PROJECT GUIDE

LHM—GUATEMALA
Curriculum

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org
What to Look For In This Guatemala Curriculum

Please review and become familiar with the contents of this curriculum packet. The pieces are designed to provide for the best possible hands-on experience for your kids. Please feel free to use and adapt all parts of this kit to customize it for your unique setting.

Project Guide
This piece contains the administrative instructions and suggestions to conduct this project in a typical Lutheran school or Sunday school. The reproducible forms, letters, and notices are found in the project guide.

Preschool Level Teaching Lessons
These lessons, originally written by Mrs. Bunny Cohrs and updated by Mrs. Amy Collet Williams, provide lesson plans and activities for use in preschool programs and departments.

Primary Level Teaching Lessons
These lessons, written by Ms. Miriam Lindemann of Blue Springs, MO and updated by Mrs. Amy Collet Williams, provide lesson plans and activities for use by children in grades 1-3.

Intermediate Level Teaching Lessons
These lessons, written by Ms. Linda Patton of Eureka, MO and updated by Mrs. Amy Collet Williams, provide lesson plans and activities for use by children in grades 4-6.

Junior High Level Teaching Lessons
These lessons, written by Deborah Armbruster of Eureka, MO and updated by Mrs. Amy Collet Williams, provide lesson plans and activities for use by children in grades 7 and 8.

Ministry Fact Sheets
The fact sheet reports the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries—Guatemala.

You are granted permission to reproduce all of the materials contained in this curriculum packet.
Contents

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Introduction

First of All, Thank You!
Thank you for partnering with Guatemala through Lutheran Hour Ministries’ International Ministries Partnerships! Thank you for taking time to help your kids think about other kids in a faraway place. Thanks, too, for giving your students the opportunity to develop as Christian persons through their acts of service. Your participation in this project will help proclaim the Gospel message to the people of Guatemala.

Country Info
Guatemala is a land of beauty and diversity. It has more species of plants and animals than the entire United States. About two-thirds of the total land area of Guatemala is covered by mountains. The main range is the Sierra Madre which runs east to west across the country and is parallel to the Pacific Ocean in the south. Some of the mountains are active volcanoes.

Though Guatemala lies close to the equator, the climate varies across the country due to extreme variations in elevation. Its nickname “Land of Eternal Spring,” was given to the area around Guatemala City (the capital) because of the comfortably warm days and cool nights.

Materials
The materials in this packet have been designed to help provide a quality mission education experience for your students/congregation and a meaningful service to their Guatemalan brothers and sisters. Please review the materials in this packet, discuss them with your faculty, and adapt them to your unique setting.

Material in this package includes:

• Adaptable lesson plans created to optimize student learning

• Recipes from Guatemala to provide a hands-on experience

May God bless you, your faculty, your students and their families as you are agents for “Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church!”
Fundraising Ideas

For Schools:

Special fundraisers and collections can be held to meet or exceed your goal to support Guatemala's ministry center. Here are some ideas . . .

- LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks can be distributed. Contests and teaching lessons on the value of small contributions accomplishing great deeds can provide interest in and funds for the partnership.

- Community businesses and leaders can be approached to contribute to the costs of the partnership. The LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks, along with informational flyers, can be distributed to business owners to be used to collect money in their places of establishment and raise awareness.

- A Guatemalan celebration highlighting Guatemalan food, games, and entertainment can be held with admission charges and booth fees donated to the partnership costs. This may be a project the Parent Teacher League (PTL) or Parents Teachers Association (PTA) would be willing to orchestrate.

- Organizations that provide matching funds for donations can be approached about matching the funds collected to support the partnership.

- School chapel offerings can be collected to support Guatemala.

- Classrooms can brainstorm different ways to tell their family and friends about their partner country as well as ways they can offer their support.
Fundraising Ideas (cont.)

For Sunday Schools:

Special fundraisers and collections can be held to meet or exceed your goal to support Guatemala’s ministry center. Here are some ideas...

- LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks can be distributed. Contests and teaching lessons on the value of small contributions accomplishing great deeds can provide interest in and funds for the partnership.

- Community businesses and leaders can be approached to contribute to the costs of the partnership. The LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks along with informational flyers can be distributed to business owners to collect money in their place of establishment and raise awareness.

- A Guatemalan celebration highlighting Guatemalan food, games, and entertainment can be held with admission charges and booth fees donated to the partnership costs.

- Organizations that provide matching funds for donations can be approached about matching the funds collected to support the partnership.

- Sunday school chapel offerings can be collected to support Guatemala.

- Sunday school classes can brainstorm different ways to tell family and friends about their partner country as well as ways they can offer their support.
For Congregations:

Special fundraisers and collections can be held to meet or exceed your goal to support Guatemala’s ministry center. Here are some ideas . . .

- LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks can be distributed to the congregation. Contests on the value of small contributions accomplishing great deeds can provide interest in and funds for the partnership.

- Community businesses and leaders can be approached to contribute to the costs of the partnership. The LHM International Ministries Partnerships banks along with informational flyers can be distributed to business owners to collect money in their places of establishment as well as raise awareness.

- A Guatemalan celebration highlighting Guatemalan food, games, and entertainment can be held with admission charges and booth fees donated to the partnership costs. Check with your mission board or evangelism board to see if they would be willing to help coordinate such an event.

- Organizations that provide matching funds for donations can be approached about matching the funds collected to support the partnership.

- Hold a silent auction that highlights a few items from Guatemala. In addition to these prized possessions, members of the congregation can donate special services they provide or other material items.

  Some examples of other auction items

  - A set number of guitar lessons from a member who is also a guitar teacher
  - Family cabins or time share for a weekend
  - Front row parking spaces at church

  To inquire about Guatemalan items to be used in an auction, please contact Chris Myers at 314-314-4268.
Sample Letter to Parents

The following letter can be used to inform parents or congregations about your school or church’s partnership with LHM—Guatemala. This informational letter can help boost involvement, raise overall awareness, and increase support of your mission focus with Guatemala by inviting parents and congregations to be included.

Dear Parent or Guardian/congregation,

______________________ Lutheran school/church is proud to partner with LHM—Guatemala. The International Partnerships program is intended to involve Lutheran schools and congregations all over the United States in providing a Gospel witness in word and deed to our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. As participants, we will:

1. Focus our chapel messages for the month on Christian witness and evangelism, especially as it relates to the people in Guatemala.

2. Spend time studying the culture, geography, history, and religion of Guatemala with special emphasis on Lutheran mission endeavors there.

3. Raise awareness in our community regarding the needs of others both internationally and locally and encourage one another in prayer and in action.

We feel that this curriculum provides a unique opportunity for (your) child/us/congregation to be involved in a “hands-on” learning experience and gain a better understanding of their role as a Christian in a global society. To ensure the partnership’s success, we ask for your help.

• Please continue to pray with your family for the people of Guatemala.

• Keep spreading the word about this unique way to help further the kingdom of God.

<Here you may insert information and details pertaining to your specific partnership with LHM—Guatemala>

Your participation means that our Lutheran missions in Guatemala will be able to make contacts with many in the community and proclaim Jesus as their Savior. As you participate in this partnership, please pray that God would find ways to use it to bring many of our Guatemalan friends into His kingdom.
News Release Information

Dear Friend:
Thank you for your participation in Lutheran Hour Ministries’ International Ministry Partnerships program! International Ministry Partnerships offer congregations and individuals one of the best ways to become directly involved in reaching out with the Gospel worldwide and sharing the love of Jesus with people who need to know Him.

Lutheran Hour Ministries’ International Ministry Partnerships program offers you opportunities to highlight and promote meaningful ministry in your community. When a local newspaper or broadcast outlet carries the story of your mission trip or other partnership project, it will inspire and motivate your Christian neighbors, attract the attention of seekers, and provide opportunities to connect to your church and to Lutheran Hour Ministries’ various means of Gospel outreach.

Attached is a news release template you can use to get your story to your local media. Simply fill in the applicable information and send it to your local newspapers and radio/television stations. Addresses and telephone/fax numbers are typically published in your local Yellow Pages directory or on the Internet. Additional distribution options include placing the release on your website, blog, or Facebook page.

Who are the right people to send your release to? Here are some suggestions:

**Newspapers**

- Editor (weekly newspapers only)
- City editor (daily newspapers only)
- Features editor (dailies and weeklies)
- Education editor (dailies only)
- Religion editor/reporter (dailies only)

**TV and Radio**

- Local TV stations: news assignment editor (faxes seem to be most effective)
- Local radio station: news director (again, faxes seem to be most effective)

Please contact us at Lutheran Hour Ministries if we can be helpful to you in sharing your story with your community.
News Release Information (cont.)

How to Build Your News Release

When you construct your news release, be sure to provide essential details and adequate explanation for your reader to understand and stay engaged. Here are the types of paragraphs you will want to include:

**Paragraph 1. Essential details:**
- **Who**—your church, school, and/or group

- **What**—for example, learning about Guatemala through the LHM International Ministries Partnerships program’s curriculum that focuses on the history, culture, geography and religion of the country.

- **Where**—location of the ministry activity, e.g., Guatemala City, Guatemala. Identify significant entities—e.g., Lutheran Hour Ministries—Guatemala. Also include information about your hometown.

- **When**—date(s) the ministry activity occurred/will occur.

- **How**—include information about Lutheran Hour Ministries’ International Partnerships program and how the group is participating (prayer, financial support, volunteer trip).

**Paragraph 2. Description of partner ministry work:**
Example: radio broadcast ministry; neighborhood outreach through face-to-face visits; Equipping the Saints workshops to train lay volunteers in sharing the Gospel.

**Paragraph 3. Project detail:**
This paragraph is to provide detailed information about the significance of the project with which your group is involved—how many people it helps/reaches; cultural background; root cause(s) of community challenges, etc.

**Paragraph 4. Nature of involvement:**
How your group became involved in the LHM International Ministries Partnerships program.

**Paragraph 5. Lutheran Hour Ministries general:**
Boilerplate identity statement about Lutheran Hour Ministries.
Sample News Release

(Use your church or school's letterhead)
Note: words in bold italics are intended to be replaced with your local information.

News Release

Please contact:
(Name, Telephone number, e-mail address)

Local Lutheran School Partners with Lutheran Hour Ministries for Outreach in Guatemala

YourTown, STATE, Month/Date, 2013 — During A DESIGNATED TIME, the students of Your Lutheran Church, Your Town will learn about the country of Guatemala and participate in a special opportunity to support the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries—Guatemala.

YourLutheran’s students will study the culture and rich history of Guatemala, as well as the challenges of spreading the pure message of Christianity where the influences of the ancient Mayan religion persist and where many people embrace superstition and the occult. During the month of Month Name, the students will earmark the offerings from their weekly chapel devotions to help support Lutheran Hour Ministries—Guatemala.

“Our students are very excited to learn about Guatemala and its people up-close—as well as about the opportunity to help share the Good News of Jesus in a country where the truth of God’s Word is often distorted or misunderstood,” said Mr. Norm Principal, principal at YourLutheran School. “We believe that by partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries in this way, we can help make a real difference for people who need a true source of eternal hope in their lives.”

Lutheran Hour Ministries—Guatemala, known locally as Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones, was established in Guatemala City in 1993. One of the center’s strengths is its outreach in public schools through its Project JOEL values education program. The center also shares the Gospel through radio, television and the Internet; cassette and print materials outreach; and various community and regional events. The center also offers Bible Correspondence Courses and trains ministry volunteers in personal evangelism through its Equipping the Saints workshops.

Lutheran Hour Ministries is named for its radio flagship, The Lutheran Hour, which first aired in 1930. Heard today over more than 1,400 North American stations, The Lutheran Hour is the world’s longest-running Gospel outreach program. Lutheran Hour Ministries is an organization boldly dedicated to Christian witness, providing devotional and men’s ministry resources; Spanish-language programming; congregational evangelism training; and direct outreach through a variety of other media. For more information about Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit www.lhm.org. To learn more about Lutheran Hour Ministries’ outreach centers in more than 30 countries or about the International Ministry Partnership program, visit www.lhm.org/partner.
Web Resources

These links provide helpful tools for students of all ages to become more familiar with Guatemala’s culture. By visiting the websites, students will encounter games, songs, activities, and quizzes to help them learn more about the Guatemalan way of living, explore the Latin American geography, and gain a better understanding of the world around them.

http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0107596.html

Stay up to date with LHM—Guatemala by following their blog at http://lhmguatemala.wordpress.com/

Teacher’s Note

Many things can be said about and learned from the country of Guatemala. This brief background is written with the intention to be used by the teacher to help students get acquainted with the country and its people, and not as a finished guide to everything Guatemala. As a teacher, please use the facts supplied as your students’ level of understanding permits.

In utilizing the lessons on Guatemala, you will find that activity ideas can be adapted for various grade levels, based on student ability levels and interests.

You will find that the Overview Lessons are divided by lower level grades, intermediate/upper grade levels, and a bonus materials section that you can pick and choose activities from.