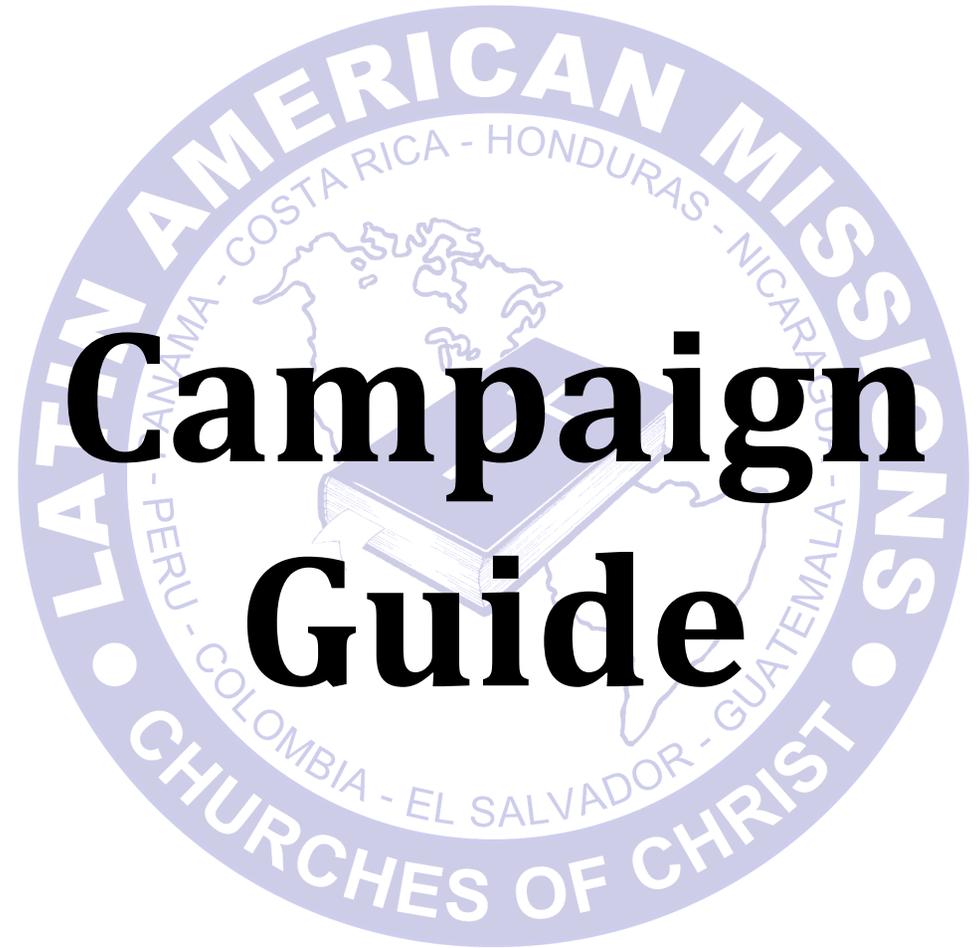


Latin American Missions

# Buen Viaje



# Campaign Guide

Forrest Park Church of Christ  
Valdosta, Georgia

# CONTINUING LAM SUPPORT

Many people will find a life long passion for missions after having their hearts touched by the amazing people of Latin America. Latin American Missions (LAM) exists for one purpose; to share the Gospel with the people in Spanish speaking countries of Central and South America. We are seed sowers, but we need your help to be able to do more.

After participating on this campaign you will realize there is more to do than can ever be done, however, we must do ALL we can. It is through people just like you, young or old, that we can do more for the souls of these precious people. Most people WANT to leave a legacy of hope for people that they meet, they just don't know how.

There are several ways that you can give to help spread the Gospel to this part of the world.

1. Monthly support. The LAM staff, native preachers, Preachers School students, Future Preachers Training Camps, Children's Home and many other people rely on people who dedicate themselves to giving every month. This is the most needed way to support LAM. We have donors from all over the country from all walks of life and who give as little as \$10 a month and as much as \$1,500 per month. We can even arrange for automatic withdrawal.

2. Lump Sum Annual giving. We have several people who like to give at specific times a year (Tax returns, first of the year, end of the year, etc.). They do so by giving one time per year at their convenience.

3. One-time gifts. Others have a wind fall of money at times and think of LAM. Whether it is the sale of a house or car, or an inheritance.

4. Estate planning. Legacy planning is an amazing way to leave a gift that will last beyond your years.

5. Congregational support. It has been a great blessing to have the vast resources of an entire congregation to come together to make a difference in Latin America. Many times congregations want to focus on a specific country or even a specific city/congregation to be involved in. Others see the need to help support the "big picture" by supporting Printed Word Evangelism, or aiding in the support of a staff member. If you would like for one of our missionaries to present the work to your congregation and/or elders, please contact us.

All of these giving opportunities have different tax advantages. Please consult your tax professional to understand what options will be best for you.

*For more giving info, contact **Brandon Britton**, Director of Development by calling our office.*

# BEST PRACTICES

There is something to be learned from every campaign. Here are some “tricks of the trade” to help make your campaign go more smoothly.

1. **Keep Hydrated.** Drink water often and when you think you’ve drunk enough, drink some more. It is VERY hot where we are going. Dehydration can happen quickly. Keep fluids with you at all times. Signs of dehydration: Dry mouth, Sleepy or tired, Thirst (duh), Decreased urine output and darker yellow or amber in color, Dry skin, Constipation, Headache, Light headed or dizzy. If you notice any of these symptoms...**THINK DRINK!**

2. **VERY IMPORTANT**—There is a very good chance that you will be asked by people you meet to help with some “favor,” or “need.” Many of these are very legitimate and need attention. **PLEASE** send people with requests to your team leaders. Even if you are willing to fulfill that need, please funnel it through your team leader. The reason: We want to funnel all help, money and other assistance **through the local church**. This gives God the glory. We want the local people to see the church as a resource for help, rather than the “rich Americans.”

3. **Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes.** Hiking boots are not overkill, however, the cost of such boots maybe impractical to purchase just for this trip.

4. **Translators**—Of all the jobs there are to do on a campaign, translator is probably the most difficult. Show patience and understanding. Translators are few and valuable. All of our translators work very hard, and it is exhausting work, but you will find out quickly that there are some that are more experienced than others. Don’t only use the “best” because it’s most convenient for you. It may not be convenient for them. When using a translator, speak slow and only speak one sentence at a time.

5. **REST**—It is so important to get rest. Even if you need to sit out during work hours, it is better to sit out for a few hours than to push yourself too hard.

6. **In Someone’s Home**—While door knocking, as a citizen of the USA you will be welcomed into more homes and allowed to stay longer than a native would. You will be welcomed and shown hospitality. People may offer you something to drink and/or eat. It is important to your health that you NOT accept food or water from anyone. Always carry a small snack (crackers, nuts, cookies, etc) and a bottle of water. Politely decline any offer of food or drink.

7. **Always carry either toilet paper or a travel size pack of Kleenex.** You never know when or where you’ll need to use the bathroom.

8. **Many people shop for campaign clothes at a consignment shops** so they can leave them behind for people. This also leaves room for bringing back souvenirs.

9. **When you have a preacher or translator with you while stopping to buy a drink, snack or meal, consider paying for them.** They will be given an allowance out of campaign funds, but please help your brothers and sisters in Christ all you can.

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# TEAM NOTE

Welcome to the LAM family!!!

You are about to embark on an amazing experience that is unlike anything else in the world. God bless you for your desire to help serve some of the poorest people on the planet.

Great things are about to happen. We are going to have a great opportunity in sharing the message of Jesus Christ to the lost in Latin America. Start praying about the main purpose of our trip; winning the lost!

This guide is designed to give you a comprehensive view of what you need to prepare for the campaign. Please give every word in this guide your utmost attention. You will be much more prepared for the trip if you follow the recommendations and tips in this guide. It is the culmination of years of experience from team leaders and participants. It is updated often to include the latest information to help make you the most effective servant while on this campaign. Even the most experienced participant will find this guide informative and helpful. Some information may be repeated in different sections. This might be a clue that it is important.

Although we have gone to great lengths to prepare for all needs of our group, please understand the unpredictable nature of being in a foreign country! The rules are different, the culture is different, and the climate is different. That's why the key to every campaign is:

# **FLEXIBILITY!**

# TRAVEL TIPS

1. Check-in to your flight 24 hours in advance. Every major carrier will allow you to do this online.
2. Arrive at the airport early! Since 9/11/01 security checkpoints have slowed the check-in process. Arrive at least 2 hours early. We recommend the iPhone app, "My TSA" to check security checkpoint wait times to check your airport status. It also has other helpful travel tips, some I'll include here. We don't know about available Android or Blackberry apps.
3. Check your bags ALL THE WAY TO THE DESTINATION.
4. Keep your passport on you at ALL TIMES!!!
5. Keep keys, change, and other metal objects in your personal bag until you have cleared security.
6. Don't wear a belt if you can get away with it.
7. Wear shoe that you can easily get on and off.
8. Body piercings and underwire bras can trip alarms and cause you to face additional screening.
9. Carry on 3-1-1: "3" liquid, aerosol and/or gel items must be in a **3.4 oz** or smaller container. "1" Put the 3.4 oz containers in a sealed **1 quart**, clear plastic, zip-tip bag. "1" Only **1 plastic zip-top bag** per passenger is allowed.
10. When you arrive to your destination, there might be a tourist tax of \$10-20.
11. Any money brought from the USA MUST MUST MUST be "clean money." NO TEARS. NO INK MARKINGS. NO HOLES. NOT FADED. The bills must be in near perfect condition. You WILL NOT be able to exchange or use your money if it is not "CLEAN."
12. Be a good traveling citizen. Delays happen. Flights get cancelled. Bags get lost. Be prepared for the worst and go with the flow. When trouble comes up, it is best to be friendly about getting the issues resolved. Most airline employees want to be helpful when these issues arise. Also, If you packed it, expect to carry it.
13. Learn about the country before you go. The difference in customs, culture and language can give people "culture shock" and make it difficult to cope with the differences.
14. Check and double check your supply of personal medications. It will be difficult (if not impossible) to acquire replacements or refills.
15. **Eating abroad.** Some of the best things about going to another country is the different foods you will encounter. On our trip, we will try to take advantage of this at least once while in the country. BUT, be careful. If it is not "blessed" by the team leader, don't try it! **One rule:** Boil it, peel it, cook it, or forget it. Leafy vegetables like lettuce is impossible to clean properly, so they should be off your list of things to eat. Water and beverages are also tricky. Do not drink the water **UNLESS** we have purified it, or it is in a place where the team leader has authorized its use. Ice made from bad water is bad ice. Bottled soda pop is a safe bet and can be drank without any problems. If in doubt, DON'T DRINK IT!

Years of experience and constant monitoring of FAA and airline rules and guidelines have taught us a few things.

# PACKING LIST

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| — Bible   | — Bug spray                  |
| — Bible study material/VBS                          | — Sun Screen                 |
| — Passport (and holder)                             | — Snacks                     |
| — Color copy of passport                            | — Small pack for daily needs |
| — Notebook  | — Shower shoes/flip flops    |
| — Pen/pencils                                       | — Toys/candy for kids        |
| — Good walking shoes                                | — Camera                     |
| — Light weight clothing                             | — Extra spending money       |
| — 10 Pocket size Kleenex packs                      | — Towel(s)*                  |
| — Toothbrush  | — Sheets*                    |
| — Toothpaste  | — Small pillow*              |
| — Deodorant   | — Light blanket*             |
| — Shampoo   | — Mosquito netting/tent*     |
| — Soap  | — _____                      |
| — Floss   | — _____                      |
| — Medications                                       | — _____                      |
| — Allergy Medication                                | — _____                      |
| — Hand Sanitizer                                    | — _____                      |
| — Diarrhea Medicine (you'll be glad you brought it) | — _____                      |
| — Personal Hygiene Products                         | — _____                      |
| — Small First Aid Kit                               | — _____                      |
| — Flash Light                                       | — _____                      |
| — Extra Batteries                                   | — _____                      |

\* Needed for non-hotel lodging. Check Team Letter for specifics.

# LAWS OF LAM

Some people call these rules. Others call them commandments. What ever you call them, they are the only NON-FLEXIBLE part of this campaign (that's why there are a lot of "!" in this section). These rules are from the Elders at the Forrest Park Church of Christ who are overseeing this campaign.

1.Do not, under ANY circumstances leave the group. There is never a time when it is ok to go do something on your own. There are no exceptions to this rule. **DON'T DO IT!**

2.Do not part with your passport! It is the only thing that can identify you. Keep it on you at **ALL TIMES!!!**

3.Do not drink the tap water! Do not brush your teeth with the tap water. To not wash a contact with the tap water. In Latin America, tap water is good for two things: bathing and baptizing. You **WILL** (not might) get sick if you drink the water. **REMEMBER:** Bad tap water makes bad ice (watch your drinks). There may be some restaurants that serve clean ice and water. If in doubt, ask your team leader or don't try it.

4.Do not eat the local fruits and vegetables. Salads are off limits.

5.Do not wear shorts, tight fitting clothing, sleeveless shirts, tank-tops or spaghetti straps. Capri pants are fine. The nature of our work makes it necessary to dress very modestly. **This includes travel days.**

6.Do **NOT** wear flip flops, or sandals except for showers. We will be working in a very rural community where farm animals often roam (even in the capital city). Parasites and disease can easily enter your body through your feet.

7.Do not consider any part of this campaign a vacation. You are not on your own time. You are part of a group and you **MUST** be a team player.

8.Be on time. It is a very selfish thing to be late, because when you are late, you are holding up the whole group and holding up the progress of teaching the lost.

9.Always listen to the instructions of your team leader. Do not think you can do it better, not because you can't do it better but because there are very good reasons for their methods.

10.If you have ANY problems, please notify your team leader(s) immediately. They are best equipped for problem solving. Complaining to other team members brings down morale and will not help your problem.

11.Pools are for baptisms **ONLY**. Otherwise they are off limits.

12.Give it your all everyday. **BUT** when it's time to rest, take advantage.

13.Absolute **ZERO** tolerance for alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drug use. You will be immediately asked to leave the team and left to your own devices to return home.

14.Absolute **ZERO** tolerance for any illicit sexual activity including the use of pornography. You will be immediately asked to leave the team and left to your own devices to return home.

# PREPARATION

## YOU SHOULD ALREADY:

1. Be Praying for the success and safety of our campaign.
2. Have your passport. (Do you KNOW where it is?)
3. Sent a color copy of your passport to LAM.
4. Have bought your plane ticket.
5. Have gotten immunizations. We recommend Hepatitis A and Tetanus shots.
6. Sent in your Registration Form.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW (as in right now. Go!):

1. Pray for the campaign. Pray for the people we'll be meeting, the other campaigners that will be on the team, the preachers that will join us, the translators we'll be using, and (if you have time) me, your leader.
2. Send in your Shared Team Expenses\*. Refer to your Team Letter for specifics.
3. Send me the details of your travel itinerary. All of my contact information is in the back of this booklet.
4. Start Exercising. Exercising gives you energy and stamina. You will need both on this campaign.

## TO DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

1. Keep praying for the campaign!!!
2. Clearly mark your bags for travel.
3. Prepare for your job. Especially if you are going to be involved in evangelism. Brush up on your Bible knowledge, and prepare "cheat sheets" if necessary.
4. Read and re-read this guide. Do not skim any part of it. I just might save your life.
5. Did I mention PRAY?

\* Shared Team Expenses is the money needed to execute the campaign. All of your lodging, food, and travel expenses are a part of this fund. It also helps feed, transport and lodge the translators, preachers and other helpers who will be our teammates on this campaign.

# PACKING

Packing for a trip this long, with the limits that the airlines place on luggage has become quite a challenge. Here are some helpful tips to make packing a little easier.

1. Consult the website of the airline you will be using to find out what their limitations are for weight and number of bags you can carry.
2. Mark your luggage with a unique tag or other identification to make your luggage stand out from the rest. Most luggage looks similar and quite often people pick up the wrong bag.
3. Most airlines will allow one check-on, one carry-on and one personal bag.
  - CHECK-ON BAG: Put all your toiletries in your check-on bag. This trip is just long enough that the travel size toiletries might not last the whole trip. Pack as light as possible in this bag. 50 lbs is the industry standard for this bag. There is no need to pack your own supply of water. Bottled water is easily available. There will be some waiting for you when you arrive.
  - CARRY-ON BAG: Pack at least one set of clothes in your carry-on. If your check-on bag is lost you'll be glad you did. Also pack your heaviest things (non-liquid) in this bag. There are no weight restrictions on this bag. Paper, books, and any heavy VBS materials are ideal for this bag.
  - PERSONAL BAG: Purses are not recommended. A small duffel bag or large backpack is ideal. Keep all of your personal/valuable things in this bag. Keep any personal medications in this bag. Also, **no liquids in this bag.**
4. LADIES ONLY: Pack personal hygiene products whether you think you'll need them or not.
5. Pack an English songbook. Preferably "Praise for the Lord" but any will do.
6. Pack light weight clothing. We are in a tropical climate and jeans are not really comfortable in that sort of heat and humidity. This will also help keep your check on baggage from getting too heavy.
7. While on campaign, plan on having little time or use for hair dryers, make-up, curling irons, etc. Plus, it's just extra weight.
8. Pack snacks. Eating is a luxury in many parts of Latin America. However, for your own stamina and strength you need to keep nourished. The heat, humidity, and work load will require more calories than you are used to. 3 meals is sometimes not enough.
9. Pack a small, simple "First Aid" kit. A few band-aids, antibiotic ointment, aspirin, pepto, alcohol wipes, etc. Don't go overboard.
10. Pack an empty small bag, backpack or "fanny" pack that you can carry your essentials in on a daily basis.
11. Keep personal electronics to a minimum. Phones, computers, and gaming devices are of little to no use. Take this opportunity to "unplug" from the world for a week.