

Ecuador

March 2nd - March 14th, 2012



Dear Team Member,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Short Term Missions! You are about to embark on an amazing journey that will, if you allow the Holy Spirit to have his way in your life, change you forever. **Thanks for considering being part of our February 24th—March 6th , 2012 Mission Trip to Ecuador.** We've put together this packet for you, and it is important that you review all of the information carefully. **If you have any questions, please contact Cari Arnold at 309.732.0026 or email cari.arnold@heritageqc.com.**

Purpose of this trip:

To help finish the construction on the ministry center in Cuenca, Ecuador. We will be doing finish work with plumbing, electrical, painting, tiling, finish woodwork and miscellaneous tasks as needed.

Trip Requirements:

Team members must have construction experience in the area's listed above to be included on this team.

Team Leader

Kevin Herrick serves as the Buildings & Grounds Director for Heritage Church and has a broad range of construction experience. Kevin also leads our Men Under Construction bible study every Monday night. Kevin has previously lead successful construction teams to Russia and Haiti. Kevin is married to Bonnie and they have two children, Emily & Michael.

Passport

A passport is required. Contact your local Post Office or Passport Facility. You will need to make an appointment to obtain a passport for the first time.

For information: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html

Trip Expenses

The trip expenses are estimated to be **\$1800 - \$2100** and will include your airfare, visas (if needed), exit fees (if needed), ground transportation, lodging, meals, overseas health insurance, and miscellaneous. You will need to bring your own spending money for personal gifts/items.

Travel Guidance

Details on what to bring such as clothing, personal property and specific travel guidelines will be provided in the team training meetings prior to your trip. Team leaders will gather information from previous teams, local conditions in **Ecuador** and consultation with the Consular in the US Department of State to provide detailed travel instructions to team members.

US Consular Information Sheet: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1106.html

Checklist

Requirements Checklist

Approximate Trip Cost: **\$1800 - \$2100**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
___ Apply for Passport	Immediately
___ *\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit (check payable to Heritage Church)	(12/21/11 with application)
___ Application Form	12/21/11
___ Disclaimer	With application
___ Release of Liability	With application
___ Immunization Agreement	With application
___ Team Member Covenant	With application
___ 2 copies of passport (photos & signature page)	With application
___ 1st Payment: \$900 (check/s payable to Heritage Church)	1/24/12
___ 2nd Payment: \$900-\$1100 (approx.) (check/s payable to Heritage Church)	2/24/12

Please return completed applications and check for deposit to:

Cari Arnold, Outreach Department

Heritage Church

4801 44th St.

Rock Island, IL 61201

*(deposit will be refunded if applicant is not chosen to be part of the team)

Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name on Passport _____
(as it appears on passport/full legal name)

Social Security _____ Date of Birth _____

Passport Number _____ Place of Issue _____

Date of Expiration _____ Country of Citizenship _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name/Relationship _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

TRIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING

Date **March 2nd — March 14th, 2012** Location **Ecuador**

Primary means by which you plan to finance the trip: ___ Personal ___ Raise Support

Past Mission Trip Experience

Year	Location
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Other Ministry Experience: _____

Have you given to Faith Promise at Heritage this year? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a member of Heritage Church? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a regular attender at Heritage Church? ___ Yes ___ No
How often do you attend? _____

Why do you want to participate on this trip? _____

How would you like to grow personally from this trip? _____

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSESSMENT

Briefly describe how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior? _____

How have you grown in your relationship with Christ in the past year? _____

What are your Spiritual Gifts? _____

I understand that by completing and turning in this application that I am applying to be a member for the above stated mission trip. Completion of this application does not guarantee my acceptance as a member of the mission team for which I am applying. I further understand that I may be required to go through a personal interview with the mission trip leader(s) as part of the application process.

Signature of Participant

Date

*******Disclaimer*******

- _____ 1) Submission of application does not guarantee you will be going on a trip.
- _____ 2) I understand I am expected to attend **all** team meetings.
- _____ 3) A copy of my support letter must be submitted to the team leader no less than four weeks before departure (six weeks is preferable).
- _____ 4) All funds submitted are at the discretion of the Global Outreach Department of Heritage Church. According to IRS tax laws, no funds may be designated for a particular individual. In the event that your fund raising efforts have exceeded your portion of the trip cost or you decide to cancel going on the trip, there are two options:
 - a) Funds will be designated for another short-term volunteer going on the same mission trip that still needs assistance to raise their portion. In the event that every person has fulfilled their portion, funds will go to the particular ministry that the current trip is assisting. No funds will carry over to another trip and cannot be designated for another short term volunteer going on a different trip.
 - b) Funds will be reallocated to the general Faith Promise fund.
- _____ 5) Any requests for financial assistance must be submitted in writing, using the form available in the Global Outreach Department, no later than three days before trip departure.
- _____ 6) I understand I am responsible to pay for the full amount of the individual's portion (airplane ticket and any other expenses that Heritage Church invested) of the trip **prior** to the trip departure. Failure to do so will result in denial of participation in future trips.

By initialing each box above, I indicate that I understand and agree to adhere to all requirements of the Heritage Global Outreach Department.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Release of Liability

I. MINORS (To be filled out by the parent or legal guardian of individuals under the age of 18)

I, _____ the parent/legal guardian of _____,
(here after referred to as "minor") a minor, hereby acknowledge that said minor is presently under my care and custody. I hereby give said minor permission to go to and participate in activities with Heritage Church, Rock Island, Illinois (here after referred to as "church").

In the event of an emergency, necessitating medical or surgical attention, I hereby consent and give my permission to the church, its' representatives, or trip leaders to make decisions to perform such medical treatments and/or surgery upon said minor which may in their sole discretion be necessary and proper under the circumstances.

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of said minor do release, acquit, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless the church, its' representatives, or trip leaders from any and all actions, damages, and/or liabilities arising out of any accident or sickness, or treatment thereof, incurred by said minor during activities with the church.

Signature of Participant

Date

II. ADULTS (To be completed by those 18 years of age and older).

I, the undersigned, am 18 years of age or older. I have read the above waiver of minors and do agree to the same terms and conditions as stated. I do hereby release, acquit, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless Heritage Church, Rock Island, Illinois, its' representatives, or trip leaders from any and all actions, damages, and or liabilities arising out of any accident or sickness, or treatment thereof, incurred by me while involved in activities with the church.

Signature of Participant

Date

Immunization Agreement

In the interest of providing adequate information to all volunteers, Heritage Church strongly encourages you to consult with your physician or Passport Health at least 3 months prior to your planned travel.

TETANUS: Booster at 10 years or injury.

TYPHOID: Every 3 years intradermally.

ORAL POLIO: Every 10 years.

HEPATITIS A: 2 shot series, 6-12 months apart.

HEPATITIS B: 3 shot series—get first shot, one month later get 2nd, 6-18 months later get 3rd.

MALARIA: Consult your medical provider.

I have reviewed the recommended immunizations above, have consulted with my physician or Passport Health concerning the necessary precautions, have complied with the recommendations of my physician or Passport Health and agree to assume all risks regarding immunizations.

Signature of Participant

Date

Additional information: Some of the immunizations require a series of shots that can take several months for full protection. Recommended travel medical specialists:

- Passport Health @ 309-757-1252, 515 Valley View Drive, Suite 103, Moline, IL 61265
- More detailed information can be found at the Centers for Disease Control:
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Team Member Covenant

Name _____ Country of Service **Ecuador**
Date of Trip **March 2nd - March 14th, 2012** Trip Leader(s) **Kevin Herrick**

As a volunteer with Heritage Church, I agree to pay all costs related to my trip such as immunizations, travel, food, lodging and miscellaneous costs, and to serve without payment.

I will be responsive to the counsel and suggestions of the Mission Team Leader(s) and abide by the standards of conduct and ethics of the above named field and the policies of Heritage Church.

I will abstain from any form of conduct unbecoming to a Christ-like example. I agree to abstain from the use of any form of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.

I will not hold Heritage Church and any of their departments, segments, officers, agents and employees responsible for any accident, injury, or illness resulting from my visit to the field nor for the loss of or damage to personal property while on this assignment and will indemnify and hold harmless Heritage Church from and against any and all liability occasioned by my service.

I affirm that Heritage Church has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds, and reserves the right to redirect funds designated for my ministry in the event that my ministry is over-funded to assist other team members or the trip in general. I understand, and will explain to potential donors at the point of solicitation of funds, that surplus funds will not be returned to the donor or me.

In addition, I agree to comply with any specific regulations and rules of conduct pertaining to the field where I will be serving.

I realize that these guidelines have been created for my safety and in accordance with the policies of Heritage Church and the field in question. I understand that any violation of this agreement may result in the termination of my service and that I will be personally responsible for any expenses related to my return to my home and related financial commitments.

Signature of Participant

Date

Approval

Date

Ecuador Profile

GEOGRAPHY

Area: 276,840 sq. km; about the size of Colorado.

Cities: *Capital*--Quito (pop. 2 million). *Other major cities*--Guayaquil (2.28 million).

Terrain: Jungle east of the Andes, a rich agricultural coastal plain west of the Andes, high-elevation valleys through the mountainous center of the country and an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Climate: Varied, mild year-round in the mountain valleys; hot and humid in coastal and Amazonian jungle lowlands.



PEOPLE

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Ecuadorian(s).

Population (January 2009): 14,573,101.

Annual population growth rate (2009 est.): 1.497%.

Ethnic groups: Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and Spanish) 65%, indigenous 25%, Caucasian and others 7%, African 3%.

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic (95%), but religious freedom recognized.

Languages: Spanish (official), indigenous languages, especially Quichua, the Ecuadorian dialect of Quechua. Quichua and Shuar are official languages of intercultural communication.

Education: *Years compulsory*--ages 5-18. *Attendance* (through 6th grade)--77% urban, 78% rural. *Literacy*—97.3%.

Health: *Infant mortality rate*--22.1/1,000. *Life expectancy*--76.62 yrs.

GOVERNMENT

Type: Republic.

Independence: May 24, 1822 (from Spain).

Constitution: October 20, 2008.

Branches: *Executive*--President and cabinet. *Legislative*--unicameral National Assembly. *Judicial*--National Court of Justice, Constitutional Court, Provincial Courts, ordinary civil and criminal judges, Prosecutor General's office. *Electoral*--National Electoral Council, Electoral Disputes Tribunal. *Transparency and citizen participation*--Citizen Participation Council, oversight authorities.

Administrative subdivisions: 24 provinces.

Major political parties: Over a dozen political parties and movements; President Correa's Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) Alliance is predominant.

Suffrage: Obligatory for citizens 18-65 yrs. of age; optional for other eligible voters.

ECONOMY

GDP: (2008 preliminary) \$54.6 billion; (2007 provisional) \$45.8 billion; (2006) \$41.8 billion. Real annual growth rate: (2009 preliminary) 0.36%; (2008 preliminary) 7.24%; (2007) 2.04%; (2006) 4.75%.

Per capita GDP: (2008) \$3,961; (2007) \$3,366; (2006) \$3,115.

Natural resources: Petroleum, fish, shrimp, timber, gold, copper.

GDP by activity (2008): Oil and mining 26.8% (includes oil and natural gas extraction, and mining); commercial trade (wholesale and retail) 11.7%; construction 9.8%; industry 9.2% (*types*--food processing, wood products, textiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals).

Other major contributors to GDP (2008): Agriculture, including seafood 6.3% (*products*--bananas, seafood, flowers, coffee, cacao, sugar, tropical fruits, palm oil, palm hearts, rice, corn, and livestock); transportation/warehousing 6.0%.

Trade: *Exports*--\$13.8 billion (2009); \$18.5 billion (2008). *Types*--petroleum, bananas, shrimp, cacao, coffee, cut flowers, wood, canned fish. *Major markets* (2009)--U.S. 33%, Latin America excluding Andean Community 24%, Andean Community 16%, European Union (EU) 15%, and Asia 2%. *Imports*--\$14.1 billion (2009); \$17.6 billion (2008). *Types*--industrial materials, fuels and lubricants, nondurable consumer goods, industrial capital goods. *Major suppliers* (2009)--Latin America excluding Andean Community 37%, U.S. 25%, Andean Community 22%, Asia 19%, and EU 10%.

Currency: U.S. dollar.

HISTORY

The Inca Empire and Spanish Conquest

Advanced indigenous cultures flourished in Ecuador long before the area was conquered by the Inca Empire in the 15th century. In 1534, the Spanish arrived and defeated the Inca armies, and Spanish colonists became the new elite. The indigenous population was decimated by disease in the first decades of Spanish rule--a time when the natives also were forced into the "encomienda" labor system for Spanish landlords. In 1563, Quito became the seat of a royal "audiencia" (administrative district) of Spain.

Independence and Historical Developments

After independence forces defeated the royalist army in 1822, Ecuador joined Simon Bolivar's Republic of Gran Colombia, only to become a separate republic in 1830. The 19th century was marked by instability, with a rapid succession of rulers. The conservative Gabriel Garcia Moreno unified the country in the 1860s with the support of the Catholic Church. In the late 1800s, world demand for cocoa tied the economy to commodity exports and led to migrations from the highlands to the agricultural frontier on the coast.

A coastal-based liberal revolution in 1895 under President Eloy Alfaro reduced the power of the clergy and opened the way for capitalist development. The end of the cocoa boom produced renewed political instability and a military coup in 1925. The 1930s and 1940s were marked by populist politicians, such as five-time President Jose Velasco Ibarra. In January 1942, Ecuador signed the Rio Protocol to end a brief war with Peru the year before. Ecuador agreed to a border that conceded to Peru much of the territory Ecuador had previously claimed in the Amazon region. After World War II, a recovery in the market for agricultural commodities and the growth of the banana industry helped restore prosperity and political peace. From 1948-60, three presidents--beginning with Galo Plaza--were freely elected and completed their terms. Political turbulence returned in the 1960s, followed by a period of military dictatorship between 1972 and 1979. The 1980s and beginning of the 1990s saw a return to democracy, but instability returned by the middle of the decade.

Political Instability (1997-2006)

Abdala Bucaram, from the Guayaquil-based Ecuadorian Roldosista Party (PRE), won the presidency in 1996 on a platform that promised populist economic and social policies, and challenged what Bucaram termed as the power of the nation's oligarchy. During his short term of office, Bucaram's administration was severely criticized for corruption. Bucaram was deposed by the Congress in February 1997 on grounds of alleged mental incompetence. In his place, Congress named Fabian Alarcon interim president. Alarcon's presidency was endorsed by a May 1997 popular referendum.

Quito mayor Jamil Mahuad of the Popular Democracy party was elected president by a narrow margin in July 1998. Mahuad concluded an historic peace agreement with Peru on October 26, 1998, but increasing economic, fiscal, and financial difficulties drove his popularity steadily lower. On January 21, 2000, during demonstrations in Quito by indigenous groups, the military and police refused to enforce public order. Demonstrators entered the congressional building and declared a three-person "junta" in charge of the country. Field-grade military officers declared their support for the concept. During a night of confusion and negotiations, President Mahuad fled the presidential palace. Vice President Gustavo Noboa took charge and Mahuad went on national television to endorse Noboa as his successor. Congress met in emergency session in Guayaquil the same day, January 22, and ratified Noboa as President of the Republic.

Completing Mahuad's term, Noboa restored some stability to Ecuador. He implemented the dollarization of the economy that Mahuad had announced and obtained congressional authorization for the construction of Ecuador's second major oil pipeline, this one financed by a private consortium. Noboa turned over the government on January 15, 2003, to his successor, Lucio Gutierrez, a former army colonel who first came to public attention as a member of the short-lived "junta" of January 21, 2000. Gutierrez' campaign featured an anti-corruption and leftist, populist platform. After taking office, however, Gutierrez adopted relatively conservative fiscal policies and defensive tactics, including replacing the Supreme Court and declaring a state of emergency in the capital to combat mounting opposition. The situation came to a head on April 20, 2005, when political opponents and popular uprisings in Quito prompted Congress to strip Gutierrez of the presidency for allegedly "abandoning his post." When the military withdrew its support, Gutierrez went into temporary exile. Congress declared Vice President Alfredo Palacio the new president. A semblance of stability returned, but the Palacio administration failed to achieve congressional support for major reforms.

The Correa Administration (2007-present)

In presidential elections in October 2006, third-time candidate Alvaro Noboa won the first round. However, Rafael Correa, Palacio's former finance minister, running on an anti-establishment reform platform and by successfully presenting himself as the "change" candidate, bested Noboa in the second round presidential runoff in November 2006. Election observers characterized the elections as generally free, fair, and transparent. Noboa's National Institutional Renovation and Action Party won the largest bloc in Congress in 2006 elections, followed by Gutierrez's Patriotic Society Party; Correa's Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) Alliance movement did not field any congressional candidates. Traditional parties saw their congressional representation cut in half.

The new Congress took office on January 5, 2007 and Correa was sworn in as President on January 15, 2007. In March 2007, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal dismissed 57 members of Congress on the grounds that they violated campaign laws. Following that, the Congress was largely deadlocked and later effectively replaced by a constituent assembly that was voted into power on September 30, 2007. The assembly, which was inaugurated on November 29, 2007, drafted a new constitution that voters approved in a referendum and that went into effect in October 2008. This new constitution is Ecuador's 20th since independence.

As required under the new constitution, elections for the president, vice president, members of the National Assembly, and provincial and local offices were held in April 2009, two years into Correa's first term. President Correa was re-elected in the first round, taking 52% of the vote, compared to 28% for former president Lucio Gutierrez, his nearest rival. Correa's Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) movement also won the largest legislative bloc in the new National Assembly, although not a majority.

Correa has asserted that his political project, which he calls the "Citizens' Revolution," intends to search for social justice and reassert the supremacy of human labor over capital. His government has increased spending on housing, health care, and other popular social programs.

U.S.-ECUADORIAN RELATIONS

The United States and Ecuador have mutual interests in combating narco-trafficking and cooperating in fostering Ecuador's economic development and reducing poverty. Ties have been strengthened by the presence of an estimated one million to two million Ecuadorians living in the United States, by 150,000 U.S. citizens visiting Ecuador annually, and by approximately 20,000 U.S. citizens residing in Ecuador. More than 100 U.S. companies are doing business in Ecuador. In February 2009, the Government of Ecuador expelled two U.S. Embassy officials who administered U.S. assistance to specialized police units. A Department of State spokesperson rejected any suggestion of wrongdoing by Embassy staff.

The U.S. launched a Bilateral Dialogue with Ecuador in November 2008, during which cooperation in human development and poverty reduction, economic development, commerce and investment, and migratory issues was discussed. The second plenary meeting took place in November 2009, and included a discussion of security-related issues, in addition to continuing initiatives begun in the first plenary meeting.

The United States assists Ecuador's economic development directly through the Agency for International Development, through multilateral organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank, and through trade and technology transfers facilitated by the Foreign Commercial Service. In addition, the U.S. Peace Corps and the State Department's Narcotic Affairs Section operate sizable programs in Ecuador. Total U.S. assistance to Ecuador amounted to nearly \$60 million in 2009.

The United States is Ecuador's principal trading partner. In 2009, Ecuador exported about \$4.6 billion in products to the U.S. For over 15 years Ecuador has benefited from duty-free entry for many of its exports under the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA) and received additional trade benefits under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) in 2002. The U.S. Congress approved a number of extensions of those benefits. The ATPDEA is now set to expire on December 31, 2010. In May 2004 Ecuador entered into negotiations for an Andean free trade agreement with the U.S., Colombia, and Peru, but negotiations between the U.S. and Ecuador lapsed in 2006. The Correa administration has stated it has no interest in negotiating a free trade agreement with the United States, but has expressed interest in negotiating a trade for development agreement.

The United States exported \$3.6 billion in goods to Ecuador in 2009, an 8% increase over 2008, accounting for about 25% of Ecuador's imports. Ecuador is the 46th-largest market for U.S. exports. Major U.S. exports to Ecuador include machinery, chemicals and fertilizers, computers and electronic equipment, petroleum products, transportation equipment, and paper. The best prospects for U.S. firms are in the plastics, decontamination equipment, franchising, and medical equipment and devices sectors. U.S. firms remain competitive and successful in many sectors of the market.

Although there are problems with money laundering, border controls, and illegal immigration, Ecuador shares U.S. concern over narco-trafficking and the activities of illegal armed groups. The government has maintained Ecuador virtually free of coca production since the mid-1980s, and is working to combat money laundering and the transshipment of drugs and chemicals essential to the processing of cocaine (with U.S. support). Ecuador also gives priority to combating child labor and trafficking in persons. Ecuador has not criminalized terrorist financing, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Financial Action Task Force of South America have encouraged the Ecuadorian Government to adopt appropriate counterterrorism financing legislation and regulations.

Ecuador and the U.S. agreed in 1999 to a 10-year arrangement whereby U.S. military surveillance aircraft could use the airbase at Manta, Ecuador, as a Forward Operating Location (FOL) to detect drug trafficking flights through the region. The Ecuadorian Government informed the United States in July 2008 that it would not renew the lease for the Forward Operating Location when it expired in November 2009. The U.S. ceased these counternarcotics flights in July and departed the FOL in September 2009.

Ecuador claims a 320-kilometer-wide (200-mi.) territorial sea. The United States, in contrast, claims a 12-mile boundary and jurisdiction for the management of coastal fisheries up to 320 kilometers (200 mi.) from its coast, but excludes highly migratory species. Although successive Ecuadorian governments have declared a willingness to explore possible solutions to this issue, the U.S. and Ecuador have yet to resolve fundamental differences concerning the recognition of territorial waters.

Additional information on Ecuador may be found online at:

US State <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35761.htm>
CIA <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ec.html>
BBC Profile http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1212882.stm
Ecuador <http://ecuador.us/info/embassy.htm>

