

# FMC MISSION TRIPS

## INFORMATION PACKET





# WHO IS FMC?



## OUR FOUNDERS

Earlier in their marriage, Frank and Genie Summers experienced a deep conversion and took a radical step. They sold their belongings and left behind a comfortable life in the United States to serve as Catholic missionaries abroad along with their (then) only son Beau.

After working among the poor in multiple countries, their own family growing in number along the way, they were inspired to train other families and individuals to serve as foreign missionaries. They saw that the harvest was great and the laborers few, and that more laborers were needed in the vineyard of foreign Catholic missions. Thus, Family Missions Company was born.

In 1997, FMC began operations, and in 2001 Frank and Genie led the first formal training for new missionaries. From a humble home base in southwest Louisiana, these missionaries were sent to the ends of the earth.



## OUR MISSION

We are lay Catholic missionaries preaching the Gospel, serving the poor, and making disciples of all nations.

We seek holiness through a prayer life rooted in the Sacraments and God's Word. We live out Gospel poverty and are supported by community.

We share Christ's love with the world, carrying out both corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Recognizing that the poor have very real needs that cannot be neglected, we also know that only Jesus can feed their souls and ultimately satisfy them.

We enter places of need at the invitation of the local bishop and work in collaboration with the local Church. Full-time missionaries – both families and singles – take on a variety of ministries according to the needs of the area they are serving and the gifts God has given each missionary team or family.





# MISSION TRIP BASICS

## WHO

### STAFF

Our mission trips are staffed by full-time FMC missionaries. This could be current missionary families or singles or alumni missionaries. Often locals from the area that our missionaries journey with will assist on the trip as well.

### MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

We invite families of all ages and sizes as well as individual adults (aged 18 and older) to serve alongside our full-time missionaries. The minimum group size required to book a trip is fifteen (which includes 10 adults). The ideal size for a group ranges from 15 to 30 depending on location. Additionally, some locations are more or less suitable for families with young children and/or older adults.

## WHAT

### PRAYER

Every FMC mission trip is wrapped in prayer and praise. We begin our days with what we call “family style prayer” which includes giving thanks, reading Scripture, and offering petitions. Throughout the day, you will hear our missionaries praising God for everything, living into Psalm 34:1. Additionally, we leave room for and encourage everyone to take time for personal prayer. Lastly, since we often serve in locations where priests are serving 30+ small communities, daily Mass is not guaranteed unless the group is traveling with a priest.

### MINISTRY

The ministries will vary depending on location. However, each trip will include both spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Spiritual works may include praying with the poor and sick or sharing testimonies and teachings at prayer meetings. Corporal works may include visiting the homebound, sharing a meal, or helping to build a house.





# MISSION TRIP BASICS

## WHEN

### TIME AND LENGTH

Short-term mission trips with FMC range from one week to three weeks. Mission trips to our home-base in Abbeville, Louisiana begin with arrival Sunday and departure the following Saturday. Trips to our Spanish speaking countries are usually one week long - arrival Saturday and departure the following Saturday. The exception to this is our Summer School of Missionary Evangelization (SSME). SSME is three or four weeks long depending on location and year. Trips to Asia vary in length, but it is preferable for them to be at least two weeks due to the longer travel and drastic culture change.

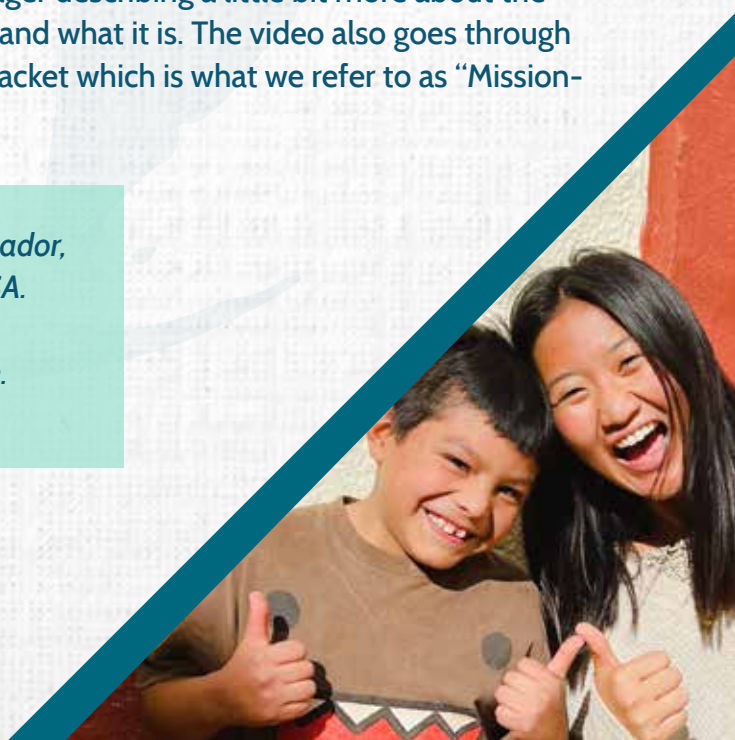
## HOW

### PREPARATION

Prior to arriving in the host country for your mission trip, you will receive a fundraising packet, welcome packet, and orientation video. The fundraising packet contains fundraising tips and editable templates (flyers, business cards, sign-up sheets, etc.) that you can share with your friends, family, parish, etc. The welcome packet contains general information about health and safety, trip policies, a packing list, and answers to some frequently asked questions. It also has simple suggestions on how to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, etc.

And lastly, there is some information about the host country and traveling there. The orientation video is a thirty minute video from our Mission Trip Manager describing a little bit more about the foundations of mission, what an FMC mission trip is not, and what it is. The video also goes through one of the most important documents in the welcome packet which is what we refer to as "Missionary Heart Guidelines."

*FMC has mission posts in Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Italy, Nepal, India, The Philippines, Taiwan, and the USA. Each trip offers an opportunity to experience the local culture and learn more about the people who live there. Not all posts host regular mission trips.*





# MORE DETAILS

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing quarters vary at each location. Groups will usually stay together in a large housing unit. This could be a pastoral center with large bunk areas – separate for men and women or a mission house with separate rooms. Family accommodations are also available.

### TRANSPORTATION

For all of our foreign mission trips, our missionaries will pick you up and drop you off at the airport nearest to them. All transportation throughout the trip will be provided including to and from work projects, ministries, pilgrimage sites, etc. For trips being hosted to our Stateside location, transportation is not provided. We suggest groups rent vehicles that will be used to transport their group to and from ministries each day.

### PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING

If your group has a particular apostolate (i.e. medical, teaching, youth ministry, etc.) that you feel passionate about, we can try to find a mission post that is doing similar work. However, we encourage groups to enter into whatever ministries our full-time missionaries invite them into.

Each trip will include both spiritual and corporal works of mercy as well as provide the opportunity for mission trip participants to reflect on their own personal story of the Good News present in their life. Each participant will have the chance to share their testimony with the poor as well as the rest of the group. This piece of the trip is essential to understanding deeper the ways in which the Lord is calling each person to fulfill the Great Commission as a beloved son or daughter.

### MEALS

The mission trip fee covers all meals during the mission trip. The meals will be fairly simple in nature or similar to what the locals eat and we ask that all group participants live into Luke 10:8 – eat what is set before you.

*FMC mission trips include both service to others and opportunities to grow in one's own faith. Works of mercy, prayer, praise and thanksgiving, and quiet reflection are part of every mission trip we host.*



# MORE DETAILS

## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

### SAFETY

We only host mission trips in locations where we believe that it is safe for the group to join us. Our full-time missionaries are in communication with the Mission Trip Manager and other office and leadership staff in the States to determine whether or not it is a good time to host. We encourage each family and single to discern the risks properly by prayer and research – for example, visiting CDC and U.S. Embassy websites. With that said, there are risks involved with every mission trip and we cannot guarantee that no harm will come to you.

### LEADERSHIP

Our full-time missionaries will be present throughout the entirety of the trip from morning prayer/breakfast to the close of evening ministries and/or bedtime. Usually our missionaries will live in the same housing facility as the group. If they are unable to do so, they will stay very nearby.

### FINANCES

Every mission trip participant is encouraged to fundraise for their mission trip fee, flight costs, etc. in order to invite more people into their mission through both financial and spiritual support. This mission trip fee covers housing, transportation during the mission trip, food, staffing, ministry fees, supplies, and any costs associated with a fun outing or pilgrimage. It does not include flights to and from the host country.





# MORE DETAILS

## WHY CHOOSE FMC?

**CATHOLIC:** We hold fast to the teachings of the Catholic Church and work under the direction and supervision of local bishops.

**EVANGELICAL:** We believe the greatest gift we have to offer is our faith in Jesus Christ, who hears the cry of the poor and brings hope to the hopeless.

**CHARITABLE:** We live in solidarity with the poor and serve them through corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

**SUSTAINABLE:** Short-term mission trip participants enter into the lives and ministries of the full-time missionaries so as to leave a lasting impact.

**EXPERIENCED:** FMC has run hundreds of short-term mission trips to dozens of countries over the last 25 years.

**GLOBAL:** Mission posts include Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Italy, Nepal, India, The Philippines, Taiwan, and the USA. (Note: not all posts host regular mission trips.)

**DIVERSE:** Missionaries come from all around the world and from all walks of life. A growing proportion of our missionaries are from the developing countries we serve who also feel the call to leave behind their former lives and follow Jesus wherever he may take them.

**PROFESSIONAL:** We run annual trips for parishes, Universities, and other National organizations like FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

**AFFORDABLE:** \$600-1500 per individual and family rates available (depending on mission post and length of trip) including meals, housing, ground transportation, ministry resources, and miscellaneous expenses. (Airfare/transportation to host site not included.)

**CONVENIENT:** Travel can be arranged with our travel agent and on the ground programming is organized and led by full-time missionaries. You are free to fully enter in while our missionaries run everything.





# MORE DETAILS

## FAQS

### HOW MUCH DOES A MISSION TRIP COST?

FMC's mission trip fee ranges from \$600-\$1500 depending on trip location. This fee includes your transportation to and from the airport as well as food, housing, ministry materials for projects, and other miscellaneous trip expenses. It does not cover transportation to and from the host country nor any meals or expenses during that travel. It also does not include traveler's insurance, souvenirs, or any added alms.

### WHAT DO KIDS DO ON MISSION TRIPS?

We feel that kids are often the best missionaries! Their openness and willingness to enter are a great witness for everyone on the mission trip. Kids are welcome to join in most everything that adults do as long as a parent or guardian is present - help on work projects, visit the sick/elderly, pray with those who desire healing, etc.

### ARE THERE ANY SHOTS REQUIRED TO GO ON A MISSION TRIP?

FMC does not require any vaccinations, shots, or medications to serve with us nor do we specifically recommend any. You are welcome and encouraged to check the [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) website for recommended vaccines or medical precautions.

### HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

For souvenirs and snacks, \$100 would be more than enough. Additionally, all participants are encouraged to fundraise and bring additional money for alms (money for special need projects for the poor).







Family Missions Company

Preaching the Gospel | Serving the Poor | Making Disciples

***GO into the whole world  
and proclaim the Gospel!***

- Mark 16: 15

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