



# Costa Rica

**Mission Trip  
July 6-19, 2005**

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## Trip introduction

The Rock Church will be going with Believers World Outreach to Jaco and San Jose, Costa Rica. Believers World Outreach is a short-term missions-sending organization that organizes and facilitates mission trips for churches, youth groups, other mission organizations, and individuals that desire a deeper walk with Jesus, taking them to the mission field to further God's kingdom and purposes in the earth.

The Rock Church's Costa Rica trip is open to all age groups (under 12 must have a parent on the trip) and provides an opportunity to take part in reaching out to the nations. It's great for young people, first time missionaries, and seasoned veterans. Each person who attends has the opportunity pick the area of ministry that best suits him/her. Opportunities to serve on the trip include:

- Surf Outreach
- Evangelism & Drama
- Work projects & Construction
- Technical/Computers (18+ only)
- Medical (18+ only)

The total cost of the trip is \$1848, which is all-inclusive covering flight, taxes, meals, accommodations, training, transportation, and mission supplies (costumes, construction materials, medical supplies, translators, etc.). Spending money for *mercados* and free days is optional and an American \$20 bill goes thrice as far in Central America.

You are required to have a current US passport to enter. Check the expiration date, as your passport cannot expire any earlier than October 19, 2005.

## Fundraising

If you skipped ahead to this part, then you may be disappointed. The intensity of the team, parents, and supporters determine fundraising results; be forewarned, large-scale fundraisers generally do not provide much dough.

### ***Tentative fundraisers***

- Pins for Missions  
A bowling tournament where each point equals cash
- Battle of the Sexes  
The guys have a bucket, as do the girls. Whichever team collects the most change (determined by weight) wins both buckets.
- Restaurant Fundraisers  
Bring in a flyer and receive 10-15% of the total bill.

## Support letters

The bulk of your money will come from support letters, but don't let that scare you! If God wants you to go, then you're gonna go!

Here's a quick way to make \$600—that's one-third of the trip cost—in one week:

- Monday - mail in \$50 of your own money

- Tuesday - ask four family members to contribute \$25 each
- Wednesday - ask five friends to contribute \$20 each
- Thursday - ask your boss (*ooooh*) for a company donation of \$50
- Friday - ask five co-workers to contribute \$15
- Saturday - ask five neighbors to contribute \$15 each
- Sunday - ask six businesses you frequent to contribute \$25 each

Visit the aforementioned people, tell them about the trip—be excited—and give them a support letter.

### **Writing your letter**

Please be professional and personal in the writing of your letters. You not only represent yourself, but The Rock Church when sending these letters. (Two sample support letters are in the appendix.)

Typed letters are best. Before addressing and sending your letters, have someone reliable proofread it... twice! Then, hand-sign every letter and include a personal hand-written note and at the bottom. For instance, “Thank for your prayerful consideration,” “It was good to see you at fall break,” “Thanks for your support last year,” etc.

The body of your letter should include the following components (in no particular order):

- Your excitement about the trip
- Why you want to go
- What you will be doing
- Something about your teammates
- Something about where you will be going
- A request for prayer and/or financial support
- Cost of the trip
- Dates of trip
- Financial deadlines

Be sure to include a paragraph with the following component: *To ensure that your tax-deductible contribution is properly credited, please make your check payable to The Rock Church. Make a note on the memo line that reads “[your name]- Costa Rica.” Please return your check to The Rock Church, attn: Erika Lin Payne, 2448 Historic Decatur Rd. #105, San Diego, CA 92106.*

You must, must, must send a thank you letter to everyone who responds with a prayer and/or financial commitment.

### **Sending your letter**

There are particular methods for recalling names of the many people with whom you are acquainted. Studies show, for example, that most people know well over 300 people on a first-name basis, but most of us cannot recall all of those names on command. Rather, most of our brains work by association; e.g. if you are reminded of a relationship with a person/group, then you can better remember their names. Make it your goal to come up with 120 names. Review the list below and check those people who apply to you:

advertising agencies  
apartment manager  
Avon lady  
baker

former high school teachers  
foundations  
friends  
friends of relatives

bank presidents	grocery store clerks
banker	high school friends
barber	exercise class
beautician	insurance agent
Bible bookstore	Kiwanis Club
brothers & sisters	local businesses
butcher	local radio stations
Chambers of Commerce	mailman
Christian business groups	military personnel
church directories	milkman
church members	missionary societies
church-related news ads	neighbors (current & former)
civic clubs	office building directory
coach	parents
college friends	parents' work associates
community leaders	pastor
dentist	printers
doctor	retired people
editor of local newspaper	Rotary Club
eye doctor	service station manager
family attorney	Sunday school classes
fellow workers	teammates
florist	telephone directory
former college professors	veterinarian
former customers	wedding lists
former employees	youth group

As you read each category, jot down names that come to mind. Don't stress if you cannot remember all the details, just write down what you know. Don't try to come up with addresses, and don't eliminate any names that come to mind. Once you've completed every category, add any other names that come to mind and any other categories you might consider.

Review your list. Put a check mark next to people you would not feel comfortable asking for support and give yourself a valid reason for this position. Otherwise, these people may surprise you and may be the very people who would be most willing to help you. Go back over your check marks and see if you can cut out about half of them. Continue to think of other possibilities, and as other names come to mind, write them down for further consideration.

Once you've completed name-storming, fill in the addresses using your personal phone book and various directories. Ask your associates to add any names they feel are appropriate and to help you with any names and addresses that are incomplete.

When sending your letters, be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and one donation slip (appendix) for easy turnaround.

### ***Follow Up***

Nine out of ten people who don't respond to support letters haven't decided not to support you. Rather, they simply haven't gotten around to mailing the check or have misplaced or forgotten about your letter.

Check with Erika Lin every two weeks to see who's responded then send a quick note to those who haven't responded, if they have any further questions and invite them to call you if they do. If you prefer calling rather than writing a note, that's even better.

## **F.A.Q.s**

### **Is Costa Rica safe?**

According to the CIA World Factbook, "Costa Rica is a Central American success story... Although still a largely agricultural country, it has expanded its economy to include strong technology and tourism sectors. The standard of living is relatively high."

Costa Rica is probably the safest Central American country.

### **What accommodations will be provided for missionaries while in the country?**

Missionaries stay in hotels. Accommodations are very comfortable and all conveniences are very modern, as there are many first-time missionaries on this trip. Females room with females and males with males. Exceptions can be made for married couples and families prior to trip, if desired. Please contact Erika Lin to make such arrangements.

### **What about food?**

Breakfast & dinner will be served at the hotel. Believers World Outreach works closely with hotel staff to provide a quality meal that is healthy and enjoyable. While ministering during the day, the primary lunch is pb&j, bottled water, and fruit.

### **What about transportation in the country?**

Believers World Outreach charts buses that will be used exclusively for their missionaries. The project directors will be able to communicate with the missionary teams via cell phone or two-way radios.

### **What about travel insurance?**

All persons traveling will be required to provide proof of insurance & international coverage prior to departure. If you do not have this, you will be able to purchase insurance coverage for the duration of the trip from an insurance carrier listed in the Believers World Outreach Missions Guide.

### **What if a missionary has a medical need while in Costa Rica?**

Believers World Outreach always has a predetermined hospital within the mission country, should any need arise. They base their decision on the facilities, language abilities, and medical expertise of the staff of that hospital. Neither The Rock Church nor Believers World Outreach is responsible for this expense.

## Appendix

### ***Example Schedule***

Day 1 - arrive at hotel

1:00 PM - lunch  
3:00 PM - drama training  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out.

Day 2

6:00 AM - breakfast  
6:45 AM - construction team leaves  
7:45 AM - devotional time  
8:30 AM - drama training  
12:00 PM - lunch in your rooms  
12:45 PM - cultural & language training  
1:30 PM - drama training  
6:00 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 3

6:00 AM - breakfast  
7:00 AM - travel to Jaco  
10:30 AM - check into hotel & have lunch  
11:30 AM - load buses & head to ministry sites  
5:00 PM - return to hotel  
6:00 PM - dinner  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 4

6:30 AM - breakfast  
7:30 AM - devos  
8:15 AM - team time  
8:30 AM - construction team leaves  
9:00 AM - buses leave to ministry sites  
2:00 PM - beach outreach  
6:00 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 5

6:30 AM - breakfast  
7:30 AM - devos  
8:15 AM - team time  
8:30 AM - construction team leaves  
9:00 PM - buses leave to ministry sites

6:00 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 6

7:00 AM - breakfast  
9:00 PM - free day - no teams out  
6:00 PM - dinner  
No evening meeting  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 7

6:30 AM - breakfast  
7:30 AM - devos  
8:15 AM - team time  
9:00 AM - ministry in Quepos and Jaco  
6:00 PM - dinner at hotel  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 8

6:30 AM - breakfast  
7:30 AM - devos  
8:15 AM - team time  
8:45 AM - Buses at hotel  
9:00 AM - ministry in Quepos and Jaco  
6:00 PM - dinner at hotel, BBQ by pool  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 9

6:00 AM - breakfast  
7:00 AM - check out  
7:30 AM - travel to San Jose  
10:30 AM - check into hotel & have lunch  
11:30 AM - load buses head to ministry sites  
5:00 PM - return to hotel  
6:00 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - evening service  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 10

6:15 AM - breakfast  
7:30 AM - devos

8:15 AM - team time  
9:00 AM - buses leave to ministry sites  
6:00 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - evening service

Day 11

6:15 AM - breakfast  
6:45 AM - construction team leaves  
7:30 AM - devos  
8:15 AM - team time  
9:00 AM - buses leave to ministry sites  
4:30 PM - teams have dinner next door to hotel  
No service tonight  
11:00 PM lights out

Day 12 - Free day!!!

7:00 AM - breakfast  
9:00 AM - free day: white water rafting, volcano/rainforest tour, shopping  
6:30 PM - dinner  
7:30 PM - debrief, talent show, worship & testimonies  
11:00 PM - lights out

Day 13 - Fly home

**Sample Letter #1**

[Date]

Dear [insert name here],

Jesus told the disciples to pray: ...*pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest* (Luke 10:2). I have sensed God's leadership to participate in The Rock Church's Costa Rica Mission Trip in July 2005. This volunteer mission project is a direct mission between The Rock Church and Believers World Outreach.

The purpose of this project is to serve the people of San Jose and Jaco, Costa Rica through surf outreach, drama, street evangelism, construction projects, technology training, and medical care. I believe that I will be a valuable asset to the team!

I am going to follow God's leadership by faith. I will be using personal vacation time and drawing from available resources to follow God's leadership. However, I must also enlist the help of others to assist with financial and prayer support. I encourage you to pray for me daily during this mission project. I also ask that you pray about your financial participation to help me serve on this project. The total cost of the trip is \$1848. My going and your giving beyond your commitments to your church will expand God's Kingdom and impact lives for eternity.

To ensure that your tax-deductible contribution is properly credited, please make your check payable to The Rock Church. Make a note on the memo line that reads [your name] Costa Rica. Please return your check to The Rock Church, attn: Erika Lin Payne, 2448 Historic Decatur Rd. #105, San Diego, CA 92106.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this worthy project. Should you have any questions, please contact me [your phone number & email] or the trip coordinator, Erika Lin Payne, at 619.226.7625 x277 or [erikap@therocksandiego.org](mailto:erikap@therocksandiego.org).

On a mission with Him,

[Your name & contact info]

**Sample Letter #2**

[Date]

Dear [insert name here],

In July 2005 a team of missionaries from The Rock Church will be leaving for an two-week trip to Costa Rica. There I will be helping with [choose one: surf outreach, drama, street evangelism, construction projects, technology training, or medical care].

In San Jose we will spend a lot of our time working in the Nicaraguan refugee camp of Los Guidos. This camp has approximately 20,000 refugees that moved there to have a better life. It is the most poverty stricken area in Costa Rica. In Jaco, we will be working with Christian Surfer's International. [Customize this paragraph depending for your team. Medical personnel, insert information about the free medical clinics, etc.]

The unconditional love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ is all powerful, but it will take all of our individual efforts combined to help send his message throughout our world and into open arms, and the arms of these wonderful people are truly open wide.

I am requesting your thoughtful consideration to help me serve on this mission team. Each missionary is responsible for paying for our own airline tickets, area transportation, housing, food, passports, and other expenses. The total cost for me to go is \$1848. This money will provide entirely and only for the necessary materials.

Please join our team and become a part of this worthwhile mission; anything will help and I personally petition your prayers for this effort. Tax deductible donations and may be mailed to the address below. Please make your check payable to The Rock Church and make a note on the memo line that reads [your name] Costa Rica.

The Rock Church  
attn: Erika Lin Payne  
2448 Historic Decatur Rd. #105  
San Diego, CA 92106

Please contact me or the trip coordinator, Erika Lin Payne at 619.226.7625 x277 or [erikap@therocksandiego.org](mailto:erikap@therocksandiego.org) with any questions you may have.

Blessings,

[Your name & contact info]

**Donation Slips**

Be sure to include one slip with each support letter. These slips will aid not only in record-keeping but also the compilation of our prayer chain.

**Commitment of Support for \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I am committing to support you

- Financially \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Please make your check out to *The Rock Church* with my name in the memo field & the words "*Costa Rica*")
- Through Prayer  
Please email prayer requests to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Commitment of Support for \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I am committing to support you

- Financially \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Please make your check out to *The Rock Church* with my name in the memo field & the words "*Costa Rica*")
- Through Prayer  
Please email prayer requests to: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission Application

After reading the Costa Rica Mission Packet, please complete this application and turn it in no later than February 27, 2005 at 1:30 PM at the trip meeting.

Please make sure all the items on the application checklist are submitted together.

### General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Night Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social security number: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Status:       part-time       full-time       student  
 Marital Status:    single       married       divorced       widowed

### Ministry

How long have you attended The Rock Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member (completed Covenant 200)?       yes       no

Do you attend a Rock Small Group? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is your facilitator? \_\_\_\_\_

List the date and activities of other ministry experiences here at The Rock Church and the reasons for ending that ministry.

date stated	ministry/activity	date ended	reason

1. Describe any other ministry/church experience you had.

2. Give a brief testimony.

3. Have you taken a spiritual gifts test in the last 12 months?       yes       no

4. What spiritual gifts do you feel you have, and how would you like to use them on the trip?

4. Why do you want to go to Costa Rica?

5. What talents do you have that will help the team on this trip?

6. What are some of your expectations of the trip leaders?

7. In what area do you wish to serve? **Please select only one.**

- Evangelism/Drama
- Surf Outreach
- Work Projects/Construction
- Technical/Computers (18+ only)
- Medical (18+ only)

**18+ only:** What would you prefer?

- Cross-age team
- Adult only team
- Place me where I am needed

Please note: surf outreach is only available as a cross-age team.

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the personal information in this application will be held confidential by the professional church staff.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Application Checklist***

- Completed application
- \$100 application fee & trip deposit
- Two recent photographs

Thank you for your interest!

Questions about this trip should be directed to  
Erika Lin Payne, Youth Administrator, The Rock Church  
619.226.7625 x277 or [erikap@therocksandiego.org](mailto:erikap@therocksandiego.org)