



Paraguay ~ Team 1242

Eyeglass

Team Description

“Empowering the Found in Reaching the Lost”

DATES: August, 2012

LOCATION: Ciudad de Estes, Paraguay

COST INCLUDES:

- International & Domestic Airfare
- Ground Transportation
- Housing
- Meals
- Logistical, Spiritual & Cultural Training Materials
- Trained Team Leader
- In-country Arrangements and Costs
- Supplemental Health Insurance
- Crisis Management Plan
- Team Medical Bag with Nursing Protocols
- 24/7 On Call Doctor



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Using a very simple testing system created specifically for MOST Ministries, this team will test vision and distribute eyeglasses to those in need. During the daily clinics, team members will test patients’ eyes and then fit them with the appropriate corrective lenses. Depending on the number of team members, a team can serve 100-300 people daily.

Eyeglass training is provided by the team leader and is completed in three to four hours during one of the team meetings. If team members cannot attend the meeting, a training CD and manual are provided for individual instruction. When the team arrives on the mission field, a final hands-on training is provided.

In order to minister to the spiritual needs of patients, each eyeglass clinic includes a witnessing station unless it is prohibited by the host country. At the witnessing station, the Gospel message and information about the home church are shared by the local missionaries, national pastors or the lay ministers. Team members are always welcome to work at the witness station or to share Christ’s love with the patients as they come through the clinic.

PROJECT MATERIALS:

- Each eyeglass team will be asked to collect 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses providing a wonderful opportunity to involve friends, church and community in the mission trip.
- Witnessing materials and eyeglass cases are also needed by these teams. Please visit the MOST Ministries website (www.mostministries.org/volunteer_info) for directions.
- Contact Lynn Wrightson at lwrightson@mostministries.org or 734.994.7909 X14 for additional information.

HOST INFORMATION:

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)—Paraguay, locally known as Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones, relies on a network of staff and volunteers to share God’s love. The office reaches many people through radio broadcasting, which is more effective in Paraguay than the internet. Through radio programs and newspaper ads, LHM promotes Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC) for both adults and children. Victor Verruk is the director.



A great deal of time is devoted to travel and personal communication. Staff share Christ with people who call the office or make personal visits. They also travel to various churches throughout the country to spread the message of God’s love and to be an example of an active Christian witness. LHM uses the Equipping the Saints (ETS) program to train individuals for outreach in their own neighborhoods. Another program involves small group ministry of 12 to 30 people with Bible study and discussions on its application to daily life.

The office also operates a bookstore that offers many Christian materials. This provides another face-to-face opportunity to share God’s message with the people of Paraguay.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

				Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Depart US	Arrive Settle In Orientation Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Clinic Dinner Devotions Team Mtg
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Clinic Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Clinic Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Clinic Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Clinic Dinner Devotions Team Mtg	Tour Day Depart for US late evening	Arrive home

ENTRY / EXIT REQUIREMENTS:

A passport and visa are required. U.S. citizens traveling to Paraguay must apply for visas in person by secure messenger at the Paraguayan Embassy in Washington, DC or the nearest Paraguayan consulate and pay a fee. For minors under the age of 18, parents or guardians must provide a notarized authorization. Click [here](#) for more information.

VACCINATIONS:

Before visiting Paraguay, you may need to get the following vaccinations and medications for vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases you might be at risk for at your destination:

Vaccination or Disease	Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
Routine	Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.
Hepatitis A or Immune Globulin (IG)	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in countries with an intermediate or high level of hepatitis A virus infection where exposure might occur through food or water. Cases of travel-related hepatitis A can also occur in travelers to developing countries with "standard" tourist itineraries, accommodations, and food consumption behaviors.
Hepatitis B	Recommended for all unvaccinated persons traveling to or working in countries with intermediate to high levels of endemic HBV transmission, especially those who might be exposed to blood or body fluids, have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment (e.g., for an accident).
Typhoid	Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in tropical South

	America, especially if visiting smaller cities, villages, or rural areas and staying with friends or relatives where exposure might occur through food or water.
Yellow Fever	Yellow fever vaccination requirement for travelers to Paraguay: Required if traveling from a country with risk of YFV transmission and ≥ 1 year of age. CDC recommendation: Recommended for all travelers ≥ 9 months of age, except as mentioned below. Generally not recommended for travelers whose itinerary is limited to the city of Asunción. Vaccination should be given 10 days before travel and at 10 year intervals if there is on-going risk. Find an authorized U.S. yellow fever vaccination clinic.
Rabies	Rabies vaccinations are recommended for only those travelers who might be involved in any activity that might bring them into direct contact with bats, carnivores, and other mammals. These travelers include wildlife professionals, researchers, veterinarians, or adventure travelers visiting areas where bats, carnivores, and other mammals are commonly found.

See the CDC website (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/paraguay.htm>) for additional information.

MOST MINISTRIES SHORT TERM TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company / Passport to Ministry Policy

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company's Passport to Ministry Policy provides individuals heading to the mission field protection and assistance in five areas:

Liability Coverages

- Foreign liability insurance
- Employer's liability insurance

Contingent Coverages

- Foreign contingent auto insurance
- Foreign voluntary compensation insurance

Medical Coverages & Services

- Medical expenses ~ accident and sickness
- Accidental death and dismemberment
- Medical emergency family reunion (bedside visit)
- Hospital admission deposit advance
- Foreign medical referral service
- Medical monitoring service
- Prescription drug replacement service
- Medical assistance:
 - Dispatch of a doctor or specialist
 - Emergency medical evacuation
 - Medically necessary repatriation
 - Return of mortal remains

Travel Assistance Services

- Benefits verification and claims assistance
- Embassy and consular information
- Emergency cash advance
- Emergency family travel arrangement assistance
- Emergency message transmission
- Foreign legal access
- Return of rental vehicle
- Return of traveling companion or dependents
- Translation and interpretation

Security Assistance Services

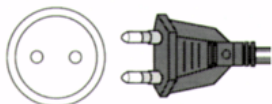
- Contingency political evacuation planning
- Political evacuation

- Security crisis center
- Travel security information

See http://www.mostministries.org/team_insurance for additional information.

LOGISTICS:

Electricity~	Electricity in Paraguay is 220 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you travel to Paraguay with a device that does not accept 220 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter.
Plug Adapters~	Outlets in Uruguay generally accept 1 type of plug (see picture below). If your appliance plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter.
Lodging~	The team will stay in a modest hotel and a dormitory-style building
Currency~	1 US Dollar = 4,543.90 Paraguay Guarani; 1 Paraguay Guarani = .000215US Dollar (http://oanda.com/currency/converter)



CLIMATE:

The climate in Paraguay can be distinguished in two seasons: a warm, rainy season with an average temperature of 31°C to 38°C, and predominant winds from the Northwest that bring a lot of rain to the country; and a cold, dry season, with little rain, predominant winds from the South, and an average temperature that ranges from 0°C to 14.5°C.

SEASONAL WEATHER AVERAGES FOR ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY:

Month	High °F	Low °F	Rain
January	92	73	6.20
February	91	72	4.80
March	89	71	4.50
April	83	66	6.20
May	77	61	4.40
June	73	56	2.80
July	74	57	1.70
August	76	58	3.00
September	79	61	3.10
October	84	65	4.60
November	87	68	6.00
December	90	71	5.20

PARAGUAYAN CULTURE:

Paraguay is often characterized by the Spanish word tranquil - "tranquilo" - a highly valued characteristic of its easy-going and friendly people. Spanish is the language of the urban environment, and is used in schools, commerce, and medical institutions. Guaraní, though, is the first language of most of Paraguay's population, and is spoken in the home and among friends.

Customs and beliefs are held very dear, and change comes very slowly, especially in the rural areas. While the rhythm of life in modern Asunción takes on the bustle of any large city, the pace of work in the villages and towns where Volunteers usually live tends to be markedly slower, and may at first seem frustrating. With time and patience, however, the reigning tranquility of rural life often proves to be a healthy context within which Volunteers can work to bring about culturally appropriate forms of change.

FAST FACTS:

Population~	6,375,830 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups~	Mestizo (mixed Spanish and Amerindian) 95%, other 5%
Religion~	Roman Catholic 89.6%, Protestant 6.2%, other Christian 1.1%, other or unspecified 1.9%, none 1.1% (2002 census)
Family~	Most people live in nuclear families consisting of spouses and their unmarried offspring. Most

	families consisted of a couple and their pre-adult children or a single mother and her children. Individual adults living alone were rare. If a marriage broke up, the mother typically kept the children and home, whereas the father either formed another union or moved in with relatives until he did so.
Class Structure~	Wealth and income distribution are extremely unequal. A small elite group owns most of the land and the commercial wealth and reaped most of the benefits of economic growth in recent decades. Recent surveys indicate that 20 percent of the population of the greater Asunción metropolitan area and 60 percent of the population in rural areas live in poverty. Indigenous peoples are the most impoverished.
Area~	406,752 sq km
Capital City~	Asunción
Altitude~	Lowest point: junction of Rio Paraguay and Rio Parana 46 m Highest point: Cerro Pero 842 m

CONTACT / APPLICATION INFORMATION:

MOST Ministries believes that the work of foreign missions must be a direct response to the requests and needs of the mission field. Through strategic planning, areas of need are identified and a plan of action is set in place to enable team members to utilize their gifts and talents in meeting those needs. If you are interested in utilizing your gifts in touching the lives of others in Paraguay, please contact Debby Suchyta at (734) 994-7909 ext. 11 or dsuchyta@mostministries.org.

MOST MINISTRIES

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