

FAQ on Nicaragua and FPC Norfolk's relationship there

Why is FPC involved with Nicaragua?

Through a former pastor, Tim Roberts, the church connected with Jim Hornsby, the Young Life leader in Nicaragua. As an expression of sharing His love the church decided to partner with Vida Joven (Young Life in Spanish) and arrange for a short term mission trip. That happened 14 years ago and we are still involved in sending folks there to work at the camp (La Finca) or in one of the nearby cities, provide medical services for the rural area surrounding the camp, and provide an opportunity to reach out with the aid of the Vida Joven leaders to help spread the word and love of Christ through Vida Joven.

What is Vida Joven and La Finca?

Vida Joven was started in Nicaragua by Jim Hornsby at the invitation of church leaders in Matagalpa, Nicaragua 25 years ago. From those humble beginnings Vida Joven is now in many cities in Nicaragua and is providing leadership in Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba and other parts of Latin America. They have been and continue to train leaders as missionaries for Jesus Christ, as well as develop leaders for the country in business, politics and medicine.

What do we do there?

We work, we pray, we eat, we laugh and we enjoy the experience of going beyond our comfort zones to work alongside our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters to help them earn the right to share Jesus with their peers in the neighborhoods of Nicaragua. We have been part of building a full time clinic, building many buildings and roads used in La Finca, and building a house for use by Vida Joven in the city of Jinotega. We also spend a lot of time getting to know each other and drawing closer to Christ through the sharing of the Word and sharing our own perceptions of the experience of reaching out.

When do we go on and who can go on the mission trip?

Generally we have gone to Nicaragua for a week in the summer. In 2014 the current plan is to go Friday August 8th through Saturday August 16th. The trip is open to anyone, with certain restrictions. Any child must be a rising 7th grader. Any teen under 17 must be accompanied by at least one parent. Any teen over 16 and still in high school must have a signed parent's permission slip. It is a great trip to take with your kids. Working, playing and praising alongside them is a terrific experience that I would recommend to anyone.

What about travel abroad?

You must have a valid passport and it must have an expiration date greater than six months after the trip dates. The CDC website has specific travel recommendations for every country, including Nicaragua. Normal vaccinations should be up to date, including flu and tetanus. See all recommendations at cdc.gov.

Do I need special skills?

To see patients in the clinic, yes. You must be a doctor and provide proof of current certifications. For work at La Finca, no. Just a willingness to work as hard as you can and to have fun at it at the same time. Any special construction or nursing or other skills will be considered when assigning duties.

Do I have to be able to speak and understand Spanish?

No, but it helps.

How much does it cost?

The trip costs include air travel , hotels and meals in country, and transportation in country. Generally the cost is around \$1,400. You will also need pocket money for travel and tour days.

How do I sign up?

Pick up an application at the front desk. For more information contact Charlie Stine at 757-536-0264 or by email at charliestine@gmail.com .