



QUITO

MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

SUMMER 2018

PROPOSED DATES: JULY 2018 (DATES TO BE CONFIRMED)



V.2

QUITO SUMMER 2018

Leaders: Rob & Carina Gast, Dave & Krista Jonker

Proposed Dates: July 2018 (up to 12 days)

Thank you for your interest in Creekside's **2018 Summer Team** to Carmen Bajo. Creekside Church has been sending short-term teams to Ecuador since 2007.

The **2018 Summer Team** dates are being confirmed soon, for up to 12 days in July. The general purpose of this venture is to serve our sister church located in an impoverished suburb in the North East part of Ecuador's capital city. Our strong relationship with *Iglesia Alianza Carmen Bajo* allows us to contribute to the needs of the community in significant, ongoing, and meaningful ways.

Carmen Bajo is part of a suburb of Quito, Ecuador, built on the side of a mountain. It is an economically challenged neighbourhood with a high rate of unemployment. Many of the adults that live here have minimal education, and abuse and addiction are prevalent. In conjunction with a local Compassion project, *Regalo de Dios / Gift of God*, the Church, under the leadership of Pastor Fabian Erazo and his family, are a light in this darkness. The love of Christ brings hope to this community.

Creekside Church is blessed to be a partner in this work. We will be assisting in areas of local need. All of our activities are intended to serve the Carmen Bajo community by building up their faith, encouraging them, and strengthening the relationship which exists between their church and Creekside.

****If after reading through this information you have any questions, or would like to fill out an application form, or even just to be on the 'interested list' please contact Rob Gast at rob.gast@creeksidechurch.ca**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO MISSIONS TRIPS AT CREEKSIDE:

Our goal is to make sure that each Creekside missions trip is a valuable and positive experience for each participant of Creekside **and** for our partner church in Carmen Bajo. The following policies and procedures are meant to help unite and prepare each team so that Creekside missions trips have the greatest impact possible.

How do I get started?

- Carefully read through this information. Any questions? Ask Rob Gast
- Fill out the International Teams Application Form and forward it to Rob Gast rob.gast@creeksidechurch.ca
- Will you be 18 yrs as of Dec 31, 2016? You will need a police check.
- Prepare a cheque for the \$200 deposit payable to International Teams Canada
- **Please note: a filled out application form and deposit ready to give does NOT guarantee a spot on the team.**
- You will be interviewed, references checked, and the Missions Team and trip team leaders will be evaluating applications and selecting the team.

What else do I need to know?

- Each team member will be required to have a **written testimony** or "my story" for the purpose of team connection and personal evangelism preparation.
- **PLAN TO PROTECT:** If you will be age 18 or over as of Dec. 31, 2016 you must get a **Police Check** done and forwarded to your team leaders before they can fully process your application. We will provide a request letter for each applicant who needs a police check, therefore getting it at a reduced rate of \$10. An application will not be fully processed without the police check. All team members will undergo Plan to Protect training.
- Please understand and be willing to accept the leadership of your team leader(s). They have been approved and entrusted by the Missions Team and Elders to lead this missions trip. Although opinions may differ from time to time, you are subject to the leader's direction while in preparation for and during the trip. Unity, submission and servant-hearts are essential to the success of the mission.
- **Attendance is mandatory for all team meetings.** Emergencies and other sound excuses are subject to judgment by the team leaders; having previous trip experience is no excuse to miss a meeting. See below for the training meeting outline. The exact dates and times will be given by the team leader at the information meeting. Please schedule these times on your calendar as they will be given to you well in advance. Failure to attend these meetings could result in removal from participating on the trip WITHOUT refund.
- Being part of a short term missions team means taking on some specific assignments and/or responsibilities during the training and through the time of the trip. Team members will be responsible to follow through with any assignments and responsibilities agreed upon and distributed by the team leaders.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Every team member is expected to raise their personal funding amount, through asking family/friends/co-workers for donations. While a team member may be able to pay some or even all of their own way, we encourage everyone to invite others to not only support you with prayer, but also to invest in your ministry financially as well. People pray for what they pay for! In addition to this, the team may work together to raise funds to go into the team's general pocket, to be dispersed where needed most among team members. All team members are expected to fully participate in whatever fundraising project the team agrees together to undertake. All fundraising projects being undertaken on Creekside premises MUST have the written approval of the Missions Team in advance. Your team leaders and trainers will give you more information on this at the first training meeting.
- Be aware of the possibility that pricing for the missions trip could increase due to circumstances beyond our control (ie. fluctuating exchange rates). We assure you that Creekside will do everything possible to make each missions trip as affordable as possible without ever compromising the safety and quality of experience for any missions trip participant.

Important Dates to remember:

1. Deposit of \$200 with Application (will be processed **if chosen** for the team) and \$10 Police Check (18+): December 10, 2017
2. Shots required by: May 1, 2018
3. Passport required by: As Soon As Possible
4. Team will be formed and everyone informed: January 2018
5. Monthly Training Meeting 1 Sat. Jan 27 10a-12p
6. Monthly Training Meeting 2 Sat Feb 24 10a-12p
7. Monthly Training Meeting 3 Sat Mar 24 10a-12p
- 8. First \$1,000 due from each person March 25, 2018**
9. Monthly Training Meeting 4 Sat Apr 28 10a-12p
10. Monthly Training Meeting 5 Sat May 26 10a-12p
- 11. Full funds due from each person June 3, 2018**
12. Commissioning Sunday & Pack Party- the Sunday prior to departure
13. Trip (dates tba)
14. Team debrief/evaluation July – tba
15. Team and Family Potluck Celebration and Debrief - tba

What is the cost?

- BASIC TRIP COST \$2700
(inc. flight, food, accomodations, transportation in Quito, admin, host/translator fees, team shirts, bus to/from Toronto airport)
- Passport* & photos \$97 *if you don't already have one
(*Expiry date on current passport must be at least six months after the end of the trip)
- Police Check (age 18+) \$10 *with request letter
- Travel medical insurance \$35 *unless you have a plan already
- Immunizations \$100-\$400
Some of the immunization shots may \be covered under your work benefits; check!
- Your own US spending money \$100+ (?)

Notes about payment...please read CAREFULLY!

1. Deposit of \$200 must accompany the application form. If you are selected to be on the team, the cheque will be processed. If not, it will be returned to you.
2. All cheques are to be made out to **International Teams Canada**, indicating your name and "Summer 2017 Quito Mission". All money given towards a trip is non-refundable.
3. **All money given towards a trip is non-refundable.** Please bear in mind that if for any reason you do not end up going, all the money that you and your donors have given cannot be refunded.

4. Through International Teams we are also able to process online donations, and each team member will be set up with a webpage to utilize and manage for fundraising online. You are responsible to manage your own donors and be sure to thank them as well!
5. Any additional dollars after expenses have been paid or any overpayments to your account will go directly toward the team's fund. I.e. If the estimated main travel cost is \$2800 and actual expenses ended up at \$2600 by the trip date, that additional \$200 will go directly to your team's fund. Or if you raised \$3000, the extra \$400 would go directly to the fund. Any remaining donation funds after all expenses have been covered are directed to Impact Ecuador.
6. Full payment for the missions trip must be made by the given due dates.
7. In the event that Creekside's Missions Team and the Elders choose to cancel the trip (i.e. not enough people to go on trip, unsafe travel/environment in country of destination), any dollars given by you towards the trip will NOT be refunded. Being a charitable organization, Creekside does not issue refunds for contributions given. However, you can choose to carry over those dollars to another missions trip to Quito that Creekside is offering during the same year or to a trip during the next year not exceeding one fiscal year. You may also choose to direct the donation to International Team's Impact Ecuador fund.

What Vaccines do I need?

As with many destinations, hepatitis A & B, typhoid, altitude-related and food/water borne illnesses are a risk. You will also want to be sure that you have sufficient quantities of any other medications that you regularly use or anticipate needing.

The Region has several travel clinics that will provide the specifics on what you need or should consider getting.

See <http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/en/clinicsclassesfairs/travel.asp>

***There is a consultation fee*

***Appointment bookings are at least one month in advance, so it is VITAL to book your appointment at least 4 months before the trip departure date*

Immunizations for Quito are based on Health Canada's recommendations for travel into that particular region. See <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>. Teams do not require vaccinations for lower-altitude or jungle regions. Be sure your consulting physician knows you will remain in Quito or higher altitudes the entire duration of your time there.

What are the accommodations like?

Usually teams stay at "Hostal El Jireh" in Quito, a large rooming house with common kitchen space, 4-5 bunked in rooms with separate washrooms. You will need to be willing to room with others of the same gender. Bedding & pillows supplied. Bring your own towels & washcloths. If accommodations will be elsewhere, they will most likely be something similar to this. Your team leaders will keep you up to date on details if and as they change.

What should I know about the meals?

1. You will be well fed, (lots of chicken and potatoes!)
2. The facility is not equipped for special diets such as vegetarian. You eat what is provided.
3. You may want to bring snacks like nutrient bars.
4. Most water in Quito is contaminated. Don't drink it. Only drink bottled water or pop which is provided to you there.

What is this weather like?

1. Quito is very temperate (18-20 degrees Celsius most days) but a light jacket is always kept handy. UV radiation is 13+, so sunscreen and hats are a requirement every day.
2. Quito is at a very high altitude (9,500 feet+) – please be aware of this and consult your doctor if you have any concerns. Quito's air quality is also not the best, something to be aware of.

What luggage can I bring?

1. One (1) suitcase per person to be checked in, plus one (1) carry-on bag/backpack with sufficient supplies in case your luggage does not arrive when you do (it happens!)
2. Each team member is also expected to be responsible for one (1) duffel bag of supplies being brought down by the team.
3. Other equipment as needed by the team (eg. Musical instruments, sound equipment, tools etc. that require special handling)