



### Extra-Detailed Trip Information (Optional Read)

This seems to help those that have never traveled to another country or been on a mission trip, or those that like a lot of detail.

The most concise and important information is found in the “travel packet” for each country, but here are extended recommendations and information if you are interested.

#### Packing tips for those that are drilling:

1. You will need at least one pair of leather gloves; I always take 2 pairs.
2. Take 2 pairs of shoes: one pair of boots and a second pair to wear in the cars. We ask everyone to put their muddy boots in the back of the truck so that we don't trash out the cars. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pair can be tennis shoes, flip-flops, etc.
3. Be sure to bring a variety of clothing; the temperature can swing from warm to hot to cold and back again. Light jackets are helpful, non-poncho raingear (ponchos are too loose and will get stuck in the drill equipment), long shorts for relaxing after a day in the village, pants, etc.
4. We recommend that everyone take some kind of malaria medicine. There are about 4 different kinds out there. I think it is best to see your family doctor who knows your system.
5. You will need multiple sets of drilling clothes. Some of our countries offer laundry, but do not count on this. Your clothes will get greasy and muddy, so I recommend 3 pair of pants and around 5 shirts *just for drilling, not including rest time clothing*. Plan to change clothes a couple to times each day – you'll have a “drill” set of clothing and a “relaxed” set of clothing.
6. Couples sometimes have the opportunity to stay together if we stay in a hotel.

#### Packing tips for those that are doing hygiene:

1. We would ask that you wear at the village, long skirts (knee-length or longer), jeans (not tight!), Capri's, but **no shorts**.
2. You might need 2 pairs of shoes as well.

#### Packing tips for everyone:

1. Bring your swimsuit, sometimes there is an opportunity to swim.
2. Bring D batteries and a flash light in case the electricity goes out, which can be often. We have battery-operated fans.
3. You can wear long shorts on your relaxing days, but please do NOT wear them to church, nor at the village.
4. If you bring a purse, wallet, or other valuables, I would suggest that when field staff you to the supermarket and the Mercado that you leave them at the house. You do not need money for those 2 places.
5. Ladies, do not wear white t-shirts. Rain and water splashes are frequent.
6. Please do need to wear jewelry beyond a *simple* wedding ring, if you like. If you are drilling, you can get it caught in the rig, and if you are doing hygiene, the “wealthy” image put on by jewelry can be a barrier keeping the women from opening up to you.

### SCHEDULE

**(SUBJECT TO CHANGE, Please be flexible. You will be in good hands with our in-field staff.)**

#### Saturday:

Don't forget your passport!!! Everyone meet at the gate. Remember to wear your t-shirts so that those flying in from other places will know you are the group they are meeting up with.. I would suggest that you get there at the airport at least 2 ½ to 3 hours out from the flight.

There are always large groups going to these countries. Remember, all sharp items and liquids larger than 3 oz. go in checked baggage. When you get to the gate, and there is someone behind the kiosk,

you are usually asked to come up and have your seat assignment confirmed. They do this because they always overbook their flights. You will need your passport and your ticket. Once you get on the plane, they will give you a couple of forms to fill out. Both forms will ask you what your destination is, put the name of your destination country. They will ask, "what is your reason for coming to the country, and put tourist. They will ask your arrival date and your departure date. Note that the date format is different and usually asks *day first*, then month, then year.

The short form you will give to immigration with your passport to be stamped. The long form is one per family and is given as you leave the airport right before customs. Once on the ground and exiting the airport after collecting your luggage, you will be greeted by our in-field staff. You will load up the truck and the van and head to our team base. There, you will get to meet more of our staff who will be cooking and cleaning for you. Remember that relationships are the real focus of the trip, and make an effort to show your care to the in-field staff. They will work hard for you this week.

### **Sunday:**

After breakfast, you will go to an evangelical church. Remember, do not wear shorts. Please be receptive to different worship styles and languages. After church, there are various opportunities to relax and sight-see, depending on the circumstances of your specific trip. There will be more opportunities for tourist activities at the end of the week.

### **Monday:**

Oh, did I mention that this trip is about **relationships**, not the well?! You will head to the village early. When you get there, you will be greeted by the mayor, water committee, and teachers, etc. **This is a vitally important relationship-building time**. You will shake hands with everyone – smile if you do not speak Spanish to show your care. Often the people will take time to tell you how much they appreciate you doing this for them. Our in-field staff might offer some words or pray. Then when our staff starts instructing, you will start prepping the site to drill. Your goal today is to drill a borehole and take soil samples to determine where the best aquifer of water is. The ladies helping with hygiene will go off with our hygiene trainer and meet with the women of the village. You will often visit women's dwellings. Anything you can find to comment positively on will help build relationships. These women are often shy that a fancy American would come to their humble home. You have the opportunity to build them up and communicate their worth even if you don't speak Spanish – you can be warm and welcoming with body language. Our staff is also willing to communicate for you. The children will often respond positively yet shyly if you initiate communication with them.

### **Tuesday:**

Today, drillers will drill the hole wider, put casing in, flush the well, put in gravel pack, and maybe do some developing. The hygiene team will be meeting with the kids in the morning and with the ladies in the afternoon.

### **Wednesday:**

On this day, the drillers will have a chance to switch out in the a.m. and p.m. to play with the kids.

Remember, **relationships**. When you lay your head on that pillow at night, I don't want you to see that pipe going down a borehole, I want you to see faces. In the morning, a team of 3-4 can help with the developing, and in the afternoon, a different team of 3-4 can help our staff clean up all of the tools, pipes, rig, etc.

Sometimes our wells take longer or there are complications – be patient and cover everything in prayer. Flexibility is key, and when in doubt, remember, **our in-field staff are the expert drillers. Never take action without their permission**. With the blessing of God, you will see a successful well. In the unlikely event that you are unable to bring water, rest assured that our in-field staff will return to this same community to attempt another well – we will not simply leave without trying to assist the community in every way possible.

### **Thursday:**

You might need to be packed by this day. Our in-field staff will advise you. You will arrive at the site, put the final touches on the well, and then there will be a dedication service. This is my favorite part of the whole trip. It is a time for the community to thank God for the blessing of the well and thank you for your part in bringing the water. Relax and let yourself worship with the people. Remember that this is a life-changing day for them. It can also be emotional to leave the village and say good-bye to these people that have become very dear to you. Please do not leave behind any gifts or make promises; while this feels instinctual, it can be damaging; you do not want the relationship to just be about what you can give them – it is much greater to share your heart and let them see your care in your words, your face, your actions. Please do not provide your contact information except email, and only provide your email if you are willing to commit to writing bi-lingually over a long period of time. Also be aware you might be opening yourself up for request for money or to travel to the states.

After the dedication ceremony, you often will travel to another city to begin your tourist activities. I encourage you to take time out to journal so you do not forget what God has taught you, about those special names and faces you met, etc.

### **Friday:**

You will turn back into tourist. Various activities are offered – it is nice after that hard week of work to relax and enjoy. Remember that you can continue to pray for the village – trust those precious people in God’s hands, as he is the one who was there before you came, and he will remain there after you leave, caring for them like the tender father that he is.

### **Saturday:**

You will get up early in the morning and head to the airport.

### **Other issues to note:**

- Latin America is full of very proper cultures. So, be polite and use manners. Do not be abrasive, aggressive, and demanding. In 2 Corinthians 4:5 it reminds us, “For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves because of Jesus.” For this reason, seek to communicate grace and a peaceful manner in your words and actions. Body language communicates **so much more** than you will ever realize – you can communicate what is in your heart with your face and your body.
- Latin America is full of male-dominated cultures, whether we agree with it or not. And since we are coming into their country, I would ask you to respect that. As it says in John 13:34-35, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Women, please be aware that you will need to dress extra modestly. Do not hold extended eye contact with the men, and do not allow your body orientation to become too close – you will communicate something you probably do not intend to. When a male is speaking (*especially* a mayor, pastor, or other person of influence), talking is considered very rude. Men, please be aware that you can set a great example by your interactions with your female team members and the national women. You are always being watched by the nationals and can effect positive change just by your team interactions.
- If you have any emergency situations, you can contact your trip coordinator at their cell phone provided in the “travel information” packet.

That is a lot of detail but hopefully it will help you! We will pray for you every day. Please let us know if you have further questions.