

2018 YOUTH MISSION TRIP MANUAL



A program of VidaNet



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Introduction to Vida Missions

PVM (Pura Vida Missions) was started in 2003 by missionaries DeLynn and Gloria Hoover. They moved to Costa Rica with a call on their lives to fulfill the Great Commission and do discipleship through short and medium term missions. This program is one of the ways that they have sought to live out their call.

In 2016 this ministry expanded to several other countries in Central America (including El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize). Due to the fact that Pura Vida was a very Costa Rican name, the name of this program was changed to Vida Missions.

Vida Missions is a program of VidaNet which is a network of programs aimed at discipleship and missions. Vida Missions and another VidaNet program, DaVida, work together supporting a network of approximately 200 different churches and ministries. We seek to come alongside these ministries and see the kingdom of God expanded through them.

Why the name Vida? The word "Vida" means life in Spanish. We at VidaNet believe that the only place life can be found is in a disciple relationship with the master, Jesus Christ. We believe that the model that the Lord has given us and the impact of a mission trip causes us as Christians to see more clearly what is our real mission in life, to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vida Missions works alongside several denominations in Central America. They seek to facilitate the work of the local church.

Vida Mission's Statement of Purpose

Vida Missions **is dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) of making disciples of all nations.** As a ministry our calling is to "all nations", whether Central American or North American. We believe that discipleship is a life-long process of dying to ourselves that allows us to begin looking and acting more and more like the master, Jesus Christ. We seek to provide intense "greenhouse-type" cross-cultural experiences that are aimed at furthering this experience in the lives of Christians.

We at Vida Missions believe that the Bible is God's inspired and authoritative word. We believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son. We believe that He created us to have eternal life through Jesus Christ. Although all men have sinned and come short of God's glory, God has made salvation possible through the death on the cross of Jesus Christ. That repentance, faith, love and obedience are fitting responses to God's initiative of grace towards us. God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of His love. The Holy Spirit's power is demonstrated in and through us for the accomplishment of Christ's last commandment, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* **(Matthew 28:19-20).**

We Handle all of the Details

We will take care of all the details so you can focus on your group. We will handle the food, housing, training and outreach supplies...etc. You will not have to focus on the logistics! That is our job. You will thereby be free to lead your group and do ministry.

Our Main Goals for your Group are:

1. See participants deepen their relationship with God: We want your youth to experience God in a new and more intimate way. We want them to be able to say upon their return "I met God in a new way on this trip".

2. Help participants step out of their "comfort zone": We want to see your group be involved in or challenged to be involved in things that are outside of what they would normally consider their "comfort zone". We want them to be able to say "I did things that I would have never done in my experience with Vida Missions".

3. Help participants develop a global worldview: We want to see your youth see the world through different eyes because they have rubbed shoulders with another culture. We want them to be able to say upon their return "Wow, I am part of something much larger than I ever imagined".

The Vida Missions program is made up of hands-on experiences. There are many Adventure experiences that make up our program. Each "Adventure" experience has three main elements to it:

•**THE PREPARATION:** Before each experience your group will be prepared by the Vida Missions staff. This preparation is so that your group has their focus in the right direction.

•**THE ADVENTURE:** This is where your group will get their "hands dirty" and have a cross-cultural ministry experience.

•**THE DEBRIEF:** After each adventure there will be a debrief time. The length of time will vary based upon the size of your group. This is a vital part of our Vida Missions experience. It will help everyone understand and process more about the experience they had and allow the experience to have more impact in their lives for the future.

HERE is HOW IT WORKS

(Please read carefully)

- **EL ENTRENAMIENTO (The Training)** - The first few days are spent in a training time for your team. This training will be held in an adequate camp/hotel facility within driving distance of an international airport. This training will include: teaching sessions preparing your group mentally and spiritually, passionate worship, training in the arts (learning specific dramas and mimes to present on the streets), preparing Kids Clubs, as well as other special ministry skills such as house to house prayer and servant evangelism. Since our vision and goal as a ministry is to see your youth move a step further in the process of discipleship, this time is integral to the success of the trip. This is a time for the Holy Spirit to speak profoundly. We know that you, as a leader, will walk away from this time enriched and encouraged by the growth you will see in your youth.

- **LA CRUZADA (The Crusade/Outreach)** - For the middle of the trip, we will use our experience in missions and working with youth to design an outreach to a specific area of Central America. Vida Missions works with a network of approximately 40 different churches and ministries in Central America. Vida Missions works with over 150 different churches and ministries in Central America. If there is special interest in a certain church or ministry you may request that possibility from the Vida Missions staff. Your outreach will be a variety of outreach ministries generally made up with activities mentioned in the section "Let's get out to the streets." We always ask for flexibility as we design your outreach. Through outreach your group will have the opportunity to develop cross-cultural relationships and see God working in new ways.

- **LA EXCURSIÓN (The Excursion)** - We want to be certain that your group also gets a chance to experience God's awesome beauty in Central America. Therefore, your last day will be spent enjoying a touristy part of the country your involved in. We will plan for your group a day filled with fun activities. This is included as part of the package that you receive with Vida Missions.

"As a youth minister, my goal is to see your group helped out of their comfort zone and brought to a place of more commitment to Christ and to the church, local and global. I found in the years that I spent as a youth pastor, that the times we spent on mission trips, using this type of model, were some of the most life-changing experiences in the lives of my youth.

There is something wonderful that happens when youth get out of their routine and take time out to be together and to serve their Heavenly Father. The idea of including formal spiritual and ministry training with service and evangelism is a relatively new one and may seem strange at first glance, but I would like to encourage you to give it a chance and see if it would be effective in the lives of your youth."

DeLynn Hoover, *Vida Missions Program Director*

Let's Get Out to the Streets

The Following is a list of adventures that could be part of your Vida Missions experience. We update our list of opportunities periodically and as a result your group may be involved in some ministry that is not listed. All activities are subject to availability at the time of your adventure.

1. Introduction to the Country. We will give you an orientation to the country, city, and church where you will be working. We will also help you become acquainted with the Central American culture.

2. Church Services. We will attend at least one local church service. You will have time to be involved with and to get to know the Central American Christians.

3. Children's ministry. Your group will have a chance to prepare and present several Kids Clubs in the church or ministry with which you will be working.

4. Service Projects. Bring along your work clothes. You will have a chance to serve the church and people with whom you are working with your hands and sweat.

5. House to House Prayer. Teams are regularly involved in going house to house in the neighborhood in which they are involved and offering prayer for anyone who will receive it.

6. Prayer Walks. Experience how God wants to use you to make a difference in Costa Rica, as well as your own community. See how powerful prayer is on the streets and how "un-optional" it is.

7. Servant Evangelism. We will be involved in "showing the love of Jesus in practical ways." Different from service projects this could involve anything from handing out cups of drink to washing windows of stores to cleaning toilets.

8. Street Evangelism. Your team will be completely prepared to do drama and share their testimony in an open-air environment.

The Formula with which we prefer to work with is a mix of four core activities:

- 40% Service projects
- 25% Children's ministry
- 25% Various types of creative evangelism
- 10% Relating to the National Church (all ministry will be relating to the national church)

Vida Missions Program

This is a MISSION TRIP, not a summer camp!

You want Short-Term missions? You've found it. Here in Central America you have an opportunity to see your group disciplined, challenged, mobilized and equipped to share the Gospel of JESUS.

Growth and Challenge? Expect It!

9 Days in Guatemala

\$765 per person*

*Included: In-country transportation, food, lodging, ministry supplies, project supplies/equipment

*NOT INCLUDED:
Airfare and Airport Tax

9 Days in Honduras

\$765 per person*

*Included: In-country transportation, food, lodging, ministry supplies, project supplies/equipment

*NOT INCLUDED:
Airfare and Airport Tax

9 Days in Costa Rica

\$765 per person*

*Included: In-country transportation, food, lodging, ministry supplies, project supplies/equipment

*NOT INCLUDED:
Airfare and Airport Tax

Dates for Vida Missions 2018

Guatemala -
June 13- 22

Honduras - June 20-29

Costa Rica - July 4-13 & 18-27

The dates provided are your fly in and fly out dates. We prefer that you arrive on the indicated day the earliest possible. If your flight is being booked for arrival after 3pm please contact us before confirming booking. You may fly out at any time on the fly out day.

The Fine Print Page

- **HOW MUCH?**

Three days of training, five days of outreach, and one day of vacation \$765 per person. If you would wish to add on days, they can be added for \$85/day/person.

- **HOW LARGE OR SMALL OF A GROUP?**

Vida Missions is available for groups from 5-100. The ideal group size is between 15 and 30; however, we accept and welcome large groups and small groups. If your group is less than 15 people, you may be asked to merge with another group.

- **PAYMENT OF FEES:**

Fees can be paid on by check made payable to "VidaNet" with a memo noting the group name and the date of your trip and sent to:

849 Disston View Drive, Lititz, PA 17543

- **FORMS:**

Please note that you may fill out the forms provided (A, B, and C) in this manual and send them to the above address, or go to www.vidamissions.org and fill them out online. Please follow the instructions below for Forms D and E.

- **REGISTRATION FEE:**

The \$25.00 per person registration fee is non-refundable. It is due upon receipt of your application (FORM A). Please Note; space is limited to 150 people per week. Your group will not be guaranteed a spot until your Group Application Form and registration fee have been received.

- **DEPOSIT:**

We require a deposit be made in the amount of \$50.00 per person no later than twelve weeks before your trip. Please send the deposit with your group names list (FORM B). If you encounter any problems with this deadline, please email us immediately.

- **BALANCE:**

We require your balance and FORM C to be sent to the address provided no later than three weeks before your mission's trip date. Please DO NOT bring a check or money for your balance with you to outreach.

- **UPON YOUR ARRIVAL:**

The "Release of Liability Form" (FORM D&E) is due upon your arrival at the Vida Missions training center.

- **GROUP REFUND / CANCELLATION POLICY:**

The \$25.00 registration fee is non-refundable. The \$50.00 per person deposit is fully refundable until 4 weeks prior to the starting date of your Vida Missions adventure. Any amounts paid above the \$25.00 registration fee and \$50.00 deposit are fully refundable.

- **WHAT IF WE BRING FEWER PEOPLE THAN WE REGISTERED?**

The \$25.00 registration fee is non-refundable. We will only refund the \$50.00 per person deposit up to 4 weeks prior to your arrival date or it may be applied to the balance of the group.

- **CAN WE ADD OR SUBTRACT PEOPLE FROM OUR GROUP?**

In most instances, we are able to add or subtract five or less people to or from your group. If your numbers change by more than five people, please email us immediately. We ask that you confirm with us your total number of participants no later than two weeks before your arrival.

- **EXACTLY WHAT DO MY FEES COVER?**

Your fees will cover the following: accommodations, transportation, food and ministry necessities.

1. **Accommodations:** Your team will stay in a church, with Central American host families, a hotel, or our base camp. Bedding or sleeping bags will be needed. We are usually able to provide you with a bed. We ask for your flexibility. We are not able to provide separate accommodations for families or couples.

2. **Transportation:** We are responsible for all transportation within the country. You will travel in either public transportation, private bus, or by foot. It is important to have good walking shoes.

3. **Food:** All food will be provided for the duration of your Vida Missions training and outreach. We attempt to give your team a good taste of typical Central American food. In some countries water is potable. However, we will provide purified water for teams to countries where this is not the case.

4. **Training Supplies:** The first three days of training and the accompanying materials are included in the costs of your trip.

5. **Ministry Supplies:** Your ministry supplies are provided for you from the service project to the Kids Clubs to servant evangelism.

- **EXACTLY WHAT COSTS ARE NOT COVERED?**

Vida Missions does not provide airfare or the airport tax upon exiting the country. Participants will also want to bring some spending cash for souvenirs or snacks while at the Vida Missions training center.

1. **Arrival and departure Information:** You will need to fly into the airport that we indicate. We ask that you fly in on the day indicated as the first day of your trip between the hours of 11a.m. and 3p.m. (All airlines provide flights at this time). If you are not able to fly in at this time then please notify us before purchasing tickets. You may fly out at any hour on the last day that is indicated in the dates of your trip.

2. **Extra Spending Money:** There will be opportunity to purchase snacks/t-shirts/ souvenirs at the Pulpería, which is a Central American name for a small convenience store.

How Do I Apply

- **Step 1:**
Please complete the Group Application Form (Form A) and mail it to us along with a non-refundable \$25 per person registration fee or complete the form and submit your fee online. This reserves a spot for your group. After your registration is received, our finance department will contact you via email to confirm receipt of payment.
- **Step 2:**
The \$50 per person deposit and the group names list (Form B) are due no later than three (3) months before your trip date. If we do not receive your deposit by the date indicated your group may lose its spot and be placed on a waiting list. If you cannot make the deadline, please contact our office immediately via email or call the stateside phone at 1 800 413-9818.
- **Step 3:**
Photocopy the authorization Form (Form E) for each of your participants. Note there is a Form for minors, (Form D, under the age of 18) and a separate Form for adults. All participants must sign the appropriate Form in order to participate in our programs and have both forms (D&E) notarized. When the Forms have been filled out, signed and dated, please make a photocopy of each Form and bring both copies with you. When you arrive we will keep the original in our records. You keep the extra copy with you during the entire outreach in case of emergency.
- **Step 4:**
For all adventures the balance of all fees is due one (1) month before your trip along with Form C.
- **Step 5:**
Each participant must provide insurance (i.e. travel insurance, international coverage on current plan, etc.) verification for the duration of their time in Central America.

Contact Information

Email:

info@vidanetonline.org

Phone (calling from US or Canada):

1 800 413-9818

Phone (calling from outside of the US or Canada):

011 506 8329-3127

Payments can be sent to:

VidaNet
849 Disston View Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
USA

APPLICATION

(FORM A)

Please fill out this Form completely. Use one application per outreach. (Make copies if necessary). Don't forget to include the \$25 per person registration fee. We must receive the registration fee in order to reserve your spot. Note: The registration fee is not refundable.

DATES OF TRIP: _____ * Be sure to email us first and check availability of your desired dates

GROUP NAME: _____

GROUP LEADER'S NAME: _____

DENOMINATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____


PHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

THERE IS A \$25 PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED SIZE OF YOUR GROUP? _____ x \$25.00 =



TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED: \$ _____

IF YOUR GROUP INCREASES OR DECREASES IN SIZE YOU MUST CLEAR IN ADVANCE WITH US THROUGH EMAIL.

GROUP LIST

(FORM B)

Please fill out this Form completely and return it to us along with the \$50.00 per person deposit.

DATES OF TRIP: _____

CHURCH NAME: _____

GROUP LEADER: _____

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: _____

Please **list the names of all participants**, their age and gender. (Please PRINT)

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

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Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

Name: _____ M F Age: _____

GROUP TRAVEL INFORMATION

(FORM C)

Please fill out this Form and return it to us within 2 weeks of your arrival date.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

CHURCH NAME: _____

CHURCH PHONE #: _____

GROUP LEADER: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON, TEL: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON, PAGER AND/OR CELL #: _____

ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____

AIRPORT: _____ AIRLINE NAME: _____

ARRIVAL TIME: _____ FLIGHT NUMBER: _____

CONNECTING FLIGHT INFO: _____

DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

DATE OF DEPARTURE: _____

AIRPORT: _____ AIRLINE NAME: _____

DEPARTURE TIME: _____ FLIGHT NUMBER: _____

MINOR - UNDER 18 YEARS OLD
AUTHORIZATION FORM
(FORM D)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

DAY PHONE: _____ **EVE. PHONE:** _____

EMERGENCY PHONE: _____

CHURCH/GROUP NAME: _____

DATES OF TRIP: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Name of medical provider: _____

(Please provide a copy of medical insurance card, both front and back).

Is your child allergic to any medication? Y / N Please describe: _____

Is your child taking any medication? Y / N Please describe: _____

Date of last tetanus inoculation: _____

Has basic childhood series of three tetanus shots been given? Y / N _____

What is your child's blood type? _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

In consideration of VidaNet, organizing, arranging and permitting me to attend and participate in the event, I hereby waive all rights which I may now have or which may accrue in the future against VidaNet its respective chapters, directors, officers, employees, and members (collectively the "VidaNet Representatives"). I hereby release and discharge VidaNet and the VidaNet representatives harmless from and against all liability for any and all actions, damages, causes of action, suits, costs, losses, expenses, claims, demands, damages and judgments (collectively the "Losses and Claims"), which I, my spouse, family members, children, invitees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assignees ever had, now have or hereafter will have resulting from or arising in connection with my travel to, attendance at or participation in VidaNet events.

I acknowledge that certain legal rights against VidaNet or the VidaNet representatives may be available to me now or in the future as a result of any losses and claims, and that by executing this waiver and release of liability, my spouse, family members, children, invitees, heirs, executors, administrators and I are forever relinquishing those rights against VidaNet and VidaNet Representatives. I acknowledge that no promises, representations or affirmations of fact were made to me by VidaNet or VidaNet Representatives concerning the safety of the event, the security precautions taken in sponsoring the event, the relative safety or danger associated with traveling to the event or participating in any activity, teaching, event or outing related to, associated with or connected in any way to the event and affirm that I have read and understand the forgoing provisions of this waiver and release of liability. I accept the terms of this waiver and release of liability as a condition to my attendance at the event.

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR TREATMENT:

MUST BE NOTARIZED

I give permission for my son / daughter to attend the above VM function. I have read the above waiver and release of liability and agree to its provisions. In addition, I give permission for my son/daughter to receive any medical treatment deemed necessary by a Medical Physician.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

NAME OF MINOR: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO MINOR: _____

ADULT, OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OLD
AUTHORIZATION FORM
(FORM E)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

DAY PHONE: _____ **EVE. PHONE:** _____

EMERGENCY PHONE: _____

CHURCH/GROUP NAME: _____

DATES OF TRIP: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Name of medical provider: _____

(Please provide a copy of medical insurance card, both front and back).

Are you allergic to any medication? Y / N Please describe: _____

Are you taking any medication? Y / N Please describe: _____

Date of last tetanus inoculation: _____

Has basic childhood series of three tetanus shots been given? Y / N _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

In consideration of VidaNet, organizing, arranging and permitting me to attend and participate in the event, I hereby waive all rights which I may now have or which may accrue in the future against VidaNet its respective chapters, directors, officers, employees, and members (collectively the "VidaNet Representatives"). I hereby release and discharge VidaNet and the VidaNet representatives harmless from and against all liability for any and all actions, damages, causes of action, suits, costs, losses, expenses, claims, demands, damages and judgments (collectively the "Losses and Claims"), which I, my spouse, family members, children, invitees, heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assignees ever had, now have or hereafter will have resulting from or arising in connection with my travel to, attendance at or participation in VidaNet events.

I acknowledge that certain legal rights against VidaNet or the VidaNet representatives may be available to me now or in the future as a result of any losses and claims, and that by executing this waiver and release of liability, my spouse, family members, children, invitees, heirs, executors, administrators and I are forever relinquishing those rights against VidaNet and VidaNet Representatives. I acknowledge that no promises, representations or affirmations of fact were made to me by VidaNet or VidaNet Representatives concerning the safety of the event, the security precautions taken in sponsoring the event, the relative safety or danger associated with traveling to the event or participating in any activity, teaching, event or outing related to, associated with or connected in any way to the event and affirm that I have read and understand the forgoing provisions of this waiver and release of liability. I accept the terms of this waiver and release of liability as a condition to my attendance at the event.

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT FOR TREATMENT:

MUST BE NOTARIZED

I have read the above waiver and release of liability and agree to its provisions.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____