



ALL YOU NEED T KNOW

MISSION HANDBOOK

Taking the Gospel to a Forgotten People



BRAZIL



The Amazon River Basin, stretching over 4,345 miles, is an expansive yet isolated region. It is the longest river in the world and runs through the South American countries of Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Brazil. The river accounts for 20% of the freshwater that drains into the world's oceans. An estimated 30,000 villages are on the banks of the River, but there is no Gospel presence.

Indigenous people who have been neglected by civilization inhabit the Amazon. They call themselves “the forgotten people.” The river is the only highway, and the boat is the only transportation. The State of Amazonas has few major roads or highways. Transportation is mainly by river. This is also where over 1,000 tributaries come together to form the Amazon River. And it is in these rivers where our mission trips take place. Not only on the Amazon but also the Solimões, Negro, Cuieiras and Madeira rivers.



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Many of the villages we visit make you feel like you have stepped back a few hundred years. These villages are usually located off the main river on a tributary or a beautiful lake. The homes are generally built with wood, bamboo, and leaves. They are tiny homes with several people living in one house. No matter the village size, there is usually a Catholic Church, a school, and a soccer field. The people along the Amazon are quite humble and reserved. After they overcome their shyness, they are very hospitable and always greet visitors with a smile. The men usually hunt or fish in the morning while the women grind manioc (the primary source of calories) and care for the children. People travel in flat-bottom canoes from place to place. There are no bikes or cars in the smaller villages, but you will find an occasional one in the larger villages.



THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU



Even with all the Lord has done so far through this mission, we have only scratched the surface. There are over 7 million Rebineros on the river and only 10 percent are evangelized. We want to do so much more and believe many will want to invest in this great work.



WHERE WILL WE GO?



Indigenous people who have been neglected by civilization inhabit the Amazon. They call themselves “the Forgotten People.” The river is the only highway, and the boat is the only transportation. The state of Amazonas has few major roads or highways, and uses mainly river transportation. This is also where over 1,000 tributaries come together to form the Amazon River. And it is in these rivers where our mission trips take place.



WHY WE GO?



Amazon Outreach mobilizes short-term mission teams from churches and schools throughout the U.S. to the Amazon River in Brazil. We provide much-needed medical, dental, and optical care and drill water wells for villagers along the river. We found that meeting physical and relational needs builds a powerful bridge for sharing the gospel. This relationship allows our Brazilian church partners to return to the villages to continue ministry and discipleship. Our church partners' ministries extend approximately 400 miles up and down the Amazon River.



IS THIS TRIP FOR ME



When considering a mission trip, one of the first questions everyone asks is, “Should I go?” The hardest part of the mission adventure can be taking that first step and deciding to go. Inevitably, doubts and possible reasons for not going will appear. Common concerns can include vacation time conflicts, uncertainties about leaving family members behind, not being able to teach or have done ministry before, not knowing what to expect or how you can be used on the trip, not having ever traveled outside of the country, not having financial support and much more. Take heart! These are all normal and very valid concerns. Just remember that what seems impossible with man is possible with God! If you are meant to participate in this mission trip, nothing you do or don’t do will stop you from going. God’s strength is perfected in our weakness. God does not ask us about our ability, only about our availability. He will open every door and take care of your every need. As you begin stepping out in faith, having the desire and passion to see the world come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will confirm that this is for you.



MORE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



▶ What do I pack

You will take three (3) clothing changes plus an outfit for the evening services. The laundry will be done daily, so there is no need to bring more than a three-day supply of changes. Don't take anything you would mind losing or leaving behind

▶ How do I pack

Pack in a carry-on bag. Preferably a roller bag. Jewelry, with the exception of watches, conservative wedding rings, and small earrings need to be left at home. We don't want to stereotype the image of wealthy Americans.

▶ What do I collect

Every trip member is asked to collect supplies/donations that are needed. A list of needed supplies is located under IMPORTANT TEAM DOCUMENTS in Managed Missions. You will receive a link for MM once you sign up for your trip.

▶ Can I use my cell phone

You and your team members can detach from distractions from home and focus on God and His plans for the trip. Therefore, cell phone use is strongly discouraged while on the trip.

WHERE WILL I STAY AND SLEEP



ON OUR THREE-STORY RIVER BOAT

God has blessed Amazon Outreach with two beautiful Brazilian riverboats, the Linda Esperança (Beautiful Hope) and the Amor e Esperança (Love & Hope). One of these boats will be your home during the trip. Both boats are open-air boats (all decks open) and have been beautifully designed with Brazilian wood.



THE MOST RESTFUL SLEEP OF YOUR LIFE

A hammock will be provided for you to sleep in. Most previous trip members say that sleeping in these hammocks on the boat is the most comfortable and restful sleep they have ever experienced. Blankets are provided.

ON
EACH

DISCIPLES BY SHARING THE
LOVE OF JESUS ALONG THE
AMAZON RIVER BASIN.



MEAL TIME

What do we eat



WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE



A Brazilian cooking crew, which is part of the boat crew, prepares all meals.



All meals are Brazilian in nature and flavor and are eaten on the boat.



The food onboard is fabulous and the filtered water is safe to drink

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?



What about my
laundry
What is the weather
like



What are the
showers and
restroom like



These answers and
more are found at
amazonoutreach.org



Amazon Outreach will do your laundry every day. You put your dirty clothing in a laundry shoot, and it is washed, dried, and placed in designated areas ready for pick up the next day.

There are several bathrooms on the boat and several inside and outdoor showers (a bathing suit is required when showering on the back of the boat).



The average daytime temperature can go up to the mid-90s, though there is much variability, and cool days (mid to upper 80s) are common. Nighttime lows are generally in the mid-'70s to high 60's. Bringing a light sweatshirt to sleep in is a good idea.

WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHES DO I WEAR



Ladies and Girls should wear comfortable shorts, pants, and T-shirts during the day. For the evening services, dresses or skirts. Bathing suits must be one piece for showers on the back of the boat. Shorts should be mid-thigh length or longer. Low-cut tank tops, tight-fitting tops, or tops with spaghetti straps are not appropriate. Tops or T-shirts must cover the entire midriff area no matter your position (bending over or reaching up).



Men and Boys should wear comfortable shorts or pants and T-shirts during the day and long pants or cargo shorts for the evening services. A shirt must be worn at all times. Shorts should be mid-thigh length or longer. A swimsuit must be worn for showering on the back of the boat.

WHAT DO WE WEAR

MISSION TRIP DRESS CODE

MISSION TRIP DRESS CODE

CROP TOPS



INAPPROPRIATE GRAPHICS



LOW RIDING



AVOID THESE

TIGHT FITS



LOW CUT



SHORTY SHORTS



LONG TOPS



T-SHIRTS



BERMUDAS



DRI FIT



LONG SHORTS



WEAR THESE



TEAM TRAINING



Is held in the Spring and Fall

Provides detailed information

Will give packing examples

Will give you a packing list

Will allow you to meet your team

Will allow you to ask questions

Is found at amazonoutreach.org



A “TYPICAL” DAY



Every day on the Amazon starts with an early morning breakfast, a morning meeting, worship & praise time, and prayer. Each day, teams break up into prayer groups before going out to do ministry. Lunch and dinner are served back on the boat while some team members help feed the villagers. At lunchtime, there are usually a few hours to relax before returning to the ministry sites. Usually, there is an afternoon or evening church service in the town or village where the team works and the group attends. This is an incredible time of worship as Americans and Brazilians worship God together. Most days end back on the boat in a time of worship & praise and sharing each other’s daily experiences.

Ministry on the Amazon consists of many different facets. The Medical ministry treats various illnesses and medical conditions. Surgeons perform life-changing surgeries. Eyeglasses are given out that provide vision for the first time for many. Dentists pull badly diseased teeth. Mothers are given proper pre-natal & post-natal care. Babies, children, and families are given vitamins, toothbrushes, and basic hygiene products and instructions.

There are numerous ministries you can serve with that need no prior experience. These ministry teams include Vacation Bible School, Women’s Ministry, Men’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Construction, Hair Ministry, Soccer Ministry, and, of course, Evangelism.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Your commitment to this trip may be recent, but God has known about it all along. Trust Him; He has it all figured out. Once you see it, you will be overwhelmed by HIS power and provision.

God will make the provision for you to participate in this trip in all areas of your life, including the financial aspect.



How Do I Raise Support

Most team members write a support letter to send to family and friends to gain a team of supporters. You may choose to email the letters and/or mail letters. Always include the link to your Public Profile Page for online donations. You may also provide a service to earn financial support or have a fundraising event.

More information and examples will be found in your Managed Missions Account. You will receive a Managed Missions link when you register for a trip.



QUESTION AND ANSWER



When you attend your introductory Amazon Outreach Meeting, you will have the opportunity to have all of your questions answered.

It's Time To Jump Aboard

Your One Decision Away From A Totally Different Life

