**Vietnam House Construction**

**Dates:** Flexible, 2011 – Teams can discuss potential dates with LHM. Optimal timeframe is 11 days in country, excluding travel days.

**Individual Budget:**
Approx $630 – This includes food, lodging, in-country transportation, and travel/health insurance. This is an estimated cost and does not include international flights and is based on a team of 10 people.

**Materials for Project:** $4,000. This includes all materials for the project and required tools plus a local construction contractor. The whole volunteer team should provide these costs.

**Home Construction Project**
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a communist country in Southeast Asia, is situated in eastern Indochina—bordering China, Laos, Cambodia, and the South China Sea. It is the most populous country among the mainland Southeast Asian countries. Only about eight percent of Vietnam’s population claims Christianity, but a growing, witnessing Christian church is emerging from years of persecution. Since reunification in 1975, a turning to God is taking place in both registered and unregistered churches, especially among the mountain tribal peoples of central and southern Vietnam.

In the midst of this much-needed change in direction, Vietnam is facing many new challenges. Repression of all types of freedom continues while social issues are on the rise. Drug addiction, AIDS, prostitution and exploitation of children are all too common. There are two abortions for every live birth, one of the world’s highest documented rates.

Because of communist restraints it is very difficult, and illegal, to openly share the Gospel. You and your team will construct 4 homes for poor residents in the Binh Tan district, Vinh Long Province, in Southern Vietnam. A local contractor will build the frame of the house with concrete columns and a front façade of brick. Volunteers will work alongside local residents to complete the three remaining walls with water coconut leaf and lay a brick floor.

This project will not only provide housing for poor residents, but also provides an opportunity to increase the ministry of LHM-Vietnam in rural areas, strengthen the partnership of the local congregation and improve relationship with the local authorities.

**Project Location**
The team will be based in the Binh Tan District of the Vinh Long province in the Mekong Delta, which is about 3-½ hours southwest of Ho Chi Minh City. Most residents are farmers.
**Itinerary**

Day 1. Arrival and rest. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City  
Day 2. Travel to Mekong Delta, orientation, visit project site and planning  
Day 3. Worship and free time  
Day 4. Workday  
Day 5. Workday  
Day 6. Workday  
Day 7. Workday  
Day 8. Workday  
Day 9. Wrap up of project  
Day 10. Worship and free time/sightseeing  
Day 11. Return to Ho Chi Minh City and sightseeing  
Day 12. Departure  

A detailed itinerary will be customized and provided to you by LHM according your travel days and team size.

**Travel Documentation**

**Entry/Exit Requirements**  
A tourist visa is required and your team is responsible for applying for the visa.  

**Documents required**  
- U.S. Passport must be valid 6 months beyond intended stay  
- Tickets and Documents for return or onward travel  
- Visa Application Forms, fully completed and signed  
- Passport-type photographs required  
- Embassy fee for tourist visa - $65  

Visit the Embassy of Vietnam’s web site at [www.vietnamembassy-usa.org](http://www.vietnamembassy-usa.org) for the most current visa information.  

**Embassy of Vietnam**  
1233 20th St NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel. 202.861.0737  
Fax 202.861.0917  
[info@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:info@vietnamembassy.us)  
[consular@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:consular@vietnamembassy.us)  

You may use a visa agency or Travel Documents who, for a reasonable fee, will obtain the visa on your behalf.  
- Travel Document Systems – [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com) or (800) 874-5100  
- Travisa – [www.travisa.com](http://www.travisa.com) or (800) 222-2589  
- Visa HQ – [www.visahq.com](http://www.visahq.com) or (800) 345-6541  

**Airport departure** – check with your flight agency whether departure tax is included in your ticket as there is a departure tax of approximately $14.

**REGISTRATION/EMBASSY LOCATION:** Americans traveling in Vietnam are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department’s travel registration website so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Vietnam.
Vaccinations
Vaccine recommendations are based on the best available risk information. Please note that the level of risk for vaccine-preventable diseases can change at any time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination or Disease</th>
<th>Recommendations or Requirements for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG)</td>
<td>Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in countries with an intermediate or high level of hepatitis A virus infection (see map) where exposure might occur through food or water. Cases of travel-related hepatitis A can also occur in travelers to developing countries with &quot;standard&quot; tourist itineraries, accommodations, and food consumption behaviors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Recommended for all unvaccinated persons traveling to or working in countries with intermediate to high levels of endemic HBV transmission (see map), 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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in Southeast Asia, especially if staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities, villages, or rural areas where exposure might occur through food or water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese encephalitis</td>
<td>Recommended if you plan to visit rural farming areas and under special circumstances, such as a known outbreak of Japanese encephalitis, see country-specific information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies</td>
<td>Recommended for travelers spending a lot of time outdoors, especially in rural areas, involved in activities such as bicycling, camping, or hiking. Also recommended for travelers with significant occupational risks (such as veterinarians), for long-term travelers and expatriates living in areas with a significant risk of exposure, and for travelers involved in any activities that might bring them into direct contact with bats, carnivores, and other mammals. Children are considered at higher risk because they tend to play with animals, may receive more severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drugs to Prevent Malaria (Antimalarial drugs)
If you will be visiting a malaria risk area in Vietnam, you will need to take one of the following antimalarial drugs: Only atovaquone/proguanil or doxycycline in the southern part of the country in the provinces of Tay Ninh, Song Be, Lam Dong, Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Dac Lac, Gia Lai, and Kon Tum. All other areas: atovaquone/proguanil, doxycycline or mefloquine (primaquine in special circumstances and only after G6PD testing).
Note: Chloroquine is NOT an effective antimalarial drug in Vietnam and should not be taken to prevent malaria in this region.

Malaria risk area in Vietnam: Rural, forested areas, except none in the Red River delta and the coast north of Nha Trang. None in Can Tho, Da Nang, Haiphong, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Nue, Nha Trang, and Qui Nhon. This is based on current information from CDC. Always consult with your doctor regarding vaccinations, as Lutheran Hour Ministries cannot be held liable for any recommendations made.[http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationVietnam.aspx](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationVietnam.aspx)
(Information from CDC website – November 2009)
**Lodging and Meals**
The team will be staying at hotels in Ho Chi Minh City and in the Mekong Delta. All hotels are air-conditioned and the hotel in the Mekong Delta does have mosquito nets. The team will eat their meals at a choice of restaurants in the area around the hotel.

**Sightseeing**
The team will be offered some sightseeing options during orientation. Sightseeing options usually include the Cu Chi Tunnels, Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Ben Thanh Market. There is also an opportunity to visit a fruit farm and floating market near the worksite.

**Budget**
Costs for volunteer teams are split into ‘Individual Costs’, which is your food, lodging, transportation, etc., and your ‘Project Costs’, which is the cost of the materials for the actual project you participate on. Whether it is a VBS or a construction project we ask that your team cover these costs as a group.

**Sample budget of Individual Costs** based on 10 people traveling 11/12 days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>12 days @ $3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>11 nights @ $18 per person (double occupancy) includes breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>11 days @ $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled Water</td>
<td>Approx $5 per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Incl. Gas and driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must also budget for your international flights, entry visas, sightseeing, souvenirs and departure taxes (if necessary).

The budget is estimated and your team may choose to eat a little more expensive or a little cheaper meals, which would obviously affect your budget. We tend to try and over budget as much as possible so you do not run short of funds, but it never hurts to have some extra funds available. It would also be wise to carry a small amount of additional contingency funds for any medical emergencies that may occur or unexpected costs.

**Project Costs** for this project is $4,000 – this covers tools, hiring local construction contractor, and materials – water coconut leaves, paint, brick for the floors. Local volunteers will be working alongside the volunteer team.

**Insurance Coverage**
Medical evacuation for all team members is mandatory and LHM provide insurance from AIG at the cost of $3.30 a day. We will provide you with an insurance card with a policy number on it and a contact number in cases of extreme emergency – i.e. something that requires evacuation. The person you talk with will advise you on what to do in those circumstances. For all other claims please pay any bills that you incur and make a claim directly to the insurance company when you return.

Vietnam-House Construction Project 2011
LHM Ministry Center

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)-Vietnam works with existing government-recognized congregations and organizations to assist in outreach in this country, where atheism is the "semiofficial" religion. Government regulations prohibit any religious activities outside the church; therefore, LHM-Vietnam cooperates with local congregations to spread the Gospel through programs such as Bible Correspondence Courses (BCC), puppet shows, videos, and musical performances. Since all television and radio stations belong to the Vietnamese government, LHM-Vietnam cannot broadcast Christian messages through the media. The ministry center meets this challenge by showing LHM produced animated cartoons to young audiences inside local churches. Residents in remote areas, especially children, do not have access to televisions, making LHM-Vietnam’s video projection a popular event. Children and adults take delight in watching the LHM-Vietnam puppet shows. The team performs plays such as "The Lost Son" to teach about the love, forgiveness, and salvation of Jesus Christ. Many audiences are so inspired after watching the puppet shows that they vow to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior. With such strict government regulations inviting youth to the church to listen to the Gospel is not easy. Therefore, LHM-Vietnam creatively attracts youngsters with its evangelistic music show performed by a Christian musical team. LHM-Vietnam’s Equipping The Saints (ETS) program trains lay persons to nurture the spiritual life of individuals referred to LHM. Most of the local congregations lack the materials as well as the means to train their congregational workers, so ETS is highly appreciated in the community.

Vietnam Contact Information

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