

Dear Parents,

We're so excited that you and your teen are praying about joining us for the 2011 "Never the Same" Missions Trip! Each time we venture out in faith, God never fails to amaze us! As a parent, I understand that safety is your number one concern when considering a missions trip for your teen. Rest assured that every precaution is taken to provide a safe and secure environment with plenty of adult supervision!

Because of our large group, safety is always our top priority. We spend a little extra money to put everyone in a nice hotel that can hold all of us, has warm water, etc. Yes, this is one reason our trip is a little more expensive than other trips you may find, but in order to house all of us at the same place and meet our standard of safety and security, it requires us to find a nicer hotel. Other trips may be less expensive and allow kids to sleep on floors of churches or put them in small, inexpensive hotels. But again, safety is our top concern.

Meals

Meals will be provided by the Hotel where we stay. For off-site ministry days, we'll pack lunches to go-everybody loves PB&J! Unfortunately, we cannot arrange meals for vegetarian and special diets.

Transportation

Private chartered transportation will be provided at all times. No public transportation will be utilized.

Medical Counseling Staff

We will have a volunteer medical staff and professional counseling staff with us to meet whatever needs may arise during our trip. If you have any special concerns about your teen, please make note in your application or contact us.

Contacting Your Teen

As time draws closer to the trip, we'll provide emergency contact information, including phone and fax numbers, for each location where your teen will be staying. We'll also make frequent posts to our missions Web site so that friends and family can hear how things are going!

Your teen will have access to email. He or she is welcome to bring a cell phone and may call home. In addition, each team leader will have a cell phone with them at all times so our leaders can be in touch with each other. If information is needed from another team or back at our base, we're only a call away.

Trip Cost

The cost of trip Option 1 is \$2,398 from Miami, Florida or the extended trip Option 2 for \$2,998 with more ministry and fun. In addition, your teen will be responsible for the cost of their

domestic flight to and from the Miami International airport and a \$48 application fee. *After Jan. 31, the base price of trip increases by \$100.

Other Costs

There will be a \$45 departure tax and security fee to leave Ecuador that will be collected prior to the trip. There may also be a fuel surcharge of up to \$120.

Application Process

If your teen is between the ages of 13 and 19, they're eligible to be considered for the Never the Same Mission Trip! Just help your teen download and complete a Student Application located in the Apply section of this site.

Your teen will receive an acceptance letter approximately two weeks after Big World receives the complete application.

If you're interested in serving as an Adult Leader or Leader in Training (college students) you can download the appropriate application packet found in our APPLY section.

Important Application Information for Parents!

Please ensure that your teen sends his or her entire completed application packet with the application fee (\$45 for students/\$55 for adults) This trip will fill up fast! We'll begin receiving applications in August 2009 and are limited on how many teen participants we can take. The sooner you return your application, the better! The PDF applications can also be filled out and emailed to venture@bigworld.org.

Never the Same Missions

c/o Big World Ventures

P.O. Box 703203

Tulsa, OK 74170-3203

Please DO NOT send applications to Susie Magazine in Colorado Springs. And please DO NOT make your check out to Susie. Checks or money orders should be written to Big World Ventures.

There are a few pages in the application packet that require a notary public stamp and signature. We cannot accept your teen's application without that. Also, your teen's application cannot be accepted until we receive their Pastor's Recommendation form, which is to be sent in by your teen's Youth Pastor/Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader. All trip participants will be required to have required childhood and travel immunizations as stated on the Health Form.

If you're accepted for this mission trip and decide not to go, your application is not refundable. If you are not accepted from our end, we will refund your app fee. If you have further questions, please call Big World Ventures 918-481-5223.

I also know that you have many questions about specific trip details. If your teen decides To apply and is accepted, we'll be sending monthly newsletters and updates with all the information you need to be confident about the upcoming trip!

In the meantime, here's how the trip works. After your teen has applied and been accepted, she/he will receive an acceptance letter from the missionary staff and preliminary information on obtaining a passport, fundraising ideas and other important details. They'll also receive a payment schedule from Big World Ventures to help with the fundraising process. In February, each participant will receive the first of their monthly newsletters—complete with more trip details and a special letter for parents.

From day one . . . here's how the trip will unfold:

All teen participants will meet in Miami on June 27, 2011. Our adult sponsors (100-150) will arrive two days earlier for leader training. We'll split up and meet all teens as they come off the plane on June 27 at the Miami International Airport.

Then, we'll take them to get their luggage and shuttle them to the hotel. Upon arriving at the hotel, teens will go directly to our registration table to receive their room key and a schedule for the next two days. They'll also find out what team they're on. They'll be working with this team of 30-38 teens—which includes 5-6 adult sponsors—for the entire two weeks.

In Miami, we'll train for two and a half days. We'll learn the evangelistic drama "Spellbound: Toymaker and Son" and have our own evening services full of praise and worship, prayer, skits and challenging messages from well-known youth speakers.

What's an average day look like? Take a look at a day of drama ministry!

Let's say it's July 7, and you're on Team 2. After breakfast and devotions with your team (you'll be dressed in your costume and theatrical makeup) you'll board Team 2's bus with your leaders, interpreters and church representatives for a day of life-changing ministry!

First stop—public school. Yes, we're allowed to actually go in, present the Gospel and even give an invitation for students who want to give their lives to Christ!

After the drama, a few teens from your team will volunteer to give their testimonies through an interpreter. Then, another teammate will ask the students if they'd like to invite Jesus to be their Lord and forgive their sins. At that point, several students may come forward to accept Christ. You and your teammates will introduce them to local church reps who will pray with them in Spanish. The reps will also write down their names and addresses to get them plugged in to a church and disciple them.

Then, in small groups of 3-4, you'll spend some time with the local villagers and ask several questions you learned in Spanish during our Miami training.

"Did you understand the drama?"

"Do you realize we're all born with sin and that sin separates us from God?"

"Do you understand that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins?"

“Would you like to commit your life to Jesus, have Him forgive your sins and live for Him?”

At that point, several more may want to make a spiritual commitment. All you have to do is bring them to the local church representatives so they can be prayed for in their own language.

When your team is finished, you'll get back on the bus and head for your second destination!

Next stop: A busy neighborhood. Same routine.

After the drama and follow-up, it's lunchtime! Each day, you'll bring your own peanut butter and jelly in you backpack for sandwiches. Your adult sponsors will provide fresh bread and water. (You'll CRAVE them when you get back, we promise!)

Third stop: A local park. Same routine!

Fourth stop: An open-air market or another school.

By the time your team is finished with all four destinations, it'll be close to 4 p.m. You'll return "home," change clothes, take off your makeup and meet for dinner at 6 p.m.

Then, at 7 p.m., we'll have our evening service. By this time, you'll be anxious to share what happened during the day or testify to what God is doing in your heart.

Our service will end around 9 p.m. You'll have free time to write in your journal, swim, sit around and talk, etc. Curfew is around 10 p.m. At that time, the female adults will go into each girl's room to do "tuck-ins." Male leaders go to the guys' rooms for "slap-ins." (This is simply our chance as leaders to check up on you, make sure you're doing OK, encourage you to call home if you're homesick, ask you what you're learning, etc.)

The next several days will be a rotation of drama ministry (as outlined above), work projects, etc. There will also be time for souvenir shopping.