

## **PANAMA MISSION TRIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Who can go?**

- Adults and students. Under age 18 with a parent or guardian. Medical and non-medical.

### **What is the cost of the trip?**

- Trip cost is set each year based on airfare estimates.
- The 2026 trip is \$1,900.

### **What is included in the trip cost?**

- airfare, ground transportation, trip insurance, lodging, in-country meals, translators, and supplies

### **What is not included in the trip cost?**

- passport
- clearances
- airport meals
- excursion day meals and activities
- souvenirs

### **When is money due?**

- \$100 due with registration
- 50% due 3 months before departure
- 100% due 6 weeks before departure

### **What is the refund policy?**

- Your \$100 deposit is refundable.
- Money donated to Charter Oak Church beyond the \$100 deposit is not refundable.

### **How much spending money should I bring?**

- We recommend bringing \$200 in small bills, nothing larger than \$10s.

### **Do I need to exchange my money?**

- No. US dollars are widely accepted in Panama.

### **What documents do I need to travel?**

- US citizens need a US passport that is valid for 6 months after the trip.

### **What immunizations do I need?**

- Be up to date on standard shots, including tetanus.

### **Do I need to speak Spanish?**

- No. Translators are available.

### **How can I raise money for my trip?**

- We will talk about this at the first pre-trip meeting. We encourage you to write support letters, and we will provide a sample letter.

### **What are senders?**

- Senders are people called by God to support your trip through prayer, financial gifts, supplies, and other forms of encouragement.

### **What if I cannot come to the pre-trip meetings?**

- The meetings are mandatory. Talk to the missions manager in advance about conflicts. Missing more than one meeting may result in removal from the team without a refund.

### **Where do we stay?**

- We stay in Panama City in a hotel that has air conditioning, a café, and a swimming pool.

### **How do we get around in Panama?**

- The missionaries arrange our transportation which may include bus, flatboat, or canoe to reach deep jungle villages, remote mountain villages, or the inner city of Panama City.

### **What do we do?**

- Our team supports long-term missionaries, David and Marienella Bueno, in their work among the forgotten indigenous people groups of Panama, through medical care and evangelism.
- Opportunities may include:
  - Medical: triage, pharmacy, clinician, runner
  - Adult evangelism: sharing Jesus through conversation and your testimony
  - Child evangelism: sharing Jesus through fun activities like sports, games, and crafts
  - Praying with locals
  - Delivering food to people experiencing homelessness
  - Worship at a local church
  - A fun excursion

### **What should I take?**

- We will provide a packing list.
- Bring a heart submitted to the Lord, eyes open to His glory, the humble posture of a learner, and a lot of flexibility!