

TEAM GUIDE

HONDURAS

MISSIONARY JESSIE HARSHBARGER

KING'S CASTLE HONDURAS

WELCOME

WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU



LATIN AMERICA CARIBBEAN



2023/2024



Missionary

JESSIE HARSHBARGER & ZOE THE MISSIONARY DOG



Honduras
where I serve

AT THE AGE OF 8 WHILE ATTENDING CROSSPOINT CAMP, GOD CALLED ME TO BE A MISSIONARY. I HAVE WORKED IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY SINCE THE AGE OF 14. I AM A FIRM BELIEVER THAT GOD CAN SPEAK TO THIS NEXT GENERATION, NO MATTER THEIR AGE. MY CALLING IS TO REACH THE NEXT GENERATION FOR JESUS. GOD HAS OPENED SOME AMAZING DOORS HERE IN HONDURAS AND MY HEART IS EXCITED FOR WHAT HE HAS AHEAD.



ZOE IS MY 6 YEAR OLD BOXER THAT IS A HUGE PART OF THE MINISTRY HERE. SHE LOVES PEOPLE AND TREATS. SHE IS ALWAYS WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE AND AT TIMES YOU FORGET SHE IS EVEN A DOG.

I HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH THE NATIONAL TEAM OF KING'S CASTLE HERE IN HONDURAS! CASTLE IS A KIDS MINISTRY FOCUSED ON SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS TO ALL OF THE KIDS IN HONDURAS. WE TRAIN THIS GENERATION TO REACH THE NEXT GENERATION. WE EQUIP THEM WITH THE TOOLS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. WE LOVE TEAMS AND WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE YOU COME BE A PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH THIS NEXT GENERATION IN HONDURAS!

FUN FACTS:

- I AM ONE OF 19 KIDS IN MY FAMILY
- I HAVE SERVED AS AN AGWM MISSIONARY SINCE 2017
- I LOVE TO KAYAK AND MOUNTIAN BIKE
- I LOVE JEEPS AND BOXERS

National Team of King's Castle Honduras



Getting Started

"I AM INTERESTED IN BRINGING A TEAM. WHAT DO I DO?"



LAC



1. Communicate with me. Let's set up a Zoom call and discuss possible dates and size of your team. Also, what you are looking for in a missions trip.

www.wideopenmissions.org



2. Communicate with AGWM.

Susan Shahan

417.862.2781 EXT. 2031

sshahan@ag.org

Information Needed:

- Name of team Leader
- Team Size
- Number of Minors
- Organization
- Destination: Honduras
- Host: Jessie Harshbarger
- Dates



3. Fill out Forms /

Purchase Insurance

Once you have received approval, please fill out

all forms and purchase trip insurance through

AGWM (\$4.50 per day)

- Assumption of Risk
- ACE/Chub Insurance Designation
- Code of Conduct
- Emergency Contact
- Background Check

My Information

Whatsapp: 1.573.201.1557

jessie.harshbarger.missions@gmail.com

HONDURAS BUDGET

What is the cost?



Per Diem
\$100

ALL
LOCAL
GROUND
COST

Project Cost
\$5,000- \$100,000

PLUS 7% for AGWM cost

USED FOR YOUR
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT THE WEEK YOU
ARE ON GROUND

\$100.00 PER DIEM (PER DAY, PER PERSON)

Psst, just between us, we want to make sure you know that the per diem doesn't cover AGWM Insurance (\$4.50 per day) or flights. Also, we don't include an honorarium or offering for our awesome team on the ground. But hey, we get it, sometimes you just fall in love with the team you're working with and wanna show them some extra love. So, if you are feeling like a true giver, you can always gift them something special. But remember, it's totally up to you and any gift, big or small, is like a hug from heaven! Just make sure to give it through the missionary.



I am thrilled to welcome you to join us in Honduras at King's Castle. This guide aims to address any queries and equip you for an amazing experience during your time in Honduras. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Who's in charge around here? Let's talk leadership!

Jessie Harshbarger is your host missionary. She is your point of contact for EVERYTHING. Oscar and Karen Matute are the national directors of King's Castle Honduras along with their two children. You will see both of them while you are here and depending on school schedules their children will join us as well. Oscar is the coordinator for construction and Karen is the coordinator for evangelism . The three of them work very close together but all communication will be through Missionary Jessie.

During your visit to Honduras, you will be in the country at the invitation of the national church through your host missionary Jessie. It's important to encourage your team to adjust to the Honduran way of doing things. While schedules and details hold significance in U.S. culture, receiving definite answers may not always be feasible. Flexibility is key, so enjoy the journey! For instance, a service scheduled for 6:30pm might not commence until 7:30pm.

Maintain a clear line of communication within your team and appoint ONE person to relay special requests to the host missionary. The Honduran culture values accommodating requests, so please direct inquiries through the team leader to the host missionary. Let's aim to be a blessing and avoid burdening our Honduran hosts with unnecessary requests.

For construction projects, having a designated leader is crucial. If a team member has ideas for project improvement, they should share them with the team leader. The team leader can then address any concerns or suggestions with the host missionaries, if needed. You will be working with King's Castle Honduras. This ministry is equip with leaders that have been trained and know their culture. Please remember to be respectful. They are spirit lead leaders and you will be blessed so much by them.

Will there be a Team Orientation when we arrive?

Upon arriving we will have a time of orientation with your team to review this information, and update anything that has changed, as well as a time to prepare or perfect ministry dramas, skits, etc.

Tentative Schedule: remember things may and probably will change, welcome to LAC

Day 1: Arrive and Team Orientation

Day 2: Church/Team Practice for Ministry/ Construction Starts

Day 3: Street Ministry/ Construction

Day 4: Street Ministry/ Construction

Day 5: Street Ministry/ Construction

Day 6: Street Ministry/ Construction

Day 7: FUN Day: Souvenir shopping and farewell dinner. Pack to go home.

Day 8: Departure

What is the most important quality to possess for this journey?

Flexibility stands out as a crucial quality for short-term (or long-term) missionaries. The need for adaptability begins from this moment. Plans may (and most likely will) alter from now until your arrival. Despite our inclination to plan ahead, we work in a culture that is much less structured; therefore, adjustments may be necessary along the way. The beauty of your journey lies in God's hands. Unexpected changes do not surprise Him, and we believe they align with His plan for you and your team in Honduras.

What is the age limit to come on a trip?

All team members need to be 15 or older. 13 and 14 year olds are permitted to come only if a parent is also on the missions trip. We do encourage families to come as well. Please ask if you have specific questions on an age limit.

How do I get insurance with AGWM

- Each group must register with AGWM. You can go to the website wideopenmissions.org. Simone Parks is the person to talk to about insurance. sparks@ag.org.
- Simone will help you get insurance for your group members and complete other paperwork for final approval. Every group must get insurance through AGWM and Simone. Even if you have another travel insurance you must get the insurance from AGWM in order to work with us in Honduras.

What essentials should we pack?

- Candy and prizes for ministry outreaches. Prizes can be small. For example yo yo's, slinky's, matchbox cars... just remember that you will be doing between 12-16 programs while you are here. **Prepare for 2,000 kids.** So more is better.
- Cans of powered Gatorade , to help rehydrate.
- Bring two copies of each person's passport with you. One to keep with you and one we will keep at the office. Passports will be turned into Missionary Jessie to be put in a safe.
- Please advise team members to come prepared with extra batteries or external charger, medicine, etc.
- Please remind team members to pack suitable attire for Sunday services: Men are required to wear long pants. Women should wear skirts that reach the knee or below. We will all wear our new Castle shirts to church.
- When engaging in ministry at schools or on the street, women can wear jeans or capris, but shorts and yoga pants are not allowed in ministry or on the construction site. Tattoos should be covered, and earrings are permitted only in the ears and exclusively for women. Remember, you are entering a different culture, so it's essential to show respect.

Is the drinking water safe in Honduras?

The water in Honduras is not safe for drinking. We recommend that team members bring their own water bottles to refill with clean water that will be provide. Clean water will be readily accessible during our work and ministry activities. Remember: **AVOID DRINKING THE WATER IN HONDURAS!** If you are unsure of the source, refrain from consuming it. Please ensure that any water you drink in Honduras has been filtered. (Rest assured, we will provide purified water throughout your stay with us.)

What mode of transportation will we use?

What we use for transportation will depend a lot on the size of the group and type of trip. For smaller groups, we will rent a van, and one of us will drive. If we have a somewhat larger group, we will hire buses and drivers for pick up and drop off for our daily activities. We need to stick to the schedule that you will receive upon arrival. Please be at the bus on time. Again, please note, although we ask you to be on time we are working in a culture that sometimes you will hurry up to wait.

All about the food

Our main meals will be at the campsite prepared by our cooks. Occasionally, we'll bring a packed lunch for days when we can't return to the campground during activities. If you can't finish your meal while out, kindly refrain from feeding it to any nearby dogs because it is considered disrespect. Don't forget to show gratitude to the cooks with a smile and a "gracias."

When dining out at a restaurant, we will offer menu options for efficiency and timely service. Fun Fact: In Honduras, there are no refills on drinks. This is worth noting when dining out because if you consume five glasses of soda, you are charged for each glass individually.

On a missions trip, team members should be open to trying new foods. We eat a lot of chicken, beans, rice, and tortillas. Gluten-free options may not be available, so individuals with dietary needs or allergies should bring their own food.

Are there poverty and needs?

There are appropriate ways to respond to situations involving extreme poverty or individuals seeking assistance. Here are some suggestions to help you address and fulfill these needs:

- Keep in mind that the church or school serves as the constant representation of the Lord in the communities you visit. The pastor and school director are familiar with the community and its circumstances. It's essential to note that those asking for help may not always be the most in need.
- If you feel compelled to give, consider providing an offering to the pastor for the church's and ministry's requirements (this decision should be discussed with the team leader and host missionaries before any transactions occur). Any exceptions should be approved by the team leader and host missionary.
- During church services, team members are encouraged to contribute to offerings. When offering money, remember to be discreet when taking it out of your wallet.
- While in Honduras, you may come across individuals soliciting money on the streets or selling small items. It's generally advisable not to give money to street individuals or purchase items from them, as you may end up paying more. Assistance can be provided if you come across something you can't resist.
- Though you may feel compelled to help someone in need, excessive generosity can pose safety risks for our group. Most beggars ask for only 1 Lempira, which equals about 5 cents. Further details will be discussed upon your arrival.

"Is it safe in Honduras?"

While Honduras may not have a reputation for being an extremely safe country, we take every measure to guarantee the safety of your team at the campground, restaurants, and ministry locations. In Honduras, safety is a priority for us. Stay together, follow directions, and avoid venturing off alone. Personal electronics are allowed, but be cautious with their use. Orientation will cover guidelines for taking pictures.

What about the children in Honduras?

Children touch the hearts of all of us. They are also the heart of King's Castle. Please use extreme caution in your conversations with children. Often, people from the States feel great compassion and want to take children out of their current situation. Comments regarding coming to live with someone in the U.S., possible adoption, or visits can be misinterpreted in this day of human trafficking. Even discussions regarding academic exchange programs have been misinterpreted. Please DO NOT indicate to any child the possibility of coming to the U.S. for any reason. This can cause legal problems for you, the group, the host missionary and for the local pastor, as well.

Child Protection:

There are several policies regarding social media that are enforced for the protection of children and in line with international standards for child protection. In addition, the policies protect the ministry on the field. Group members must be aware of the policies and follow them:

- No group member may give children or young people or their parents his or her email address, mobile phone number, WhatsApp, Facebook or contact details. Nor is it appropriate to accept friend requests from children on Facebook.
- Do not publish names, personal data or other information about children you encounter in Honduras on social media. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or personal blogs. This violates the children's right to privacy and protection.

What if we have Spanish Speakers on our Team?

Having team members who speak Spanish is a valuable asset, but it also comes with its own set of challenges. Here are some guidelines for Spanish speakers/translators who are part of the team:

- Please show respect to our national team translators, as some of them are still learning. Translating for a group can be stressful, so refrain from interrupting them during their translation process. While they may ask for assistance with a

word or phrase, avoid blurting out translations. Keep in mind that English may be your first language, but for them, it is Spanish.

- Spanish dialects can vary by country. Ensure that the translators you bring are open to learning and receiving guidance from the host missionary when needed.
- Having Spanish speakers on the team might lead to team members bypassing the chain of command. It is essential that all communication goes through proper channels - the team leader and host missionaries. For instance, if a team member wants to suggest a change during a service, they should ask the translator to relay it to the Honduran pastor. Remind your translators to **ALWAYS** communicate through the team leader, who will then engage with the host missionaries, and **NEVER** approach the local pastor directly. This rule applies to any discussions about future projects or ministry initiatives.

What's the game plan for the Ministry?

When you land during your orientation there will be a time of learning songs and dramas with out King's Castle members. Please come prepared to learn and have fun doing it. Keep these tips in mind as you prepare to come join us here in Honduras.

- Bring your best!
- Do everything with excellence whether ministering to children, youth, or adults.
- Let your goal be for God to receive the glory in any story you share!
- Remember it is about God.
- No chewing gum during ministry.
- The team should be focused on the ministry that is taking place. The team members who are not sharing should have their focus on the person or persons ministering through the work or drama etc., or quietly interceding. This helps the audience keep their focus.

What should I know about money?

Please send any project/construction money in to Jessie Harshbarger AGWM account #295717 class 60, and per diem (daily team money) class 08, two months before the team arrives and let us know the money has been sent. There are links to both of these accounts that can be sent to you, when you are ready We ask money to be sent early so we can have all materials and food bought before you arrive. If your team is wanting to bring spending money, please make sure that you do not bring bills greater than a 10. **DO NOT BRING 20 dollar bills.** 20's are used in Honduras for drugs and gangs and we want to avoid it at all cost. On our free day, there will be opportunity to purchase souvenirs and you can pay with US dollars. 1's and 5's are best for this day. We will also have King's Castle souvenirs for sale that you can use USA dollars. There will be a link available for you to

preorder Castle Merch ahead of time so it will be ready for when you get here, if you prefer. A reminder as well, we encourage you to come prepared to give an offering to the King's Castle ministry team. This offering will be given through the missionary, so please do not hand money directly to a national.

What happens once we land in Honduras?

Immigration and customs forms need to be filled out online. A QR code or link will be sent to you the day before you arrival and needs to be filled out no more that 24 hours before landing. Once you summit the form, take a screen shot of the QR code. Passport number and flight number will be required on the form. Check the box that says you are coming for tourism. Your foreseen address is: Castillo Del Rey, Tegucigalpa.

If you allow someone to help you with your luggage it is \$1.00 (US dollars are ok) per bag. You will need to be firm in telling them you do not need help. If you are not firm, 10 men will help and you will need to pay **ALL** 10. We will be on the other side of customs and will help with bags. After you clear the customs area, you will exit through the glass doors, where we will be waiting to take you to our transportation.

Got Wifi?

Different teams have varying accommodation requirements. Not all locations we visit offer WiFi access. Fortunately, our campground provides WiFi in the chapel and dorms, and the King's Castle national office also has WiFi available.

In the event of an emergency, Jessie and the national team will be there to assist. We encourage you to disconnect from your life back home and immerse yourself in your time here in Honduras.

To stay connected with loved ones, team members may consider signing up for WhatsApp to communicate while in WiFi zones. Additionally, it's important to check with your U.S. phone carrier to avoid roaming charges. They can guide you on how to manage your phone usage effectively.

We encourage you to unplug from your world and plug into what God is doing here in Honduras.

Is there a contact number for emergencies?

You can leave our cell phone numbers with leadership at home for emergency calls.

WhatsApp numbers are:

Jessie: +1 (573) 201-1667

Gary: +504-3203-1433

Oscar: +504-9588-7756 (Spanish)

Karen: +504-9969-5123 (Spanish)

What do I need to pack?

- Bible
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for all electronics
- Chargers for all electronics
- Light Jacket- It can get chilly at night at the campground
- Hat to protect from sun
- Light Backpack
- Shoes that you don't mind getting dirty
- Work cloths: Goodwill is a great place to get these
- Photo of yourself and your family to show your new friends
- Water bottle
- Appropriate clothes for church- ladies skirt, men pants and Castle Shirt (here waiting for you)
- Twin sheet set (you can donate to the camp for future events)
- Towels
- Shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste... etc...

See You Soon!



MISSION TRIP COVENANT

_____ hereby commit all that I am to Jesus during this WEEK. I will live life totally submitted in mind, heart, attitude, energy, and time to His will, that my life may exemplify the words of my Master, "Not my will, but thine be done." I am making a commitment to abide by and support the rules of King's Castle for the duration of my time here in Honduras. I give all of my heart to God alone, disconnecting from all distractions and focusing on the ministry God has put before me. My time will no longer be my own. I will abide by the curfew and other guidelines as a part of my commitment.

I abandon my nature, despising mediocrity and praying for the character of Christ. My goal will be to show love and compassion to those around me. That through Christ lives may be changed, including my own. I give myself over to be broken and rebuilt by Jesus no matter what the cost or how painful the process, knowing that to be a reflection of the Master is far greater. I will strive to view the world through the eyes of Christ.

I lay aside my selfish dreams, desires, and visions to fulfill the dreams, desires, and visions of the Master's heart. I will work hard through the strength of God even in the midst of difficulty, will serve without complaint, and will place my heart in a position to be used by Christ. I am willing to accept the decisions of authority and learn from them.

I want to be said of me, "He/She was not given a platform or title, but he/she was a person of integrity and character, a minister of the gospel, a disciple of Jesus Christ."

I understand that this is a covenant between God and myself. I fully desire to give all to Him and see what He will do with me.

Signature

Date