings before you travel.
(www.travel.state.gov, click "See Alerts and Warnings", type Guatemala in the search box)
- Personal finances and legal matters should be in order before travel.
- In case of emergency or prolonged absence, appoint someone as your Power of Attorney.
- Leave a copy of your Itinerary, Passport, Driver's License and Insurance Cards with spouse or Power of Attorney.
- Make sure spouse or Power of Attorney has credit card information, in case card is stolen, they can cancel it from home.
- Travel Insurance (provided) is secondary to your own medical insurance.
- Prescription and OTC medications must be in original bottles. In case of delay, pack extra medication.
- Take spare eyeglasses, in case of loss or break.
- Each team should make a plan in case of separation.
- Make sure that team members have each other's phone numbers.
- Make sure to have Emergency Contact numbers (located in Volunteer Manual)

PERSONAL SECURITY

- Stay alert; notice where you are, who is around you and what they are doing.
- Be unpredictable; if you are feeling threatened, change your routine.
- Keep a low profile, blend in, don't draw attention to yourself.
- Establish a team plan in case of separation.

INFORMATION AND ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

- People are referred to as Hispanic or Indigenous (they do not like to be referred to as Indian).
- Poverty is extreme; Guatemala is the 4th poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.
- Don't make any promises or commitments to the people.
- Use social media wisely in befriending, and be mindful of any posts that could cause danger or harm to yourselves, team members or locals.
- Carry only one major credit card; and contact Bank or Credit Card Company to advise traveling dates, country of travel. Leave extra credit cards, debit cards at home; avoid using ATM machines in Guatemala.
- Money-Exchange rate is 7.5 quetzals to \$1.00 (US) or \$20.00 (US) to 150 quetzals.
- **NEW 2017 REQUIREMENT:** Spending Money (for souvenirs etc.) should be converted to Guatemalan currency (quetzals) BEFORE travel. Many local banks can exchange money for you. Allow for a few days to process the exchange and there will be a fee. (The team may want to pool their money and exchange it all at one time, to save on individual fees.)
- Prepare Small Emergency Pack (no public restrooms in many areas); pack toilet paper, baby wipes, hand sanitizer.
- Pack a small flashlight.
- You might want to bring a small camera.
- Bring Sunscreen...it's hot and sunny.
- Dress should be cool, casual, comfortable, light weight.
- Closed-toed shoes are highly recommended.
- Dress modest.
- Jeans and Shorts should not be worn.
- Men: Khakis, cotton and polo pullover shirts are acceptable for daily wear.
- Ladies: Slacks, capri pants, skirts are appropriate for daily wear.
- Worship Service Attire:
 - Men: Slacks and collared button-up shirt.
 - Ladies: Dress/Skirt .
- Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and light rain jacket are needed.
- Dress should not be extravagant.
- The appearance of "wealth" can make you a target for crime.
- Do not display cash or valuables.
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home (even inexpensive jewelry).
- Pack light; 1 Checked Bag, 1 Carry-On Bag, 1 Personal Item.
- When preaching, use simple, direct, short sentences. Do not tell jokes, or recite poetry.
- Be mindful of your testimony; We are Ambassadors of Christ.
- No drinking or tobacco use/smoking.
- No foul or obscene language.
- Be flexible.
- Choose a Prayer Partner.
- (If you want to) Write your testimony, have it translated into Spanish, make 25-50 copies to take with you to share while doing evangelism.

COMPUTERS/TABLETS/MOBILE PHONES

- Set Passcode Locks on your devices.
- Passwords: Should be 15+ characters to make it harder to hack your device
- Encryption: Encryption is a step beyond Passwords. Makes it very difficult for someone to obtain the private information on your device. Low-cost encryption software is available.
- Use any and all security features offered on your device.
- If possible, activate International Calling on your cell phone before travel (for calling home).

SAFETY/CRIME

- When walking, walk facing traffic (part of being ALERT and aware of your surroundings).
- Walk on INSIDE of sidewalks, farthest away from street traffic (less likely to be targeted for kidnapping).
- In case of carjacking: Remain calm and comply with carjacker. Don't risk your safety or the safety of others by fighting back.
- Be ALERT and mindful of surroundings....watch for pick-pockets and petty thieves. Many times these criminals will watch you and follow you, so be on the lookout for suspicious behavior.
- Don't leave items laying in plain sight (phones, cameras, wallets, etc.)
- When traveling by car, keep doors locked and wear seat belts.
- Be ALERT when walking to and from cars. Always be observant of your surroundings.
- VERY IMPORTANT:
 - Teams must stay together.
 - No one is to be alone; or even in pairs.
 - Minors and women are to be in groups at all times.

*Additional travel and safety information is provided
in the Volunteer Manual and with the Fort Sherman Online Training.*

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- Depart Knoxville
- Arrive Guatemala City
- Travel approximately 7 hours to Coate pe que

- Daily Activities
 - Personal Evangelism: house-to-house, parks, hospitals, schools
 - Share Gospel; Written Testimony (if desired)
 - Incorporate *More Life* in witnessing
 - 1 brief Bible Story should be prepared for presentation to children at school
 - Evening Bible Study in churches

- Saturday/Sunday
 - Evangelistic Preaching/Crusade/Testimony with Message
 - Sermon approximately 20-25 minutes
 - Sunday School

MEDICAL NEEDS FOR FUTURE TEAMS

- Each volunteer is asked to bring
 - 1 bottle of adult vitamins
 - 1 bottle of children vitamins
 - 1 bottle of children cough suppressant
 - 1 bottle of infant vitamins (drops)
 - 1 bottle of prenatal vitamins
 - 1 bottle of Ibuprofen

Volunteer Mission Project Forms Checklist

Return completed/signed forms to

Sweetwater Baptist Association
696 Anderson Street
Madisonville, TN 37354
(Phone) 423-442-6604

- Copy of Passport
- Background Check Information
- Volunteer Information and Insurance Form
- Release of Waiver of Liability
- Permission to Travel with Minors (if applicable)
- Authorization for Medical Treatment of Minor Child
- Verification of IMB Policy Requirements (To be completed by Team Leader/Pastor only)

FORT SHERMAN TRAVEL SECURITY TRAINING

The Tennessee Baptist Mission Board requires each person going to Guatemala, as part of the TBMB Guatemala partnership, to take the Fort Sherman security training online at the FSA Training site. This training will prepare the volunteer with simple skills and practices that will assist them in being aware of and learning how to avoid threats and dangers to their person and possessions while travelling internationally. The TBMB requires that each volunteer participate in the following training from Fort Sherman Academy. The training will take approximately 3 hours to complete and it is recommended that you have a good internet connection as the class is video and audio intensive. Training is included in the cost of your trip. Security training is valid for two years. Therefore, if you had this training in 2017, you do not need to take it again at this time.

Instructions:

1. Go to <https://fsa.digitalchalk.com/dc/guest/login>
2. Create an account (if you do not already have one).
3. When creating an account, you will need to enter **fsasent** as your organizational code.
4. This will give you access to the required training course.
5. Once your account has been set up, you can complete the online training.
6. This training is included in your trip cost, therefore you are not required to make payment to *Fort Sherman* when doing the online training.
7. Instead, when you check out, enter coupon code **TBCVM100**. This will allow you to complete the training without entering payment information.

***You should never need to put in credit card information.
If you are asked for a credit card,
you may have missed the step where you enter the coupon code.***

8. Upon completion of the training, Certificates go to Heather Beard at hbeard@tnbaptist.org or fax to 615-371-2014.

CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE EMAILED TO:

hbeard@tnbaptist.org

<https://fsa.digitalchalk.com/dc/guest/login>

Organizational Code: fsasent

Coupon Code: TBCVM100