

San Lucas Mission

Visiting Group Orientation Overview

Welcome to the San Lucas Mission! Thank you for your interest in visiting the Mission. Please review the attached document closely as there have been recent changes.

Key points:

- The overarching purpose of your visit is to **learn**. It is through working side by side the people of San Lucas that we build solidarity with the Mayan People and understand their culture and way of life. It is important to understand the process of poverty that entraps them and prohibits their freedom of choice and infringes upon their human dignity.

- Beginning foremost with recognition and appreciation for the rich Maya culture and the heartfelt understanding that God's love is for all, efforts at the San Lucas Mission attempt to respond, as Jesus did, to the expressed felt need of the people, using the "Preferential Option for the Poor" as its foundation, and drawing on Christian Social Teaching to guide efforts in the integral human development of our people and community.

- The four pillars of Christian Social Teaching that Fr. Greg based all his decisions around are: (1) Dignity of the Human Person, (2) The Common Good, (3) Solidarity, and (4) Subsidiarity. Understanding that being poor and marginalized are signs of illness in a society, the option for the poor promotes that a healthy community can be achieved only if its members give special attention to those with special needs, to those who are in the process of poverty and on the margins of society.

- Program Areas that were developed because of the expressed felt need of the people are: Land Distribution/ Food Distribution (which includes housing and construction), Healthcare, Education, & Work. These also incorporate the five basic human rights: food security, shelter, healthcare, education and work. All very important to Fr. Greg.

Basics for having a good experience while in San Lucas:

- We ask that you are flexible and provide work and help where needed.
- We ask that you do not wander around alone, always in groups of 2 -3.
- We ask that you do not jog particularly in the mornings or evenings, it is not culturally accepted.
- The long term- volunteers are here to help you.
- The dress code is enforced to honor the traditions and culture of the people, please abide by them.

- Don't give out gifts to the people. It promotes making people beggars. We want to respect and honor their dignity. All donations should be turned into the Long Term Volunteer Coordinator.
- Money can be exchanged at the mission evenings between 5 – 5:30 with Margarito. **Please only bring personal checks as exchanging large amounts of cash for the mission is problematic with the local bank.**
- Your passport will be collected and stored in the safe during your stay.
- There is a local clinic if you get ill. Please advise the Long Term Volunteers if you are having symptoms so they can get help immediately.
- Use bottled water as the water from the faucet is not safe to drink. That includes brushing your teeth and keeping your mouth closed while taking a shower. There will be bottled water at the mission for you to refill your water bottle. It is difficult to recycle plastic in Guatemala so help the environment by using as few plastic bottles as possible. Please refill!!
- Dogs here are not like at home. Please don't attempt to pet them.

Thank you for your interest in the San Lucas Mission! We hope you enjoy your stay and have a wonderful time! If we can help you in anyway, please call

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For more information or the complete visitor's packet check the website at:
www.sanlucasmission.org Thank you.