

*Missioners of Christ*  
EXTENDED-TERM MISSIONARY  
EXPECTATIONS SHEET

The Missioners of Christ are a Catholic Christian community formed for the purpose of responding to Christ's commission to go to all the world and share the Good News of Christ with all people. We are a discipleship community committed to common prayer and ministry. Our primary focus is on youth and young adults, with our main means of discipleship being missionary service. The work we have begun in Honduras is directly in line with our purpose to reach the nations for Christ. Our apostolic outreach includes collaborating in works of evangelization and mercy with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who have established a Friary in the same community and minister through their recently completed Apostolic Center and Hospital to serve the needs of the poor.

In light of our purpose, our focus in Honduras is to share the hope of our Faith with the people of this country and to help train and equip them to be able to share their faith with those from their own culture. Our discipling ministry to the people includes both works of mercy and the works of evangelization. Our specific work in collaboration with the Friars includes helping feed, clothe, and provide medical help for the poor, counselling and mentoring ministries to youth and families, evangelistic and relief outreaches to mountain villages all over Honduras, youth retreats and youth ministry, help with the educational needs of children and youth, outreach to the families in the surrounding barrios and catechetical and relational work with children. We are in the ongoing process of building a Formation Center that will eventually house up to sixty extended and long term volunteers, including young adult interns from both the States and Honduras wanting to be formed in the Faith, trained in the work of evangelization, live and grow in community, and desiring to discern God's call in their lives.

With the backdrop of these focuses the expectations for volunteer missionaries who desire to come and work with us are the following:

- Must be at least 19 years old and have 2 years experience out of high school in college or working full time (this preferably includes having lived outside of your parent's home for at least a year). *Volunteers under the age of 21 need a recommendation from their parents!*
- Must be in good physical and mental health – the demands of missionary service are intense and require stretching beyond what we are used to in the United States. (We require a medical release form from each applicant to include a release from your psychologist/psychiatrist if you are in or previously had been in mental health treatment.)
- Applicants are expected to have personal goals and values consistent with this Catholic Mission's vision and goals.
- The applicant should be of high moral and spiritual character, reliable, self-directed, and properly equipped emotionally and physically for mission service in a somewhat primitive and austere environment
- Each applicant is asked to speak Spanish or do some language training classes (at least 4-8 weeks of classes are recommended) before coming to serve in Honduras (we work with several different Spanish immersion schools, and will furnish their names upon request).

- Your Faith is a vital part of your life, to include active involvement in a Church with frequent reception of the Sacraments (if you are not Catholic – you are an active member of another Christian community and open to participating in daily Mass and times of prayer and formation while working at the mission).
- You have an active personal prayer life – you pray daily and spend time personally with God in order to grow closer to Him and discover His heart in how to love and serve others.
- You are open to participate in all activities that are a part of the volunteer missionary community (to include shared meals and work schedules, ministry events and times of reflection and prayer).
- You are flexible in using and open to sharing your gifts in whatever way will best serve the needs of the volunteer Community and the people of Honduras you are serving. This includes putting the needs of others before your own.
- You agree to give witness to, and to live the teachings of the Gospel and of the Catholic Church. This is demonstrated in your actions, and in the way you talk and pray.
- You are respectful of and ready to follow those in assigned leadership roles and recognize that they are there to protect the vision and priorities of the broader mission.
- You agree to not form any romantic or exclusive relationship with any of the other volunteers and especially the Honduran youth and adults in the community in which we serve. These relationships can take away from keeping your primary focus and energy on Christ and building community.
- You are committed to building up, praying for, encouraging, loving and accepting your brothers and sisters in Christ working as interns and missionaries alongside you.
- You agree to not participate in things that might diminish the Christian witness of the mission to include consuming alcohol or drugs, using inappropriate language, and going to Honduran establishments, such as bars or discos, which do not reflect the Gospel message we attempt to portray
- Travelling and vacation times are based on the amount of time you spend in service. Normally ,volunteers who are here at least six – twelve months can take 2-3 weeks to travel or to make a home visit.
- You agree to raise personal financial support from your family members or friends, churches or religious and civic organizations to help defray the monthly expenses at the mission. (Costs average approximately \$300.00 per month and include your housing, food and transportation while in country).
- You have completed all Missioner forms (including application, liability release, medical, etc.), supplied all necessary documentation (passport, references), have successfully completed the background screenings (criminal & child protective services) and received at least 2 interviews - One from the Stateside Coordinator and one from the Director of the mission in Honduras.

In choosing to become an Extended-Term missionary volunteer with the Missioners of Christ and working alongside the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, I am stating that I understand the expectations for volunteers and that I agree to actively participate in all the components of the mission during my time of service. I am also making a commitment to live my life in such a way that does not detract from both groups' integrity and ideals. I accept and support the goals of the Missioners of Christ and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal to give witness to the power of Christ and His Church to change lives. In signing this sheet I understand that I am responsible for all the above mentioned expectations.

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_