

2017 Mission Trip Introduction:

September 27, 2016

I am pleased to provide information about the upcoming Mission trip to Belize on April 12-19, 2017. The amount that each person (for ages 16 and up unless arranged with trip leader) will need to contribute is \$1800 and is tax deductible. On this trip, we will be traveling in a group of about 25 people of all ages and will be participating in work that is service and ministry oriented. We will be working in the small village of Billy White with a primary goal of beginning construction on a new school. Currently, the church has the only school in the town and is renting space in the community centre. They church members have recently purchased land across from their new church with the hope of building their own school.

This first communication to you contains all the needed information at this stage of our planning.

Please return the following items by December 15 to:

kkiers@albertaadventist.ca

- Registration Form
- Liability Release Form
- Copy of Picture Page of Passport
- Deposit of \$500.

If you want to reserve a spot, please enclose your deposit of \$500 per person with the above information. Please note that your mission trip money is considered a donation and is tax-deductible in which you are eligible to receive a tax receipt. For this reason, money turned in is not refundable.

To enter Belize, you will need a passport that is valid for at least 6 months from your date of entry. If your passport is not, then you will need to renew it before you travel.

The following pages will provide an overview of this trip and hopefully will answer questions that you may have. Thanks for your interest in missions and we look forward to welcoming you on this adventure of service.



Kevin Kiers
Youth Ministries Director
Trip Leader
Alberta Conference

Draft Itinerary:

Wednesday, April 12:

Welcome aboard! Today we depart with West Jet from Edmonton to Toronto, then directly to Belize. It will be an early start of 1:00 am so we will have a chance to sleep on the plane. We arrive there around noon and should be greeted by a school bus to take us to Santa Elena where we will be staying.

****Meals not included in the travel portion of this day****

Thursday, April 13:

Work Day – Today we begin our work in Billy White on the School. We will have Lunch at the worksite.

Friday, April 14:

Work Day – We will continue on with the work at the construction site. If it has been a hot day, after work, we could go to the river to cool off.

Sabbath, April 15:

Today, we will be joining one of the local churches for morning worship. It is likely that we will all be involved in some part of the Sabbath School or Church service. We will be involved in some sort of afternoon activities.

Sunday, April 16:

Work Day – We will continue to make progress on the school

Monday, April 17:

Today is our day of tourism with a trip to the ocean to go snorkeling. This will be an all day excursion that will bring us to the coast at Belize City where we will board a boat and head out to enjoy the warmth of the ocean.

Tuesday, April 18:

Work Day – We will be finishing off our work by the end of today.

Wednesday, April 19:

This is your last chance to pick up any souvenirs at the airport as we board our plane around noon after taking our school bus to the airport. We travel from Belize to Toronto, and then on to our last destination of Edmonton. We arrive around Midnight.

****Meals not included in the travel portion of this day****



Trip Costs:

The cost of this trip includes all air and ground transportation, lodging, food (except for the flight there and back), and all activities. All costs are in Canadian Funds.

The Cost of this trip is \$1800 CAD.

The Payment Plan for this trip is as follows:

1. **December 15:** \$500 minimum registration fee due by or before this date.
2. **January 20:** \$600 more is due making your total so far at \$1100
3. **February 20:** \$700 more is due making your total at \$1800.

Payment Methods:

Visa/MasterCard Please call Penny @ (403)342-5044 ext. 201
(or come in to the Conference office and talk to her)

Debit Card Come in to the Conference office and see Penny

Cheque and Cash accepted always.

Flights and Travel

The flights are reserved as shown below. The airline holds the right to make changes as needed and we will pass that information on to you if they change.

Also, if you are traveling from far, you might want to reserve a hotel room or make plans to stay with a kind friend in Edmonton in order to be 3 hours early for your 1:00 am flight. This is an international flight as a group so we meet well in advance to make sure we secure our place on the plane.

Flight Route(s):

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. West Jet 0418 | Edmonton – Toronto, April 12 | 1:00am – 6:39am |
| 2. West Jet 2604 | Toronto – Belize City April 12 | 9:15am – 11:59am |
| 3. West Jet 2605 | Belize City – Toronto April 19 | 12:50pm – 7:00pm |
| 4. West Jet 0445 | Toronto – Edmonton April 19 | 10:15pm – 12:24am |

General information:

Fundraising Methods:

Please remember that if you really feel that God can use you to meet the needs of our friends in Belize that He will enable you to raise money so the trip can take place. You may want to use some of the following ideas that have worked for others that have gone on similar trips:

1. Contact your Pastor and ask him for the assistance of your church in this project.

This might include:

- a. A special announcement made during the church service
 - b. A special afternoon program where you collect an offering
 - c. A donation that may come from the church through the church board
 - d. Opportunities for you and others from your church to conduct a fund raising event.
2. Join together with all participants from your church and organize a special fund raising event such as a meal (friends could donate the food and assist you with preparations).
 3. Photocopy several copies of the fundraising letter attached below. Then mail or give the enclosed donor information document to potential donors. Please read the document carefully so that all donations follow this process. This method works really great. You might want to personalize your letters.
 4. Donors will be returning all funds to you for you to forward to the Alberta Conference. This will enable you to have an accurate record keeping of the funds you have raised. Ensure that you are meeting the guidelines of fund raising as indicated further down in this document.\

Immunizations:

It is highly recommended that you look into immunizations that could protect you from diseases that you might come into contact with. While it is a personal decision to be immunized, I highly recommend that you **contact your local Public Health Service soon**, as some immunizations take time, and get the facts. They will ask you about where you will be visiting . . . tell them that you will fly Belize City and drive to **Santa Elena** in Belize (check your map to see what towns are between). You will be staying at and visiting a remote town while you are there.

Communicating with Family:

The majority of our time spent in Belize will be in the town of Santa Elena at the Seventh-day Adventist Radio station (94.1 Faith FM). The radio station there has wireless internet, and we will be able to communicate with your family via email/FB if so desired. You can plan on this method, unless internet there goes down. There is a phone there for emergencies only. If there is a family emergency in Canada, tell your family members to contact the conference office at (403)342-5044 and ask for the phone number to contact us there. Remember this should only be used in an emergency.

Luggage:

It is important that you pack only those things that you really need. Over packing will result in difficulty in getting around, extra charges at the airport, and more to get lost or be stolen. I have worked into the budget to pay for up to 2 checked in bags at the airport per person, and one carry on. If possible, bring only one suitcase and one carry-on. Here is some information regarding your luggage from the airlines:

Things to Know About Your Carry-on Bags

If you are traveling with any liquid, gel or aerosol items, here are a few things you should remember:

- Customers departing from U.S. airports on any domestic or international flight may bring carry-on bags through security and aboard the aircraft with trial-size toiletries (3.4 ounces or less) which can be purchased at any drug store.
- Toiletries must fit comfortably in one, quart-size (7.5" x 8"), clear plastic zip-top bag.
- The zip-top bag may need to be presented separately at airport security so make sure it is easily accessible when you approach the screening area.

Additionally, beverages or toiletries purchased inside the airport beyond the security checkpoints will be allowed onboard the aircraft.

Items greater than 3.4 ounces and/or not contained in a zip-top bag may be allowed on board but must be declared to the TSA at the security checkpoint for screening. These items include baby formula, milk (to include breast milk), baby food, juice, medications and liquids/gels that are needed for diabetic or other medical conditions.

The maximum combined linear measurement (length + width + height) of carry-on bags must not exceed 14 inches x 9 inches x 22 inches (23 x 35 x 56 cm) or 45 linear inches (114 cm).

Checked baggage can have a **maximum weight of 50 pounds (23 kg) per bag** and a maximum outside dimension of 62 inches (157 cm) per bag. Outside dimension of a bag is equal to the width + height + depth of the bag added together.

(Please be sure that your baggage is not overweight . . . you will be responsible to pay for this charge yourself)

T-Shirt:

We have a t-shirt for you that you will receive either at the airport in Edmonton. We would like you to wear this t-shirt while traveling through airports with the hope that after the first person crosses into the country, the rest of the group won't have to spend much time explaining to government officials what they are doing in the country. They will see that we are all part of the same group.

Money:

Money Matters: Keep it safe.

You will want to have some spending money while you are there. You might want snacks, pop, water bottle, souvenirs, or other things to make your trip more enjoyable. Also when you are traveling, you will want to have snacks/food at the airports.

While in Belize, you will want to have only American currency and Belize currency, or traveler's cheques. You can get these at your bank here in Canada. I have found that it is very convenient to have Belize currency for small purchases there, as we are far away from the American border. I recommend that you carry travelers cheques . . . you will be able to change them into local currency when you get there. Here are some other things to consider:

- No matter where you go, it's important to carry a variety of payments. Do not keep all your methods of payment in the same place.
- Be cash smart. Put an elastic band around your wallet and stash it in a buttoned pocket inside your jacket, a shoulder purse with the strap across your body, or a money belt. (Have a plan.)
- Carry only as much money as you'll need for the day.
- Treat your credit card carefully. Keep your eyes on it during a transaction and check the sales voucher carefully. Destroy the carbon copy but keep your copy.
- Always keep your travelers cheques separate from sales slips so you'll have a record in case the cheques are stolen.

Worships:

We plan on having worship each morning and evening as a group. During this time, we will be having safety talks and it will give us a chance to discuss the schedule for the day.

Safe Conduct:

There is power in numbers. We are there as a group, and therefore we must act as a group. Please stay together and let the leader know if you are going someplace. Here are some other things to consider:

- Know where you are going at all times.
- Be extra careful crossing roads. You may find crossing the street the most dangerous part of your stay!
- Always be aware of your surroundings and your belongings. Never leave your personal property unattended.
- Your camera is a mugger's prime target. The bigger and more expensive the carrying case, the more valuable it looks to a thief.
- Watch for distraction thieves. They work in groups, sometimes posing as families with children. One will bump into you or stop you for directions. While you're dealing with him/her, another is picking your pockets or running off with your camera.
- Store valuables, cash, and airline tickets safely.
- Stay away from unlit areas after dark.

Crime knows no racial bias. Victims come from all ages and racial groups and they do not exclude men. Precaution and caution are your very best defense. Play it safe. Your health and well-being are essential to the work you have been called to do.

Travel / Labor Insurance:

We will be purchasing travel and labor insurance for each one of you from Adventist Risk Management, Inc. I am providing this information to you so you know the amounts that you are going to be covered for this trip. If you require more coverage, you are responsible to purchase additional coverage on your own. To review the coverage that we provide, please visit: www.freshalbertayouth.ca/youth-ministries/missions

Ways to Stay Involved:

Share your experience with others. You don't need to give long detailed reports. But be prepared to go beyond the stereotype, "I had a great time!"

- Give reports in your church. Even the weekly mission reports can become a way to stay involved. Take the chance to share your experiences in segment form. Keep missions alive in your local church.
- Support other volunteers preparing to go. Your experience can be a valuable resource to other mission groups.
- Increase your mission offerings. The general mission offering often provides the funds to keep those projects running that got started by special one-time offerings.
- Learn foreign languages. Work on a language now in case you get to go again.
- Continue to study "your" people and their culture. Many universities provide studies in international issues. With your "active understanding," you'll be able to study more emphatically and respond to important issues more appropriately.
- Get involved in local community services. Your eyes should be more open to mercy ministries now. Christ's mission included the healing of the whole person.
- Consider a longer-term mission service. Successful short-term volunteers usually make excellent long-term missionaries. Many agencies including ADRA consider short-term experience the doorway to more permanent involvement.

Packing:

Work Clothes:

- Pants (don't forget you will likely be doing laundry by hand)
- Shorts
- Long sleeve shirts (the sun is always shining)
- T-shirts
- Work Gloves
- Hat (for sun protection)
- Sturdy shoes (consider lightweight steel toe)

Sabbath Dress:

- Ladies – Dress / skirt and Blouse
- Men – Pants, Dress Shirt, tie

Personal Clothes:

- Underwear, socks
- pants/shorts – lightweight & washable (for after work hours)
- Casual shoes
- Swimming suit for swimming. Modest! (no bikinis)
- Lightweight pajamas
- Sandals

Miscellaneous items:

- Bible, paper/pencil
- Towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo
- Personal toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste/brush, comb,etc)
- Hand cleaner
- Roll of toilet paper (you never know)
- Girls – menstrual supplies
- SUN SCREEN!!
- Hand lotion
- Personal medication (band aids, Aspirin, diarrhea medication, antibiotic cream, etc)
- PASSPORT, copy of airline flights
- Traveler's cheques/American money/ credit card
- Laundry detergent for washing clothes
- Sleeping bag(lightweight and small)
- Small pillow if you want
- Sun glasses
- Flashlight
- Camera (not your favorite, most expensive one)
- Luggage locks
- Water bottle
- BRING FOR WORKSITE: PERSONAL EAR PROTECTION AND DUST MASKS



Dear

I am going to participate in a mission trip to Belize in April, 2017. This is a trip that is sponsored by the Alberta Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Along with others, I will be working on a project that will provide a church to a school there. The only way that I will be able to participate in this project, and for this project to be completed, is if I do my part by asking friends and relatives to help financially. I'm wondering if you'd be able to help. My contribution goal is only \$1,800.00 and it is anticipated that I will have the bulk of these funds raised by February, 2017. Please look at the guidelines below for contributions. It would be greatly appreciated by me, as well as the children at the school, if you could help. Thank-you, and God bless you.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES:
 Because of Revenue Canada regulations of non-profit organizations, cheques made payable to individuals are not tax deductible. Therefore, please do not make cheques payable to a participant OR put their name on the cheque.
 Receipts will be mailed to the address below.
Instructions:
 1. If you want a tax-deduction receipt, **make cheque payable to Alberta Conference of S.D.A.**
DO NOT MAKE CHECKES PAYABLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL
DO NOT PUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME ANYWHERE ON THE CHECK
 2. Complete the form below. Mail cheque and form directly to participant. (they will get it to us)

 Cut here - mail with check to mission trip participant. -----

Donation Amount _____ Cheque # _____ Receipt will be issued to person named below: Name _____ Mailing Address _____ City _____ Province _____ Postal code _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____	Mission trip Participant's Name:
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Registration Form

Personal Information

Passenger Name (as it appears on your passport): _____

Passport Number: _____ Citizenship _____

Date of Birth: _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: cell. _____ Home. _____

E-mail: _____

Parent's Email (if applicable): _____

Parent's Telephone (if applicable): cell. _____ Home. _____

Name of Church you attend: _____

Food Allergies: _____

Medical Conditions: _____

Emergency Contact Information

1. Contact Person (in case of emergency): _____

Telephone: cell. _____ Home. _____

Email: _____

2. Contact Person (in case of emergency): _____

Telephone: cell. _____ Home. _____

Email: _____

(Send this completed registration form to kkiers@albertaadventist.ca)