Welcome OBS Honduras Team

You are about to embark on one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life. EIM’s Overseas Bible School (OBS) mission trips have been designed for those with a heart for overseas ministry and a desire to reach those who have never heard the Gospel or who have not heard the real truth of it. It is very likely that you will leave a part of your heart on the mission field. But more than anything, we hope and pray that you are deeply touched by the spiritual needs all around you. Pray for all you come in contact with to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to live in obedience to the Father. Pray, also, that they understand how He died to take on the punishment of our sins. Ask God for a great desire to minister to them, share the truth of this relationship with them, and experience the part of the Great Commission that commands us to “go into all the world.”

While you may not say anything or can speak the language of Honduras, always remember that people can understand facial expressions and attitudes. Therefore, be prepared to enter and embrace an entirely different culture, show love to all those you come in contact with in Honduras as well as your own OBS team members. Consider your team your family the week you are there. Be willing to tackle any job given to you, come with an attitude of wanting to serve rather than be served and show grace with all when the week wears on and you get tired and worn down. God does not call everyone to this kind of ministry. You have to understand that this isn’t a vacation, and that there will be a lot of hard work and a lot of spiritual warfare.

This EIM OBS team manual has been prepared with enthusiasm and anticipation to help you experience an exciting, fulfilling, and fun mission trip. Please read this manual carefully as it contains pertinent team and travel information. It’s important that you stay in contact with Alicia Jackson, EIM OBS Director, who will be organizing your team or Fonda Norris, EIM OBS Coordinator who will coordinate required paperwork/payments and promptly respond with any information they may need from you. We at EIM will make every effort to keep you informed with the latest updates concerning your particular team if any or answer any questions.

All required documentation that you must complete is available online at: www.eimworldwide.org “TAKE A TRIP”. Then, click the Overseas Bible School Ministry link for all the requirements to complete the application for an OBS team.
Overseas Bible School Team Manual

Cancellation Policy: It’s important for all team members to understand that if for any reason EIM feels the team’s safety could be in jeopardy when traveling overseas, they reserve the right to cancel the trip. This would be done only after thoroughly investigating the situation with our overseas directors. There is always risk involved when traveling overseas that is beyond anyone’s control, and we are not responsible for any expenses lost due to the cancellation. Our team’s safety is our top priority. Every effort will be made to reschedule a cancelled trip, but there is no guarantee. We hope and pray we never have to cancel a trip; however, we do want to make you aware of that fact, since it is always a possibility.

The Department of State issues travel advisories concerning serious health or security conditions that may affect U.S. citizens. Current advisories are available at http://travel.state.gov/index.html. You can get country Consular Information Sheets, Travel Warnings and Foreign Entry Requirements at www.travel.state.gov.

Demographics of Honduras
*Located in Central America
*Population: 7.6 million
*Roman Catholic 97%
*Protestant 3%
*Second poorest country in Central America
*In 1998, an estimated 8,000 children lived on the streets of the capital alone, most HIV positive.

Most OBS Teams will distribute Shepherd Bags™ at different schools in Honduras each morning and then go to the specific school in the afternoon where we will be conducting our Bible school.

“Living without” may be a phrase we use lightly here in the U.S., but in Honduras, it’s a reality. Our OBS team can share hope and joy with children and present them with the love of Jesus Christ through the truth of the Gospel. EIM Director Manuel Lepe and his wife, Maira, regularly go into the villages, schools and beyond giving out Shepherd Bags™, Bibles, and other necessities. Shipments of these items leave Warren for Honduras where they are stored in the EIM Warehouse.

Manuel will handle the in-country logistics for the OBS Teams. He arranges the location & details for the four day Bible School, secures translators, and works closely with all OBS teams the week they are in Honduras. Teams will have translators that work in each area of OBS, so the lack of Spanish is not hard to overcome. Remember the Holy Spirit will teach through you, and He will send His message where He wants it to go. His convicting Spirit, a loving heart, a genuine smile, and a hug can bridge any language barrier!

Handing out Shepherd Bags in Honduras!

Bro. Mike preaching to the children at an OBS
Covered & Non-Covered Expenses:

Covered Expenses: All OBS mission teams pay their own expenses. The fee quoted for team members include: airline tickets, all in-country expenses such as: lodging, meals, ground transportation, one EIM t-shirt, and all Bible School supplies. Note: Your fee also allows EIM to pay interpreters.

Non-Covered Expenses: Meals traveling to/from Honduras, any COVID test fees required for departure/return, checked luggage fees, shopping/souvenirs/recreation, laundry/room service if any & any emergency cash. There is always the chance there could be a long layover when you are traveling, so remember to have some emergency cash with you at all times. Items purchased in airports are very expensive and airlines do not cover meals, transportation and hotels if you stay over due to weather delays. EIM does not assume costs beyond the Covered Expenses listed above.

Hotel In-Room Expenses:
If you have laundry done or order room service at the hotel this cost is your responsibility. We ask you to take care of those costs the day before we leave. This prevents us from having to separate those costs when we are checking out delaying our departure.

**Tip:** Keep your emergency money and your cash set aside for traveling home separate from your other spending money then you will have it when ready for departure should you need it due to a long layover.

**NOTE: Since EIM is a 501 C3 Non-Profit mission agency, all money given to pay for your mission trip is non-refundable if you cancel for any reason OR EIM has to cancel due to circumstances beyond our control such as natural disaster or political unrest**

Travel Information & Tips:

Covid Protocol: Due to the ever changing COVID-19 protocols for international travel EIM will monitor both USA updated protocols and country of destination updated protocols and contact you immediately if changes are made. Changes could include additional charges or even cancelation of trip. While traveling with EIM if wearing a mask and social distancing is required we will honor that request and follow all other Covid protocols mandated during travel and in our host country.

Minimum Age Requirement: Due to the strenuous nature of our OBS trips, we have set some age restrictions. You cannot participate in an OBS trip unless you have completed the 7th grade. Also, anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied on the trip by a parent or legal guardian. No exceptions.

Immunizations: No immunizations are required to enter Honduras.

Passport Information: A valid passport is required. **Your passport must be valid six months beyond the date of departure for your trip. Honduran customs at the airport will not let you into the country so check your passport to see that it has minimum of six months validity left. If it does not, you must renew it.** Passports are good for 10 years for adults/5 years for minors. Have your passport available when you check in at the airport. After check-in, place it on your person. Passports have been lost in transit, so know where your passport is at all times. Signature on passport must be in ink with your full name.

**NOTE:** It’s a good idea to keep a photocopy of your passport in your carry-on and in your checked luggage. You should also leave a photocopy with your family, along with emergency numbers.
**Passport and money security:** When you get to Honduras after arrival at the hotel, it’s helpful to place your passport and money in a Ziploc bag (to prevent sweat moisture from getting on your passport) and keep it in a travel wallet/security fanny belt/other secure place all week. Keep your passport on you at all times. Do NOT leave it in your hotel room when you leave.

**Airline & Luggage Information:** The weight limit for checked bags is 50 pounds and 62 linear inches per each piece. Weigh your luggage **before** leaving home to make sure it meets these guidelines. This will keep us from running into any unnecessary delays. You are allowed **two carry-ons**. One that will go into overhead storage with a weight limit of 20 pounds and the other can be a purse, backpack, laptop, etc. that can be kept under your feet. **Place a change of clothing in your carry-on bag in case your luggage is delayed or lost.** If possible, have carry-ons that have wheels or a backpack. Sometimes there can be long walks and long lines. It makes it much easier when you don’t have luggage to carry. Whatever luggage you bring, you will be responsible to get it through the airport.

**Important:** Some of the items you **cannot** put in your carry-on luggage are: no sharp objects (tweezers, scissors, razors, tools, etc.) medicines not in the original container, large-sized toiletries, large jars of snacks such as peanut butter and unmarked containers with liquids. We advise you to check for carry-on restrictions with the airlines before packing as they can change quite often.

**Any toiletries that are carried on the plane MUST be travel size and all placed in ONE quart size clear Ziploc bag.** Airlines are getting stricter about this policy. **

- Always keep all documents you are given while flying (boarding passes, luggage tags, etc.) even if you think you no longer need them. Most airports will ask to see your luggage tags before exiting.

- Consider footwear that is easy to get off and on for security check purposes. If at all possible avoid shoes/boots with laces. (If wearing lace tennis shoes, you might keep them loose enough to slip on and off quickly.) We want to get through security as quickly as possible.

- On the plane you will receive a customs form asking for your address. EIM will provide the address for you ahead of time. Write it down and keep it and a pen with you on the plane to fill out any necessary forms while traveling. Upon arrival, we will proceed to customs, then to baggage claim. When passing through immigrations and customs, it is better to **not** offer any unsolicited information. Only answer the questions you are asked as simply as you can.

- If you are ever pulled aside in customs, there is no reason to panic or get nervous. It is routine to randomly pull aside someone for a more thorough search of the person or luggage. We will all wait for you together in a group just outside of customs.

- Put your identification (name/address/phone) on the outside of your luggage. The team will **tag their luggage with razorback OR red duct tape.** Things can get hectic at baggage claim, but with everyone’s luggage “tagged” the same way it can help get luggage off the belt and distributed quicker. Please keep the entire team together as you proceed through customs. It is can be a long wait standing and moving through customs, so consider carry-on luggage with wheels and comfortable footwear.

- Do **not** allow anyone at the airport to handle your luggage, do **not** tip anyone and do **not** exchange money at the airport.
• Sometimes it is a long drive until a clean restroom so make sure you use the restroom before leaving San Pedro Sula.

**Coming Back through Customs in the U.S. (Houston, Atlanta, Miami & Dallas – most common)**

• **Forms:** When filling out forms to come back to the states, write “no” to all questions on your Declaration page or computer screen. You do not want to “declare” any of the kinds of souvenirs we buy. Write “0” on value of items to be declared even if you spent several hundred dollars. The touristy items we buy are “duty free.”

• **Airport Customs Questions:** If you are asked questions such as: “Are you bringing back any food, fruit/vegetables, etc. back”, “Have you been around any farm animals,” “Are you bringing back any exotic leathers/goods, etc.” The answer is “NO.” The kinds of items we buy in Honduras and in the San Pedro Sula airport are NOT the kinds of goods they are referring to.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is included in your team fee. A brochure/information will be emailed to you prior to departure. NOTE: It does NOT cover the loss of your airline ticket if you cancel BEFORE you go for any reason.

**Lodging & Meals:**

**Lodging:** Teams will stay in hotels. If other arrangements are made, you will be notified. They will have A/C and hot showers. Washcloths are not always provided in hotels so you might consider packing those as well as a couple of extra towels in case needed. Most hotels will have Wi-Fi but there is no guarantee. We will make every effort to find out pertinent hotel information for each team and provide that to you. We will meet somewhere in the hotel to have a devotional/share time either in the morning or evening. *You do NOT need adapters or converters in Honduras. The voltage is the same as the US.*

**Meals:** The restaurants we eat at will be safe for consumption. However, always use caution when eating overseas. When in doubt, ask one of our national workers. Some examples: Always drink bottled drinks or water only, no ice. Never eat fruit that can’t be peeled, no raw vegetables, and never eat salad (i.e. lettuce, tomatoes, etc.) If you’re not sure, ask Maira. If you have special dietary needs, Honduras will not have artificial sugar, gluten-free, etc. If you need special dietary items, you will have to pack them from home. (Honduras does have diet soft drinks.) Bottled water will be provided for your hotel room. Some teams may have to pack their lunches depending on the distance the OBS site is from our lodging. In those cases, lunch supplies/snacks will be provided for the team to make their lunch for the day.

*Note: On occasion, we may be provided some meals cooked for us in the area we are serving. In many countries and cultures it is offensive when guests refuse food the host has prepared, so we ask you to please TRY what is offered to you. Some may love the local cuisine, and others may not, but we do not want to offend anyone especially those who have taken the time to prepare us a meal. If you don’t think you are going to like the local food or you are not hungry, you don’t have to eat. But make sure you have enough snacks to get you through the trip. If you refuse, do it with a gracious spirit and watch your facial expressions.*
**Money & Valuables:**

**Bring Cash (No traveler’s checks), keep your purse/backpack with you at all times, and never leave it unattended. Keep your passport and extra cash in a travel wallet in order to have it on you at all times. Be discreet when getting cash out. Never flash money around. Leave all your expensive jewelry (i.e. diamond rings and earrings, tennis bracelets, and other precious stones) at home except for an inexpensive watch. Although we suggest you leave ALL your jewelry at home, small weddings bands and stud-type earrings (no diamond studs) are allowed. Expensive jewelry can draw unwanted attention. You can take a credit card if you desire to use in American airports but we suggest you do NOT use a credit card while overseas however that is your decision.**

**Honduras: NO exchanging of money at the airport! Most vendors in Honduras will take dollars. However, if you desire to exchange money, we will take care of getting the money exchanged for you. U.S. bills can have no marks, smudges, excessively worn areas or tears. They will refuse to tender any such bills, so inspect your bills carefully before you bring them. While in Honduras no bills larger than a $20. Also bring $10’s as well. Lempira’s cannot be exchanged back into US dollars (except for airport shopping), so think about how much money you want to spend ahead of time so you don’t have a large sum of lempira’s left over at the end of the trip.**

**Packing/Personal Needs Information:**

Packing List – We have attached a **Packing List on Page 10.** This is a sample list only. You will need most items on this list; however, there are some you may not need. It was designed to be used only as a guide to help you. If anything special is needed for your team, we will inform you.

If you do not carry a backpack/fanny pack on the plane, then plan to pack one in your luggage. Each OBS day, you will need to pack personal items such as your ministry materials, mosquito repellant, toilet tissue, feminine items, antibacterial wipes/liquid, sunscreen, first aid, etc. Most cases you won’t go back to your hotel for the day.

It’s also a good idea to “travel lightly”. Since each team is responsible for packing their team supplies needed for the week, each person may have to pack supplies with their personal items, so try to pack as lightly as possible to avoid fees for heavy luggage or to avoid having to check-in extra bags. These details can be worked out as your team has their organizational meetings.

**Clothing Guidelines:**

We ask that you be discreet, very modest, and respectful in your dress. Please no short shorts, cropped tops, or spaghetti straps. Wear long tops if you wear yoga pants. It’s not a good idea to wear clothing that looks military such as camouflage and be cautious about clothing with American flags on them. You never know where there might be anti-American sentiment. Keep in mind while packing that some clothing and shoes could get very dirty, so avoid packing your “nice” things for ministry days.
Please read the following cautions:

Good Rule to Remember: You are not in the “Witness Protection Program”. Please follow all caution guidelines.

Caution: We must use extra precautionary measures in a foreign country. ALWAYS stay together. No one is allowed to walk off from the hotel/lodging, even in a group without permission. We ask that you stay in the Hotel compound. Minors need to be accompanied by adults. Children stay with your parents. Refrain from any travel after dark, if possible. While we have always been safe, we will not take any risks. Do not give out your personal address or addresses of other team members. While in Honduras, only use bottled water for drinking/brushing teeth.

NOTE: No smoking is allowed by team members in Honduras. A smoking believer is offensive to believers in other countries.

Summary & Closing:

For each mission trip, you will be given itineraries and plans for the trip. However, we’d like to leave you with two thoughts. First, in spite of all efforts to be organized and have everything go according to plan, sometimes things happen and our plans may change. The joke at EIM is “if you’re not willing to be flexible and work closely in, sometimes, less than ideal circumstances, then foreign missionary work is not going to be your cup of tea.”

First, be ready to roll with the flow, don’t take yourself too seriously and laugh along the way! God has it all under control.

Second, and most importantly, is to bathe your mission trip in prayer! 
PRAY - For the Lord – For God’s to receive all the glory and for His name to made famous in Honduras. To be a Laborer – To serve your team, the nationals we work with and the precious people of Honduras. For the Lost – That God would save them and open their hearts to understand the Gospel. The Logistics – For safe travel, lodging and getting through customs. The Lion that Devours – For victory over Satan and that satanic strongholds will fall. Ask your church, family and friends to pray for you and the team as you prepare to take the Gospel of Jesus to the nations.

God bless you as you begin the exciting journey of Overseas Bible School!
EIM Contact Information for Mission Coordinators
Where to Send Fees & Required Documentation

PAYMENTS: $350 non-refundable deposit and remaining trip expense. (Each in LUMP sums)

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: Colored Passport photocopy, EIM medical release, EIM release of liability, EIM Code of Conduct and if under 18, a minor release form. Forms available online at www.eimworldwide.org at our “TAKE A TRIP” OBS link.

MAIL PAYMENTS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO:

Evangelistic International Ministries
Attn: Fonda -OBS
P. O. Box 925
Warren, AR 71671
Memo on check: Your Name/ OBS

For any questions you may have, contact EIM’s OBS Mission Coordinators:

Mike Goodwin, EIM President/Program Director
P. O. Box 297
Magnolia, AR 71753
(870)234-5319 EIM Magnolia Office
(870-325-7484 Bethel #1 Church Office
(870)904-2091 Mike’s Cell
mgoodwin@eimworldwide.org

Alicia Jackson, OBS Director
675 Stagecoach Rd.
Springfield, AR 72157
(501) 977-4534 Cell
expectrainbows@hotmail.com

Fonda Norris, OBS Coordinator
P.O. Box 925
Warren, AR 71671
fnorris@eimworldwide.org
(870)226-3626 EIM Warren Office
Overseas Travel Health Tips

We want you to stay as healthy as possible on the trip, so that you can maximize your energies for ministry in sharing the Gospel. To prevent possible health risks overseas, we advise the following steps. While not required, these precautions might prevent some common problems frequently associated with overseas travel.

*Reminder: We will follow all Covid guidelines that the host country requires.*

*We strongly advise that your tetanus shot is up to date. If it’s been over 9 years or you can’t remember it’s a good idea to get one. Consult your doctor if needed.*

*FOOD/WATER GUIDELINES: Don’t drink the water, unless it has been boiled (coffee or tea), or comes from a source you are absolutely sure has been purified. Drink bottled drinks/water instead of iced. If you can peel it, you can eat it. It’s not advisable to eat any fresh fruit that you didn’t peel or any lettuce. Politely turn down salads, no lettuce, or other foods where the ingredients have not been boiled or peeled. Make sure your plates, cups, and eating utensils are dry before using them. Bottled soft drinks, hot coffee, and hot tea are safe beverages. Drinks containing ice that has not been purified are not safe to drink. When in doubt whether to eat or drink, ASK.*

*Bring strong mosquito repellent and always wear it! Avoid wearing perfume and cologne which can attract insects. Mosquito carry diseases and the threat is real!*

*Brush your teeth and rinse your toothbrush in bottled water, not tap water. (Bottled water will be provided for brushing your teeth in your hotel room.)*

*Pepto-Bismol Regimen: We have found the following to be helpful in preventing minor bacterial problems in the stomach which tends to be the most common problem: Start a regiment of Pepto-Bismol (2 tablets 2-4x daily) two days before departure to coat your stomach against minor bacterial problems. Continue to take 2 tablets 2-4 times daily while overseas, continuing two-three days after returning. Consult your doctor to determine if this is advisable for you. You DO NOT have to do this.*

*Wear close toed shoes such as tennis shoes while ministering at OBS site. You can wear sandals around the hotel but never go barefoot. Bring shower shoes.*

*Wash hands as often as possible with clean water & use hand sanitizer or wipes frequently. Keep hand sanitizer in your backpack.*

*Consider consulting your physician or local health department regarding the above recommendations and ask what is best for you, as well as letting your physician know what country you’ll be traveling to if you have health issues that might warrant extra precautions.*
SAMPLE PACKING LIST

Clothing

**Sunday Church Service:**
(Casual skirt/dress for ladies, jeans/slack for men. **NO** shorts for any church service.)

**All Other Days**
Slacks/jeans
Capri’s/long shorts
T-shirts/loose shirts
(Clothing for OBS days will get dirty!)
Light jacket
2 pair walking shoes (1 pair you don’t mind getting wet/Dirty)
Shower shoes
Sleepwear
Underwear
Sunglasses
Hat or Belt if needed
Money pouch/travel wallet

**Toiletries (Travel size)**

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Hairspray/Hair dryer
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Kleenex
- Sunscreen
- Moistened hand wipes
- LOTs of antibacterial wipes
- LOTs of hand sanitizer
- Feminine sanitary/cleansing
- Makeup if desired
- Shaving cream/razor
- Glasses
- Contact lenses/solutions
- Insect repellent

Medicines

*Prescription Drugs
(In original containers – pack in carry-on)
Tylenol, etc.
Aspirin
Eyedrops
Pepto-bismol
Anti-diarrhea medicines
Laxative
Lip balm with sunscreen
Cough Drops
Band aids
Antibacterial cream
*If your prescription meds are absolute necessities, please pack extra and keep in a separate place in case of lost luggage.

“Tools”

- Bibles
- OBS Ministry Materials
- Pens & Pencils
- Back pack/tote bag/fanny pack
- Teachers: Extra tote bag for lessons
- Bilingual dictionary/electronic translator if desired
- U.S. Map to show where you live to nationals/students
- Family Photos to show to your students
- Miniature flashlight
- Alarm clock
- Sewing kit if needed
- Camera (extra batteries)
- Camcorder if desired
- Ziploc bags (for packing liquids)
- Extra plastic bags for souvenirs
- Extra batteries
- Umbrella

Snacks

- Gum/candy
- Crackers
- Granola bars
- Nuts
- Any snacks you would like for the week and to share with the group

Documents/Information

- Passport
- Flight Itinerary
- Emergency Information
- Credit Card (if you desire one for emergencies)
- Cell phone # of team members
- Spending money (Don't forget extra for departure tax, meals traveling, or emergency for extended layovers, etc.)

Things to consider before leaving (as they apply)

Leaves copies of itinerary, passport and emergency information left for family.

- Stop mail
- Stop papers
- Turn unneeded appliances off
Telephone Numbers in Honduras:

**See below for the procedure for emergency contact.

Manuel and Maira Lepe, EIM Directors of Honduras
Home: 011-504-608-0616
Cell: 011-504-9966-6039

If our lodging has Wi-Fi, team members can bring laptops/tablets if desired. Most people use their smart phone instead. Manuel will have a prepaid cell phone for you to notify family/friends of your arrival if needed. Please keep your calls very short. If available, you can email/Facebook etc. of your arrival.

**In case of emergency: Team Members having cell phones that have the capability to receive calls/texts overseas may want to consider leaving them on 24/7 for contact from home.

On trips that Mike Goodwin goes, he keeps his cell on 24/7. In the event of an emergency, try his cell number first. 870-904-2091.

(Also if Mike is in the US & not with the team, you can try calling him and he will know how to reach Manuel)

IMPORTANT! Please leave a copy of this information along with a copy of your passport for family and friends in case of emergency. Also keep a copy of this information with your passport while you are in the mission country.

Other Contact Numbers:

In the U.S.
EIM Magnolia Office 870-234-5319
EIM Warren Office 870-226-3626
National Passport Information Center 877-487-2778
Lost/Stolen Passports 877-487-2778

Outside the U.S.
Overseas Citizens Services 1-202-501-4444

The U.S. Embassy is located on Avenida La Paz in Tegucigalpa and can be reached at:

Telephone: (504) 2236-9320, Extension 4100 Emergency: (504) /2238-5114
Fax: (504) 2236-9037
After Hours:(504) 2236-8497
Website: https://hn.usembassy.gov/

U.S. Consular Agent - San Pedro Sula
Banco Atlántida Building
11th Floor, across the street from Central Park
San Pedro Sula, Honduras Telephone: + (504) 2558-1580

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: Please contact the U.S. Embassy in Business Hours: Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.