



BOTELLAS



Dear Friend of Living Water,

Thank you for stretching yourself to bless others. You stand on the brink of something life-changing. Get ready!

Nothing opens our eyes, activates our hearts and shifts our perspectives more than crossing the cultural and economic lines that separate us, like you're about to do.

We are on a journey to demonstrate God's love by helping communities access desperately needed clean water and to experience the *living water* of Jesus Christ, which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.

When we seek to bless others, we find—as thousands have before us—that we are the ones who are blessed.

So don't be surprised to return as an advocate and activist for the thirsty—this book will help you do so. Use these pages as a plan of action before, during and after your trip. Before you even flip a page, start anticipating the faces you'll see and the stories you'll want to share.

Your enthusiasm will be unstoppable—truly world-changing—and your most effective tool for the thirsty. We're looking forward to seeing how God works through you.

In Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Mantel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Michael J. Mantel
PRESIDENT AND CEO

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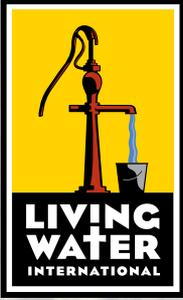
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LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR
AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF
WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

—GALATIANS 6:9

WHO ARE WE?

LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL EXISTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE LOVE OF GOD BY HELPING COMMUNITIES ACQUIRE DESPERATELY NEEDED CLEAN WATER, AND TO EXPERIENCE “LIVING WATER”—THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST—WHICH ALONE SATISFIES THE DEEPEST THIRST.

Living Water International’s entire family tree sprouted from a Living Water Trip the size of a mustard seed. In 1990, a team from Texas traveled to Africa in the middle of a Kenyan drought, armed with medical supplies and a heart for God’s redemption. They came back to the US with a confirmed conviction to help end the water crisis, and it changed their lives forever.

That same year, those changed hearts founded Living Water as a non-profit, though it would be three more years before they saw the first fruit of their faith. Three more attempts—each requiring a trip back to Kenya—and many held breaths later, we finally hit water! God’s promise to us along the way from Galatians 6:9 proved true: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Through all the uncertainty we sensed God’s tangible, sustaining presence and caught the vision for cultivating in-country, national leaders. The full-time staff you’ll meet on a trip are the incarnate ministers of God’s heart for their homeland. We honor their insight and relish the thought of you sitting under their precious perspective for an entire week.

Though we could rely on their expertise alone, we value the mysterious ways God works through Living Water Trips. With humility, we work to facilitate opportunities for God to do life-changing things in the hearts of those who come with us. Who knows what you’ll be inspired and empowered to do after serving shoulder-to-shoulder with the least of these whom Jesus asks us to love.

WHY GO?

Wouldn't it be more efficient to just send money and let the local experts do the work? In the short-term, yes, but we think God has a bigger plan for our lives.

Living Water's ministry isn't just about giving to the thirsty; it's about loving them. And it's harder to love someone you've never met.

We work hard to facilitate an opportunity for you to build relationships with thirsty people, come alongside our expert staff of nationals and support the existing ministries of the local church. Scripture says we're all one body in Christ, so when one part of the body is thirsty, it's our thirst, too. While on the this trip, you will cross the borders of economics and culture, just like Jesus asked us to. When we push ourselves out of our comfort zone, we're awakened to life as a functioning, integral part of the Body of Christ.

Ultimately, it's this participation that demonstrates the love of Christ, reflected in clean, safe drinking water. It's then we see our own hearts and lives transformed. True transformation always results in action, so we pray you come home inspired to be a voice for the thirsty. See our ideas on the next page to help learn about ways to share their stories.

WE ARE MANY PARTS OF ONE BODY, AND WE ALL BELONG TO EACH OTHER.

—ROMANS 12:15



WHAT DO I LOOK FOR?

We want to help you capture the essence of your trip so sharing your story will be that much more vivid back home. Once on-site, it's easy to get caught up in all the activity, so we've found it's best to think through key opportunities before you leave, then keep an eye out for them during your trip. We've provided some photo ideas to help you get started below. Once home, choose the best memories to share—online and in-person. On the next few pages, you'll find space to record important accompanying details.

EXPERIENCE

- church service (if applicable)
- community introductions
- well dedication ceremony
- day-in-the-life examples
- group devotional time

SURROUNDINGS

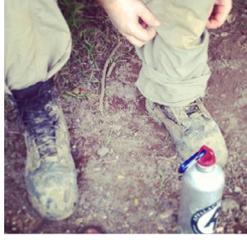
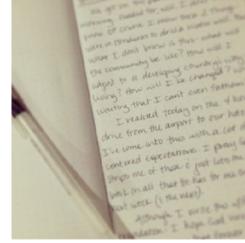
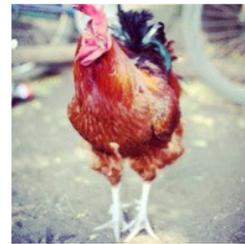
- buildings
- previous water sources
- children playing
- village environment vs. city environment
- sights en route
- culturally distinct sights

PEOPLE

- community leaders
- your team
- community men who help with the drill process
- the sacrificial women who cook for you
- Living Water staff

DRILLING/HYGIENE

- step-by-step process
- digging trenches/mud pits
- developing the well
- your turn on the rig
- students listening in class
- prepping hygiene materials



WHAT'S MY STORY?

“So how was your trip?” You’ll be asked that question hundreds of times. Be ready! Try not to think of this experience as an isolated incident. Instead, look for ways it fits into how God has been and will continue to work in your life. This will help you share about your trip in an even more meaningful way. Use this space to gather trip highlights and to convey what was most impactful. Consider tailoring your story to a one-minute “elevator speech.”

1. HOW IT BEGAN

“The idea for this trip first began when...” Share one detail of why or how God arranged for you to be able to take this trip.

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2. COMMUNITY STATS (GATHERED ONCE ON-SITE)

 COMMUNITY NAME _____

 POPULATION ESTIMATE _____

 PREVIOUS WATER SOURCE(S) _____

 NEW WELL DEPTH _____

3. PERSONAL PROFILE

Share the life experience of one person you met. Share with a friend about more than one if time allows.

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4. PRAYER REQUEST

Share a specific prayer request for the community you met. This will engage your listener!

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5. WHAT NOW?

How will your life at home be different after this trip?

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WAYS TO SHARE YOUR STORY

You're now an ambassador with a unique opportunity to share the story of the thirsty, as you've experienced the need, and solution, first-hand. Will you be their advocate? Here are some simple ways to involve those around you:

- » Carry photos in your pocket or on your phone and be ready to share your elevator pitch in answer to, "So, how was your trip?"
- » Post the photos of your trip on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with a link to your Give Well fundraising page.
- » Write and submit your story at water.cc/yourstory.
- » Send a letter to those who supported you financially and through prayer, highlighting the most impactful parts of the trip. Including pictures helps people put faces to your story.
- » Invite one friend to coffee and share your story.
- » Cook dinner for your family (perhaps a native dish) and share a photo slideshow with them.
- » Ask to share your story at your small group or church.

Record any other experiences from the trip that you don't want to forget. For example, how did a staff member you connected with become passionate about the water crisis? What was community life like before the well? What are the aspirations of one of the local children?

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WHY WATER?

At least **663 MILLION PEOPLE** lack access to an improved source of drinking water—that's 1 in 11 of us.¹ In the places where we work, it's more like 1 in 2. Without water, there's no foundation for other forms of development. Helping communities create sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene, and Christian witness programs—in partnership with local churches—is the best way we've found to demonstrate God's love. Why? Because the water crisis affects poverty, women, health and education—and for us it's a spiritual issue.

In the past 25 years, 2 billion people have gained access to safe drinking water—but that's not the best story we have to tell. For us, water is a picture of living water—the good news that God wants to transform people, communities, and the whole world through the person of Jesus Christ.

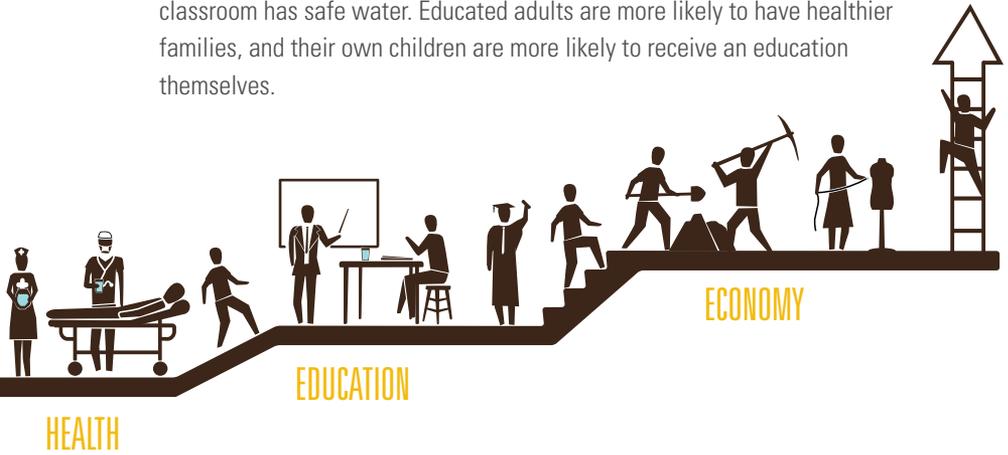


HEALTH & SANITATION

Half of the world’s hospital beds are filled with people suffering from water-related conditions—illnesses that could be easily prevented. 2.4 billion people on our planet don’t have access to improved sanitation—more than 1 billion to any facilities at all. Water-related diseases cause 2.2 million deaths a year. Safe water, a toilet, and clean hands could prevent 90% of them, so we promote behavior changes that ensure simple solutions can save lives.¹

EDUCATION

Globally, water-related diseases steal 443 million school days a year and shrink kids’ cognitive potential.² Illnesses cause absenteeism and early drop-out. Kids are often tasked with hauling water long distances, which forces them to miss out on class time. But when schools have a working hand pump, every classroom has safe water. Educated adults are more likely to have healthier families, and their own children are more likely to receive an education themselves.



ECONOMY

Without easy access to safe water, time is wasted walking for water, and hours of productivity are lost to illness. Most who lack water live on less than two dollars a day.³ Families have to divert household income to purchase water that might not be safe. Even more money is tied up in medical treatment for water-related diseases. They could instead grow a family business—micro-enterprises that also depend heavily on safe water—or invest in a child’s education.

WHY LIVING WATER?

Water lays the foundation for all other sustainable development, and though water is still our focus, we now know our approach must be multi-faceted. To be responsible, honorable and effective, we can't take the easy way out—just drilling a well without the support of these other spokes of the wheel. In every country where we work, our strategy is shifting—deeper, stronger, better. Delve deeper at water.cc/strategy.



WATER ACCESS

Living Water has been working in the area of water provision for over 20 years, and it continues to be the cornerstone of our work. Water access is about more than just installing water systems. It's about installing the right systems—which may be water wells, rainwater harvesting, protected springs, or something else entirely. And it's about helping whole communities and regions have enough safe, accessible, reliable water to significantly improve the lives of the people who live there.



SANITATION

In places where there is no safe, clean place to go to the toilet, people struggle with disease, lack of privacy, and indignity. Once communities have access to safe, sustainable water, they can improve their sanitation, dramatically raising their quality of life. In many areas, Living Water helps community members develop plans for sanitation that result in clean, functional latrines in homes, schools, clinics, and churches.



HYGIENE PROMOTION

Without helping people understand how to prevent diseases by washing their hands, storing their water properly, and using a latrine, safe water and sanitation systems do not achieve their full impact. This education is essential for health, but head knowledge is just the beginning. Helping communities identify important behaviors and make their own plan to use them is the end goal.



CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Our concern is for whole people—physical and spiritual. As followers of Jesus, we know he has the power to transform people, restore relationships and address factors that lead to poverty, hunger, and thirst. We work with local churches wherever we find them, identify ways we can be part of what God is already doing, and share the good news about Jesus in simple ways—like telling stories and asking questions.



SUSTAINABILITY

For all of these things to be effective for the long term, we have to involve the community from the very beginning. We're learning alongside the communities we serve that projects are most sustainable when they respond to both need and demand, when financing is carefully thought through, and when management is handled locally with lots of ongoing support.

WHY IN JESUS' NAME?

Sanitation, education, health care, economic progress—all are forms of development and dependent on safe water. Wherever water is scarce, it is the best first step in reducing poverty.

But this trip is not about swooping into somebody else's world and solving their poverty problem with a quick fix. That anyone is impoverished and suffering in the first place is fundamentally a spiritual problem of broken relationships with God, each other and the environment.⁴ It's a function of our broken world in which we fail to see things the way Jesus does. That's part of what this trip is about, addressing brokenness. The Bible defines the needy as not only impoverished, but also brokenhearted, captive and imprisoned (Isaiah 61:1-3). And in God's economy, aren't we all needy, desperate for God's restoration?

"When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink," Jesus said (Matthew 25:35). The son of God made no distinction between himself and the thirsty people we serve—why would we? What we do for the least of our brothers, we do for him. For Christ there is no rich and poor, no "us" and "them"—in Christ, we are all one body. The suffering of the thirsty is ours. We take on their poverty like Jesus did ours.

Micah 6:8 asks us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. When we do, God answers prayers through us and brings disciples closer to the open arms of Jesus.

But a trip like this is not about "playing God" by offering people safe water, something God already gave to all of us in the very beginning, and it's even bigger than humanitarian effort. It's about something of eternal significance—participation in God's redemptive plan for the world. It's a chance to practice the one-ness with God we'll enjoy forever—right now!

Less suffering, better health, more time for economic production. These are just a few of the byproducts of the deeper relationships God wants to see us develop—with him and one another.



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

NICARAGUA



British hold influence over the Caribbean side of the country

1700-1840

Becomes a completely independent country

1838

1700s

Spanish settle a colony on the Pacific coast

1821 - 1823

Declares independence from Spain and joined the Central American Federation

1860

British cede Caribbean coast to Nicaragua

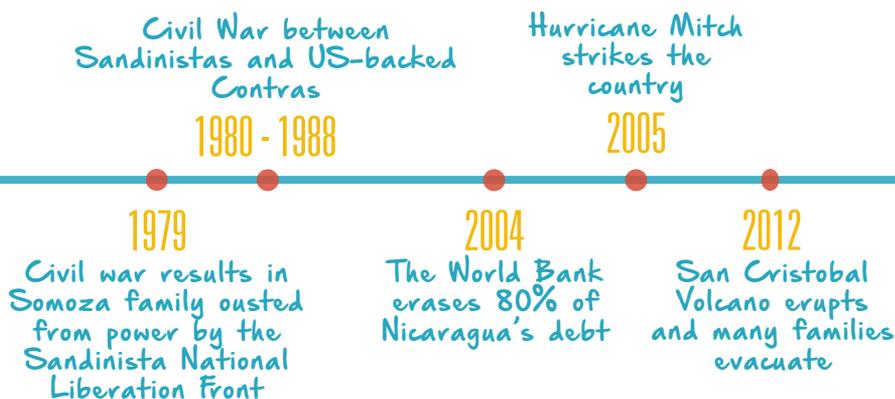
The Republic of Nicaragua is located in Central America, bordered by Costa Rica and Honduras with Pacific and Caribbean coastlines. It is the largest country in Central America, and Managua is the capital city.

The country boasts abundant natural resources, including gold, silver, copper, tungsten, lead, zinc, timber, and fish. Nicaragua's economy has historically been driven by agriculture; key products are coffee, bananas, sugar, corn, tobacco, beef, shrimp, and lobster. In recent years, the tourism industry has grown, drawing visitors to the beaches, architecture, and landscape.

Despite these resources, the country struggles with underemployment, and Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America. Many Nicaraguan families lean on foreign remittances, where family members in the US send funds home.

Nicaragua is a beautiful place—its landscape includes extensive coastal plains, mountains in the interior, and volcanoes along the Pacific coast. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, and hurricanes have caused much destruction and devastation to the country.

The majority (69%) of the population is composed of the mestizo ethnic group (mixed Amerindian and white), and Spanish is the official language.^{5,6}



WEATHER

Teams can expect warm and coastal weather, with highs in the 90s and lows in the 80s. Drink lots of water and take time to rest in the shade to avoid heat exhaustion. If traveling during the rainy season (May to November), be sure to pack a light rain coat.

If you have special eating considerations, please contact your Trip Coordinator.

FOOD

If you're expecting to lose a few pounds on your mission trip—don't! Team members will have a nice mixture of typical Nicaraguan meals and everyday American fare. Expect to eat plenty of beans, rice, tortillas, chicken, and eggs.

LODGING

Teams will stay in the outskirts of Leon at the Phoenicia Guest House. Team members will stay in air conditioned rooms, 2-3 per room each with a bathroom. Sheets, pillows, and towels are provided. Expect to enjoy a relaxing atmosphere after a long day's work in the community. Bringing games and/or cards to play after returning in the evenings is a great idea. There's also a pool!

CULTURE

It cannot be stressed enough that the time spent in Central America is primarily about relationships. When establishing a relationship with a Nicaraguan resident, it is very important to be sensitive to their culture. Nicaraguans are kind and giving. Respect is an important element in relationships, and Nicaraguans can be formal when showing respect. Team members will experience the hospitality, goodness, and friendliness of the Nicaraguan people as they live with them throughout the week.

- » Latin American culture is generally very proper, so be polite and use good manners. Do not be abrasive, aggressive, or demanding. Avoid anything that could have the appearance of questionable behavior, including being alone with any child. This could not only be misconstrued, but it could become dangerous. For more details, please refer to the Community Protection Policy under the Agreements section of your registration form.
- » Latin America is a male-dominated culture. Whether we agree with it or not, as we are coming into their country, we need to respect their cultural norms. Women need to dress extra modestly and be aware of their body orientation, as the wrong intentions may be communicated. Men can set a great example through their interactions with female team members and the local women. These interactions will be watched and can effect positive change.
- » Morality is very important to Nicaraguans, and they have very high standards for Christians. A Christian witness could easily be hurt by something that might not be considered offensive to North American Christians. For this reason, it is very important that there is no consumption/use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, no use of profanity or innuendos, nor inappropriate displays of affection.



POPULATION 6,013,913 ⁷

LIFE EXPECTANCY [AT BIRTH] 75 ⁷



WATER [RURAL POPULATION NOT USING IMPROVED WATER SOURCES] 31% ⁷



SANITATION [RURAL POPULATION NOT USING IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES] 32% ⁷



HEALTH [RISK FOR MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES] HIGH ⁵



ECONOMY [GNI PER CAPITA (PPP)] \$4,790 ⁷
[PERCENT OF POPULATION LIVING AT \$2 A DAY (PPP)] 31.74% ⁷



RELIGION [CHRISTIAN 97.32% (CATHOLIC 69.39%, PROTESTANT 21.25%)], [NON-RELIGIOUS] 1.7%, [OTHER] 0.98% ⁸



OUR WORK

IN NICARAGUA

Richard Bell, a long time Living Water volunteer, had a heart to know and serve the people of Nicaragua. Through his leadership and vision, Living Water began sending drill teams to León, Nicaragua in August 2005. At the beginning of 2012, our work in Nicaragua grew and expanded to Rivas.

One of the challenges in many of the countries where Living Water works is broken pumps. In 2008, Dennis and Susan Trumblee began a pump repair program to help fix hand pumps drilled by other entities. In 2011, local leadership took over the program, designed to work with communities towards long-term sustainability.

This year, Living Water plans to host 40 drilling trips to León, with hopes of completing even more water projects in the future.

REGION AND PURPOSE

Living Water Nicaragua currently works in and around the cities of León, and Rivas. Each year the Living Water team hosts groups from North America to make generational change through the gift of safe water and the grace of the living water that is Jesus. Team members will use an LS300 drill rig with our in-country drillers and work alongside our hygiene team to teach proper sanitation techniques and Bible stories. Our hope is that during the trip you will make meaningful relationships, experience a slower pace of life, and witness the faithfulness of God, returning home transformed.

NICARAGUA STAFF

GUILLERMO ZEPEDA *Country Director*



Guillermo currently serves at the Nicaraguan Country Director for Living Water.

JORDAN GRIEBNER *trip coordinator*



Jordan has been passionate about clean water and sharing God's love with the thirsty ever since leading the Wells Project in college. She's an Ohio girl at heart and loves traveling, cooking, and grabbing coffee with friends.

HACKNIER PEREZ *trip coordinator*



Hacknier works closely with Jordan to coordinate our mission teams. Hacknier is passionate about sharing the love of God through hygiene and sanitation. She also loves spending time with her two daughters and son.

KENIA SILVIA *health & hygiene*



Kenia facilitates health and hygiene classes with short-term teams. She has a kind spirit and is passionate about the women and children of her country. Kenia loves spending time with her husband and sons.

YADER OROZCO *drilling*



Yader is a lead driller who works to keep things at the drilling site running smoothly. He is the strong and silent type and a very hard worker. Yader loves to play soccer.

KENNETH ROJAS *drilling*



You'll love getting to work with Kenneth! He'll patiently walk you through the drilling process and always has a smile on his face.

JUAN GARAY *drilling*



Juan is a great leader and teacher. He loves playing around with the kids in the community and sharing God's love with them.

NORMAN MORALES *operations & maintenance team*



Norman supports the operations and maintenance team. He has a very gentle spirit and loves talking about his two kids!

ISIDRO GONZALES *community engagement*



Isidro is a native and has been with Living Water since the beginning of the program in Nicaragua. He began as a community leader locating potential drill sites and today is actively involved in community engagement. Isidro is definitely invaluable in helping navigate the countryside of Nicaragua!



TRAVEL DETAILS

BEFORE YOU DEPART

- » When considering vaccinations, check with your family doctor. We do not require any, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that certain vaccinations be up to date, for example:
 - » Hepatitis A and B (both are a series of shots)
 - » Tetanus (especially important because of the drill equipment you will be handling)
 - » Malaria prevention medication (please be aware of potential side effects)
 - » For more information, visit: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/nicaragua.htm> and http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/country_table/n.html
- » Check with your doctor for any medications/medical supplies you may need, such as:
 - » EpiPen for allergies
 - » Inhalers/medications for asthma
 - » Diabetic supplies
 - » Medicines/medical supplies not found in a common first aid kit
- » Living Water purchases Trip Armor insurance for trip participants through Insurance Consultants International. For details on the plan contact your trip coordinator.
- » Your trip coordinator will register your team with the US Embassy through the The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). For more information about STEP, visit <https://step.state.gov>.

BEFORE THE AIRPORT

- » Check-in for your flight 24 hours before departure by going to your airline's website in order to confirm your seat. At this time you can move or upgrade your seat. It is likely that you will not receive your boarding pass until you scan your passport at the airport check-in desk; however this step is important to confirm your seat.
- » Verify the checked baggage size and weight restrictions and applicable fees on your airline's website.

AT THE AIRPORT

- » Arrive at the airport at least 2.5 hours before your flight. If you arrive later, you could miss your flight or lose your seat on the plane.
- » Wear the Living Water t-shirt that was mailed to you (this will help our staff recognize your team).
- » Check your luggage and go through security. Then, proceed to the gate to meet your team. Be at the gate 1 hour before your flight departs because you may have to verify your passport at the counter.
- » You will be at TERMINAL E if you fly through Houston.
- » Contact your trip coordinator if you are flying through another city and have questions.

ON THE PLANE

- » Complete the customs declaration form and keep your passport handy. Mark "tourism" as the reason for your trip to the country.
- » When asked for the address where you will be staying, write:

Phoenicia Guest House
León, Nicaragua

- » Say no if asked by a Customs officer (or form) if you have prescription drugs. The question refers to prescription drugs for a medical ministry team, not personal medications.

ARRIVING IN MANAGUA

- » Upon arrival at the Augusto C. Sandino airport in Managua, you will go through immigration, where you will have your passport stamped and pay a \$10 entrance fee. Set aside a \$10 bill before you leave and present only this amount.
- » Next, you will be met by our field staff outside the airport, then drive to León. If you land at night, you will be driven to a hotel near the airport where you will spend the night. Our in-country staff will stay with you at the same hotel and drive you to León the following day.
- » The local currency is the Córdoba, but US dollars (bills only) are accepted. When you use US dollars you will be given change in Córdobas.
- » Take only crisp bills with no tears, marks, or writing. In Nicaragua bills more than 5 years old are sometimes not accepted.
- » Exchange rate varies but generally 28 Córdoba's = 1 US dollar.

ITINERARY

(Remain flexible and open to what God has in store. Schedules may change, but as you go with the flow you will find you are better able to invest in relationships and experiences.)

SUNDAY

» Arrive in Managua

If the team arrives Saturday evening, you will be picked up from the airport and driven to the hotel where you will spend the night. After breakfast on Sunday morning, the team will be driven to León to eat lunch and unpack. If the team arrives Sunday morning, you will be picked up from the airport, then head to León. Once in León team members will have opportunities to relax and prepare for the week.

MONDAY

- » Community walk (see existing water source, meet community members)
- » Begin drilling and take soil samples
- » Hygiene lessons, Bible stories, crafts, games

The team will arrive at the community, meet its residents, be greeted by the mayor, pastor, or teachers, and walk to see the existing water source(s). This is vitally important relationship-building time. Shake hands with everyone and smile; even if you do not speak Spanish this shows you care. After introductions, our in-country staff will pray and the drilling and hygiene teams will start their projects. The drill team will begin drilling and taking soil samples in an effort to explore for water aquifers. The team may use mud-rotary, compressed air, or a combination of both drilling methods. The hygiene team and hygiene coordinator will meet with the women of the community. Finding ways to compliment the women and their homes is a great way to build

relationships. Team members have the opportunity to encourage and communicate that they value the residents even if they don't speak Spanish. Teams can be warm and welcoming with body language and our staff is happy to help translate.

TUESDAY

- » Drill, case, flush, gravel pack
- » Hygiene lessons, Bible stories, crafts, games

Today, the drillers will drill the hole wider, insert PVC casing, flush the well, put in gravel pack, and may start developing/cleaning the well. The hygiene team will meet with the women and children, delivering hygiene and Bible lessons and deepening relationships.

WEDNESDAY

- » Develop well, clean and pack equipment
- » Hygiene lessons, Bible stories, crafts, games

On this day, the team will have more time to play with kids. Take advantage of this time! It is your last full day with the community—be intentional about solidifying the relationships you've been fostering throughout the week. In the morning the drill team will work on developing the well, and in the afternoon will clean the equipment and tools. While the well should be almost finished, wells occasionally take longer than planned; be patient, flexible, and cover everything in prayer. When in doubt, remember: our in-country staff are the expert drillers. Never take action without their permission and always follow their lead. With God's blessing, you will see a successful well. In the unlikely event that your team is unable to access water, rest assured that our in-country staff will return to the community to attempt another well. We will always try every option to assist a community.

THURSDAY

- » Complete pump installation
- » Dedication ceremony

The team will put the final touches on the well and there will be a dedication service. This is a time for the community to thank God for the well and thank the team for its part in accessing water and loving them. This can be an emotional day, and it can be difficult to say good-bye to people who have become very special to you. However, please do not leave behind any gifts or make promises. While this feels instinctual, it can be damaging and the relationship should not be about what material possessions the community does or does not receive. Please do not provide your contact information, as this may initiate requests for money or travel to the States, which is something Living Water does not support. We recommend journaling when arriving back at the team house while the feelings, thoughts and images of the trip are still vivid.

FRIDAY

- » Tourist day
- » Pack

Various activities will be offered, and it is nice after a hard week to relax and enjoy some down time. Please continue to pray for the community and remember that they are in God's hands. He was there before you came, and he will remain there after you leave. After lunch, the team will travel to Managua where you will spend the night in a hotel.

SATURDAY

- » Leave for home

Team members will get up early in the morning and head to the airport.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

- » Your trip coordinator is the emergency contact while you are in Nicaragua. Those in the States can call this person if they must get a hold of you while in-country.
- » For an in-country emergency, our in-country staff will contact your coordinator, who will get in touch with your family.
- » For flight emergencies Jordan Griebner, 614.795.0137.

Jordan Griebner
614.795.0137



NOTES

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2. UN News Centre (Ed.). (2010). *UN expert welcomes declaration that clean water and sanitation is a human right*. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35487#_UXBwGas4WtU
3. Shah, A. (2013). *Poverty Facts and Stats*. Retrieved from <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>
4. Myers, B. L. (2011). *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Orbis: Maryknoll, NY.
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7. The World Bank (Ed.). (n.d.). *World DataBank*. Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>
8. Mandryk, J. (2010). *Operation World*. Biblica: Colorado Springs, CO.



GIFTS & DONATIONS

While it feels instinctual to want to give material things to those with such great need, it can be very damaging if handled incorrectly. Living Water works in hundreds of communities and we want to be consistent with the gifts and donations we distribute to them. Our community programs have a strong relational focus, so you may bring any of the “recommended” school supplies and toys listed below to aid in building relationships with the kids. At the beginning of the trip, please give all items and donations to our in-country staff so they can plan accordingly for the week. Depending on the amount and type of supplies you are able to bring, the staff may elect to hold some of your donations for future communities (for cultural reasons or in an effort to be consistent with what is distributed to each community.) Please do not bring anything on the “avoid” list.

RECOMMENDED

If you would like to bring gifts, please select from the list below:

- Toys: soccer balls, nerf footballs, frisbees, jump ropes, bubbles
- School supplies: stickers, crayons, coloring books, paper
- Spanish Bibles (Nueva Versión Internacional preferred)
- General hygiene supplies: soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small bottles of shampoo/conditioner
- Hygiene team, please see the *Living Well Club* hygiene supply list for additional items to bring.

AVOID

- ✗ DO NOT make promises: for yourself, your church, group, or Living Water
- ✗ DO NOT give your address or phone numbers to community members
- ✗ Please DO NOT give the following gifts to community members or in-country staff:
 - ✗ money
 - ✗ gum
 - ✗ clothes, shoes
 - ✗ jewelry
 - ✗ temporary tattoos
 - ✗ individual gifts*

*Giving any individual gifts can hurt feelings, damage relationships, and put you in an uncomfortable situation.

PACKING LIST

- » Label all bags on the outside with your name, address and phone number.
- » Carry a copy of your passport and any important medical information in your luggage.
- » Keep all necessities in your carry-on bag, including a change of clothes and medications. Sometimes luggage is delayed and you will only have your carry-on.
- » Check your airline's website for dimensions and weight limits for carry-on and checked bags. These charges will not be paid by Living Water unless we ask you to carry a footlocker of supplies.
- » Pack for a full week, plan to change twice per day, and do not plan to do laundry.
- » We recommend packing everything in plastic bags (especially if you are going during the rainy season).

DRILLERS

- Work gloves
- Work boots or rubber boots (whichever you prefer)
- 3-4 pairs of long pants: Dry fit, durable cotton ("fly fishing"), jeans, or overalls (shirt must be worn underneath). Note that you will be hot wearing denim.
- T-shirts or dry fit shirts; some participants prefer long-sleeves for sun protection
- At the community: no open-toed shoes, shorts, tank tops
- Eye Protection

Drill Team: Please bring old clothes, as they will become muddy, greasy and may not be re-wearable. Out of respect, please do not leave behind dirty clothes as donations



Please remember to dress modestly.



Carry a copy of your passport and any important medical information in your luggage.



HYGIENE TEAM

- 3-4 pairs of pants, capris, or long skirts (to the knee or longer)
- Sleeved t-shirts/blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes
- At the community: no open-toed shoes, shorts, tight clothing, low-cut or sleeveless tops



EVERYONE

- Rain jacket (needed for rainy season, May-November; no ponchos or umbrellas as they may get caught in the equipment)
- Modest, comfortable clothes to wear around the team house (shorts are acceptable)
- All ladies, please refrain from wearing excessively tight clothing in the community, including athletic pants, yoga pants, etc.
- Flip flops for the shower
- Comfortable shoes for travel
- Durable, reusable water bottle (e.g., Nalgene or similar)
- Towels, hand towels, washcloths
- 2 trash bags for dirty clothes
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Cash for souvenirs in crisp, small bills with no tears or marks (we recommend no more than \$200)
- Travel pouch or small cross-body purse (to prevent theft, bring something to keep important items close to your person)

- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Prescription medicine(s) in original bottles
- Bible, journal, pen

RECOMMENDED

- Flashlight
- Earplugs (roosters crow at night!)
- Modest swimsuit (no bikinis)
- Hat/sunglasses
- Glasses (during the dry season, dust can irritate contacts)
- Bandanas (to wear under hard hat)
- Antibacterial wipes
- Soccer balls, frisbees, or other acceptable gifts (refer to our gifts/donations guide for complete list)
- Sports drink packets to add to water bottle
- Snacks (e.g., granola bars, trail mix, crackers)
- Camera and charger
- Board games or cards for evenings at the house

LEAVE AT HOME

- ✗ Jewelry (except for a simple wedding ring)
- ✗ Valuables
- ✗ Laptops for work purposes, as we want you to disconnect so you can experience everything that God has in mind for you without any distractions.

Safe lock boxes are not available in all countries. You will be responsible for keeping up with your items.

Electrical adapters are not needed.

MOSQUITO-BORNE ILLNESSES

As you prepare for your trip, we want to make you more aware of two mosquito-borne illnesses present in Central America and Haiti: the Zika Virus and the Chikungunya Virus.

ZIKA VIRUS

- » 1 in 5 people who contract the Zika Virus experience some or all of the following symptoms that begin in 2-7 days from the time of the bite:
 - » Fever
 - » Headaches
 - » Joint and muscle pain
 - » Rash
 - » Conjunctivitis (red eyes)

THE PROGNOSES FOR THE ZIKA VIRUS ARE:

- » Mild to moderate illness, resolving spontaneously 2-7 days

The Zika Virus is thought to have particularly adverse effects on unborn babies. The CDC advises anyone who is pregnant or may become pregnant to postpone travel to locations with active Zika Virus transmission during any trimester. We take this very seriously, and strongly encourage anyone who may fit into this category to discuss this with their doctor before participating in a trip.

To learn more, please visit the CDC's website:

CDC » <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

International SOS » <https://pandemic.internationalsos.com/zika>

CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

Most people infected with Chikungunya Virus will develop some or all of the following symptoms 3-7 days from the time of the bite:

- » Fever
- » Headaches
- » Joint pain and swelling
- » Rash
- » Muscle pain

THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS IS:

- » Painful symptoms lasting anywhere from a week to several months

To learn more, please visit the CDC's website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/index.html>

To help prevent possible contact of the Zika and Chikungunya Virus while on a trip, please apply high DEET insect repellent to skin and clothing multiple times each day.

There are inherent risks traveling anywhere internationally, and the Living Water Trips Department wants to ensure trip participants are made aware of the risks of the Zika and Chikungunya Viruses. We desire each person to be informed, and prepare accordingly.

Please feel free to reach out to your trip coordinator with any questions you may have.

SAFETY & SECURITY STATEMENT

As you prepare for your upcoming trip with Living Water International, we feel it is important to discuss the value LWI places on safety and security.

We know there are inherent risks associated with travel outside the U.S. These risks include everything from what we eat or drink, vehicular safety, natural disasters, theft or robbery, organized crime, social unrest, government conflict, and more. Our excellent record is evidence of how seriously we take safety and security. This is a result of our desire to do our work in a way that honors God. For us, that means not only doing everything we can to make the trip experience impactful, but also to do all we can reasonably do to keep each participant safe. Although the inherent nature of travel to a foreign country makes it impossible to guarantee anyone's safety, know that mitigating risk is our top priority.

We monitor trusted websites that track security threats related to travel within the countries where we host teams. Additionally, we have found that on-the-ground, first-hand experience provides the best local interpretations of this safety information. Our in-country staff, who work every day in the areas where you will visit, keep us apprised of any concerns related to specific areas of operation. In the event that these risks become too high, LWI will cancel or postpone a trip to protect the safety of our volunteers and the safety of our in-country staff.

While you are on your trip, you will find we have behavior protocols in place to enhance security. Although some of these may feel restrictive, they are necessary to reduce the inherent risk of travel in the specific country you will be visiting. As always, our intent is to provide a great trip experience for each of you. Please familiarize yourself with these protocols before you leave for your trip.

BEHAVIOR PROTOCOL

Although the inherent nature of travel to a foreign country makes it impossible to guarantee anyone's safety, know that mitigating risk is our top priority. The following general security behavior protocols are in place to reduce risk to you and the group while you are traveling with Living Water.

1. NEVER BE OFF THE FACILITY PROVIDED BY LIVING WATER FOR TRIP ACCOMODATIONS WITHOUT A STAFF ESCORT.

Facilities include the compound or hotel where you are staying overnight, the drilling and training locations within the selected community worksite, and transportation provided. Therefore:

- » Do not leave your hotel/compound.
- » Do not go jogging.
- » Always travel as a group.
- » Do not walk around the selected community by yourself.
- » Do not leave the transport vehicle without staff escort.
- » Do not linger near gathering groups of people (gawking, political demonstrations, etc.)

Social and political unrest, governmental conflict or even curiosities such as accidents, can lead to volatile gatherings of people that increase our risk. In areas influenced by political or gang activity, a person off the Living Water compound or beyond the protection of our staff, may inadvertently find himself or herself in a high risk territory that is forbidden even though there is no apparent boundary. This puts you, the team, and our staff at additional risk.

2. DO NOT BE CONSPICUOUS WITH YOUR PROPERTY.

Any display of foreign wealth (which may be just a few dollars or even costume jewelry) presents a target for crime. Therefore:

- » Do not wear jewelry.
- » Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- » Do not make cash visible.
- » Do not display electronic hand-held devices such as cell phones and tablets.
- » Do not leave valuables unattended.
- » Keep your passports secure.

If you are confronted by a threatening person or group demanding money or valuable, do not resist. Things can be replaced, and we will assist with obtaining another passport. Your personal safety is our top concern.

3. DO NOT ENGAGE IN HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES.

Some activities are inherently risky for injury even in your own country. Traveling in a foreign country is not the time to take on these additional risks. Therefore:

- » Do not swim in the ocean.
- » Do not go horseback riding.
- » Do not engage in any other high-risk physical activities.

Injury to self requires medical care in unknown facilities and unpredictable medical care. Moreover, an injury to an individual trip member will jeopardize the work of the entire group.

4. UNDERSTAND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.

Although our culture may be very open to certain practices and behaviors, in the areas where we work those same practices can be afflicted with gang culture. In areas where gang activities and social unrest influence our work, Living Water staff and volunteers are often accepted by controlling powers because we have identified ourselves as Christians with a particular purpose that benefits families and

communities, including their own. However, in these cultures, Christians are often identified by not smoking, not consuming alcohol, and not marking their bodies. Therefore:

- » Do not consume alcohol.
- » Do not smoke.
- » Remove or cover piercing jewelry.
- » Cover tattoos.

Some of these behaviors may indicate that you are not part of the specifically accepted group, undermining the standing our staff has in the community and potentially subjecting you to gang or political activity.

5. AVOID PERSONAL INTERACTIONS WITHOUT PROPER INSTRUCTIONS.

Local church and community leaders understand the social contexts of their environment. They have invited Living Water's national staff, who are in-turn hosting North American visitors. They value the cross-cultural interaction with our volunteers and are eager to introduce us to the community members involved in our shared work. However, our presence often causes curiosity among others not associated with the ministry. Therefore:

- » Do not initiate social contact with people (especially young males) who may hang around the edges of the work area. These may be "spotters" who are keeping an eye on the behavior of our group.
- » Always work through your in-country host to interpret unexpected interactions.
- » Ask in-country staff hosts to initiate any desired introductions.

We always want to show respect. Verbal witnessing to people with whom you have not been introduced is best handled by our in-country staff and local church leaders who have the time to build trust relationships. Your direct interaction, while well intentioned, may be misinterpreted and put you and the group at risk.

6. ALWAYS ADHERE TO VEHICLES SAFETY PROCEDURE.

Living Water only utilizes trained drivers and maintains its equipment to enhance safety. Yet the road environment often contains less trained operators, faulty equipment, pedestrians, open vehicles, animals, etc. which can produce unanticipated and potentially dangerous results. Therefore:

- » Always wear your seatbelt while in a vehicle.
- » Never ride in the bed of the truck. Note: the only exception would be to get drilling water from a local river. However, you must have permission from our staff.
- » Avoid the highway after dark. Although there may be times when our staff must stay behind at the drill site, trip participants must not plan to participate in this activity.
- » Never drive any vehicle. In some countries, the law provides that any driver involved in a roadway incident be incarcerated, regardless of fault, until the incident is investigated.

7. ALWAYS ADHERE TO WORKSITE SAFETY PROCEDURES.

Drilling wells and rehabilitating pumps require the use of heavy tools and mechanized equipment. The areas of the body most exposed to injury are the head, hands, and feet. Therefore:

- » Always wear a provided hard hat while at or near a worksite.
- » Bring and wear suitable work gloves and appropriate footwear.
- » Wear eye and ear protection when provided.
- » Follow all safety guidelines covered by LWI staff during the safety briefing.

8. MAINTAIN YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH.

If you were to become sick on a trip, it would not only greatly impact your own experience, but it could possibly impact the entire team. Because of the increased risk of insect borne diseases in Central America and Haiti, every precaution should be taken to prevent bites

while on a trip - both in the community and at the team house/hotel. Therefore:

- » Stay hydrated.
- » Always use purified water provided by LWI for both drinking and brushing your teeth.
- » Wash your hands regularly, especially before meals.
- » Only eat foods prepared or approved by our staff.
- » Do not touch or feed dogs, cats, or any other animals or insects.
- » Use high DEET mosquito and bug repellent. Apply every morning and afternoon.
- » Check with your medical provider about immunizations.
- » Take with you all required personal medications.

9. ALWAYS RESPECT THE IN-COUNTRY STAFF.

They are your leaders for the week, and your safety and security are their top priority. Therefore:

- » Always follow the directives and instructions of our in-country staff members at all times.
- » Respect the authority of the in-country staff. It is impactful for the community to see local leaders respected and followed by North Americans. It is destructive when Americans take charge and push their own ideas.
- » Notify the in-country staff if a problem arises before taking action. The in-country staff are trained by Living Water to handle issues and make decisions.

HELP! I DON'T SPEAK SPANISH

You do not have to be fluent in Spanish to show love to the community! However, learning to speak some key words in Spanish will help you develop relationships with the people you will meet. Community members appreciate visitors' efforts to communicate in their language.

Here are some helpful words and phrases; for more in-depth practice, many programs are available online. The Radio Lingua Network provides free podcasts for their Coffee Break Español series (found in iTunes).

PRONUNCIATION TIPS

- » a = ah
- » e = eh (long "a" in English)
- » i and y = ee (long "e" in English)
- » o = oh
- » u = oo
- » ll = "y" as in "your"
- » ñ = "ny" as in "canyon"
- » The letter "h" is silent
- » Vowels are shorter and tighter than in English



¿Cómo se llama?

SPANISH PHRASES

BASIC PHRASES

Hola	Hello
Buenos días	Good morning
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon
Buenas noches	Good evening
¿Cómo está usted?	How are you?
Muy bien, gracias	Very well, thanks.
¿Y usted?	And you?
¿Cómo se llama?	What are you called?
Me llamo [your name].	I am called [your name].
Mucho gusto.	It's nice to meet you.
Señor	Mr. / Sir
Señora	Mrs. / Ma'am
Soy de [your hometown].	I am from [your hometown].
¿Cuántos años tiene?	How old are you?
Tengo ____ años.	I am ____ years old.
¿Tiene hermanos o hermanas?	Do you have brothers or sisters?
¿Habla inglés?	Do you speak English?
No hablo español.	I don't speak Spanish.
¿Cómo se dice en español ____?	How do you say ____ in Spanish?
Dios le bendiga.	God bless you.
Bendiciones	Blessings
Tiene _____	You have a beautiful _____.
casa bonita	Home
familia bonita	Family
bebe bonito/a	Baby

Adiós	Goodbye
Hasta pronto / luego	See you soon / later
Gracias	Thank you
De nada	You're welcome
Con permiso / perdón	Excuse me
Lo siento	I'm sorry
Necesito _____, por favor.	I need [object], please.
Agua	Water
Una silla	A chair
Un vaso	A glass/cup
¿Dónde esta _____?	Where is _____?
el baño	the bathroom
la escuela	the school
la iglesia	the church
el río	the river
Me gusta _____.	I like _____.
¿Cuánto cuesta _____?	How much does _____ cost?
No entiendo / no comprendo.	I don't understand.
Más despacio, por favor.....	More slowly, please.

DRILLING TERMS

Acuífero.....	Aquifer
Agua dulce	Fresh water
Agua salada	Salt water
Agua potable	Drinkable water
Arena.....	Sand
Piedra / roca.....	Stone / rock
Gravilla	Gravel
Cemento	Cement
Pozo	Well
Bomba	Pump

Tubo	Pipe
Maquina	Machine (drill rig or compressor)

HYGIENE TERMS

Higiene	Hygiene
Gérmenes	Germs
Lavar las manos	Wash hands
Agua limpia / agua sucia	Clean water / dirty water
Transmisión de gérmenes	Germ transmission
Nutrición	Nutrition
Comida / alimentos.....	Food
Higiene oral	Oral hygiene
Dientes	Teeth
Siéntense, por favor.	Please sit down.
Escuchen, por favor.	Please listen.

BASIC WORDS

Sí	Yes
No	No
Hoy	Today
Mañana	Tomorrow
Ayer	Yesterday
A la derecha	To the right
A la izquierda	To the left
Pequeño	Small
Grande.....	Large
Más	More
Menos	Less
¿Quién?.....	Who
¿Qué?.....	What



¿Cuándo?	When
¿Dónde?	Where
¿Por qué?	Why
¿Cómo?	How

DÍAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes	Monday
Martes	Tuesday
Miércoles	Wednesday
Jueves	Thursday
Viernes	Friday
Sábado	Saturday
Domingo	Sunday

COLORES

Negro	Black
Azul	Blue
Café	Brown
Verde	Green
Naranja	Orange
Morado	Purple
Rojo	Red
Blanco	White
Amarillo	Yellow

NÚMEROS

Uno	1
Dos	2
Tres	3
Cuatro	4
Cinco	5
Seis	6
Siete	7
Ocho	8
Nueve	9
Diez	10
Once	11

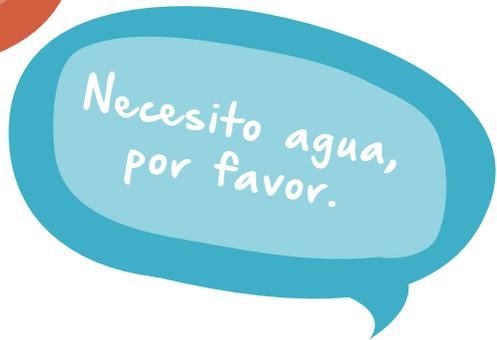
DAYS OF THE WEEK

COLORS

NUMBERS



Doce	12
Trece	13
Catorce	14
Quince	15
Dieciséis	16
Diecisiete	17
Dieciocho	18
Diecinueve	19
Veinte	20
Treinta	30
Cuarenta	40
Cincuenta	50
Sesenta	60
Setenta	70
Ochenta	80
Noventa	90
Cien	100





DAILY DEVOTIONS

God has been preparing you—and the community you will meet—long before this book reached your hands. Paul reminds us in Acts that our creator orchestrated where and when we'd be on earth (Acts 17:24-26). So be encouraged—God has planned this journey for you!



Use the pre-trip devotions to guide your thoughts and prayers as you prepare to leave.



On the trip, your team will gather daily to pray and reflect on God together. Use the trip-day devotions then. If your team meets for morning devotions, you can also gather in the evenings to debrief.



After your return, expect life to feel different. You might even experience “reverse culture shock.” Use the post-trip devotions to reflect on God’s visibility during your trip as you process.

These devotions were written by voices of Living Water—pastors and missionaries who advocate for the thirsty. Spread throughout are blank journal pages where you can add your voice. We encourage writing during the trip while each day is still vivid.

PREPARING FOR A DIFFERENT CULTURE

As the Father has sent me,
I also send you.

John 20:21

In a few days you will travel to another country. St. Augustine said, “The world is a book. He who does not travel reads only a single page.” However, those who venture beyond familiar borders have the opportunity to read another page, broaden their cultural vocabulary, become better informed, and see the world through new eyes. Travel impacts our understanding and perspective. And, one of the best things about travel is the insight that comes only from being on-site. For example, it’s one thing to read about poverty in another country but quite another to walk through it and smell it and get it all over your shoes and clothing. Experiences like these can make us more sensitive to the plight of others as well as challenge us to reorder our priorities when we return home.

Travel can also open our eyes to the beauty of our world and to the wonderful people who call our planet home. Mark Twain said, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness—all foes to real understanding. Likewise, tolerance, or broad, wholesome charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in our little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.” Jesus understood the importance

of travel. He never expected for his disciples to stay in Jerusalem. Instead, he charged them with the responsibility of taking his message to the ends of the earth—to travel with a purpose! From the first century to today, Jesus’ followers have continued to cross geographical and cultural boundaries, taking his message to all peoples.

When you cross geographical and cultural boundaries you will experience all sorts of new sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. The people you visit will do some things differently or in ways that seem strange to you. That’s ok. Remember that you are a guest in their country and should therefore refrain from saying anything disparaging about their way of living. A helpful rule of thumb is to speak as though everyone around you understands what you are saying. So, don’t say anything that might make others feel that you are being critical of their foods, roads, toilets, homes, or actions. Resist the temptation to tell them how to do things better. In other words, behave as you would want a guest in your home to behave.

As you travel to your destination, remember that Jesus calls each of us to travel with a purpose. Whether we venture across the street or across the globe, travel gives us opportunities to make meaningful connections for the sake of God’s kingdom. Jesus told his disciples, “...as the Father has sent me, I also send you” (John 20:21). As you engage with new cultures, remember to treat others as Jesus would—with love, respect, and dignity. Ask God to help you appreciate what you see, to set a guard over your mouth, and to broaden your understanding of peoples made in His image. Embrace the opportunity to learn from those you meet, celebrate their resourcefulness, and enjoy the adventure.

WRITTEN BY: OMAR GARCIA – KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

POINT OF VIEW

...when he saw the man, he
felt compassion for him.

- Luke 10:33

The Gospel of Mark records the account of a miracle that Jesus performed in two stages (Mark 8:22-26). This beautiful story can help us understand how we should see the world around us. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus at a place called Bethsaida. Jesus took the man aside, laid hands on him, and then asked him if he could see anything. The man replied that he could see others, but they looked like trees walking around, indicating that his sight was blurry. Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes a second time and, as a result, the man could see others clearly.

Jesus could have healed the blind man with one touch but instead chose to heal him in two stages—perhaps to remind us that insight often comes slowly. Most of us move through life so fast that the people around us look blurry, kind of like trees walking around. We speed past need and fail to recognize hurt on our way from Point A to Point B. That's why it's a good idea to slow down and ask Jesus to touch our eyes a second time so we can see those around us with greater clarity. We should walk slowly enough among people that we notice the color of their eyes, remember their names, and engage with them in such a way that we make them smile.

One of the most admirable things about Jesus was His capacity to look around and notice what others overlooked. Needs often lurk or hide in the blurry world of our peripheral vision and are easily missed. However, if we will slow down and turn to the right and to the left, we can begin to sharpen our vision, developing peripheral compassion—the capacity to notice and respond to even the tiniest needs. When we learn to look at the world around us with deeper insight and greater clarity, we will know how to respond compassionately.

Henry David Thoreau wrote, “It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” Thoreau was absolutely right. It all begins with what we see. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite both “saw” or looked at the poor fellow who had been beaten and left for dead. However, when the good Samaritan came by, he “saw” the man and “felt compassion” (Luke 10:33)—and that made all the difference. The act of really seeing the hurting man preceded the response of compassion on the part of the Good Samaritan. And, unless we see others clearly, we are not likely to respond compassionately to those hurting and in desperate need.

As you prepare to leave the country in a few days, begin now to ask Jesus to touch your eyes a second time. Ask Him to give you a new point of view and to help you see others clearly. Slow down enough to notice the people God puts in your path. Be intentional about looking around as you go from here to there from day to day. Ask God to sharpen your peripheral vision and to help you develop a keen sense of peripheral compassion. And then allow Him to use you to make a difference in the lives of others.

WRITTEN BY: OMAR GARCIA – KINGSLAND BAPTIST CHURCH



JOINING IN GOD'S WORK

...the hand of the Lord has done
this, the Holy One of Israel has
created it.

Isaiah 41:20

*The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst.
But I the LORD will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
I will make rivers flow on barren heights,
and springs within the valleys.
I will turn the desert into pools of water,
and the parched ground into springs.
I will put in the desert
the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.
I will set pines in the wasteland,
the fir and the cypress together,
so that people may see and know,
may consider and understand,
that the hand of the LORD has done this,
that the Holy One of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:17-20*

Well, of course! Who else but God makes rivers flow, trees grow and springs spring?

We engage in work that is close to the heart of God—like providing safe water—so we can point others to what God has always been doing. God has always been loving us and providing for us. Every drop of water you will ever drink in your life was there in the beginning with God, a reservoir of blessing stored up for you. Our job is just to open our eyes to God's reality—we're provided for to become the provision for someone else (Genesis 12:1-3). And water just happens to be the most fundamental expression of that provision we could offer.

Isaiah's passage wasn't the only vision of water God gave a prophet. Ezekiel had visions of God and the river of the waters of life. Jeremiah wrote of a time when God would lead people out of exile beside streams of water. Joel had visions of a day when water would flow out of the Lord's house. Zechariah wrote of a time when living water would flow out of Jerusalem. Amos dreamed of a time when God would let justice flow like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream. Isaiah and Habakkuk saw a day when the earth would be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah had visions of us drawing water from the wells of salvation. He saw a day when water would gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert, burning sands becoming pools, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

Those prophetic visions point to the last scene in Scripture when heaven and earth are one, all is reconciled to God, the Lord is united with his bride, the Church, the water of life, clear as crystal is flowing from his throne, and together the two are saying "Come! Whoever is thirsty... take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17)

This reconciliation is the ultimate work of God. It's enormous, it involves inviting the thirsty to drink, and we get to be a part of it right here, right now!

WRITTEN BY: PAUL DARILEK – LIVING WATER



FLEXIBILITY AND PATIENCE

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

- Colossians 3:12

A church where I formerly worked ran an annual evangelistic event for the youth group toward the end of October. It was a fun night with lots of games and pizza. One year I decided to do something "crazy," and I ordered sub-sandwiches instead of the pizza. BIG MISTAKE! You would have thought I was a heretic from the kids' reaction. Their character was revealed by their response when things didn't go the way they wanted or expected. The same goes for us.

I love watching the way Jesus responded when things didn't go according to plan (or at least what the disciples thought the plan was). There are loads of examples in Scripture, but one of my favorites is the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14). Jesus had just learned that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been beheaded in prison. He went privately by boat to a solitary place, likely to mourn. But when the crowds heard where he was going they rushed to meet him. When Jesus landed on shore the crowd was already there.

Think about how you might have reacted if you were Jesus. It would have been so natural to be frustrated. I might have yelled, "Can I just have some time to mourn my cousin's death?" But that's not how Jesus responded.

Instead of showing frustration, he responded with compassion and healed their sickness and disease.

As it got later in the day the disciples encouraged Jesus to send the people away so they could get some food. Instead, Jesus miraculously fed more than five thousand people! Then he sent his disciples away while he patiently dismissed the crowds, undoubtedly continuing to bring blessing to those he encountered.

So, let's sum this up: Jesus went somewhere to mourn by himself, but instead he spent all day and night serving, loving, and healing other people. Things didn't exactly go "according to plan" (at least not from an earthly perspective), but Jesus used the opportunity to bring the Father glory.

On your trip, you can expect that things won't always go as expected. There may be challenging relational dynamics on your team. There may be technical challenges at the job site. The question is, how will you respond when things don't go according to your plan? Maybe a different way to ask the question is, "how will you respond when your plan doesn't match God's plan?" The bottom line is that God is in control. If the truck breaks down on the way to the site, God already knew about it and may have a plan to glorify his name through it. If there is a personality on the team that you have a real challenge with, perhaps God is trying to teach you something about the way he loves you when you're challenging. You get the idea.

When things don't go according to plan next week let that be your signal to pray. Pray for patience. Pray for flexibility. Pray your plan will line up with God's plan. As you remain open to whatever God is up to, you will be blessed, and you will bring the blessing of God to those around you!

WRITTEN BY: ANDY HARTFIELD – 1ST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



WHY ARE YOU ON THE TRIP?

God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.
- 1 Corinthians 1:27

While going through our “junk drawer” we found a key we didn’t recognize. We didn’t think too much of it, but from time to time we’d try to figure out what it might go to. One day while my wife was speaking to her mother on the phone we learned they were missing one of their post office box keys. We grabbed the mystery key out of our drawer and read off the stamped number—it matched their existing key! It turns out, one of my kids pocketed the key while visiting their grandparents. We knew the key had some purpose, but it wasn’t until that day we understood what it was for.

“Why am I here?” As you read through Scripture you can imagine how many people must have asked that question: Joseph from prison, Nehemiah in the king’s service, Esther from the palace, Daniel in captivity, David in any number of places hiding for his life. “Why am I here?” Since we’re on this side of history, it’s easy for us to look back and see how God used each of these individuals in powerful ways to make a significant difference for the Kingdom. But as life was happening for them, they had to live daily by faith that God had a purpose for their circumstances.

Why are you here? Why are you on this trip? I know you had good reasons for signing up. I know you want to bring the love of Christ to a community in the tangible form of water. But, why are you here? How is God going to use you this week to make a mark for the Kingdom?

Think about this... God, in his infinite wisdom, planned before the creation of the world to place you on this particular team in this particular country during this particular week. Why?

No one can answer that question just yet, but I'm convinced that in about a week you'll know without a doubt! The real purpose of today's devotional reading is to let the question sink firmly in your mind so it's fresh as you head out on this adventure.

Don't try to alter the question to make it mean something else. Some might be tempted to interpret the question to read, "What gifts do I have that make me an asset to this team?" In that light we could easily say something like, "I'm here because I'm strong, and this job requires strength." Or we might think, "I'm here because I speak the local language." But remember that God often uses unlikely candidates to accomplish his purposes so he's the one who gets the credit (1 Corinthians 1:27).

So why are you here? At some point during the week when you're in the middle of bringing God's blessing to someone in a way that you didn't expect you'll say, "aha!" When it happens, don't forget to tell your team about it during your team meeting. Begin praying now that God will use you in powerful ways this week. Pray that God will show you the specific reasons why he brought you on this trip.

WRITTEN BY: ANDY HARTFIELD – 1ST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



COMPASSION AND RELATIONSHIPS

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Matthew 9:36

How do you give a cup of safe water in Jesus' name? There must first be a source of safe water in order to give a cup of it to someone. For your team, providing this source means either drilling a new well or repairing the pump on an existing well. It also means ensuring that the community understands how to keep this source clean and safe.

Providing a safe source of water is essential; however, your greater purpose is to provide it *in Jesus' name*. This means you must interact with those living in the community where you're helping offer safe water. You are not in that community just to drill or repair a well. You are there to do so in Jesus' name.

How did Jesus interact with communities? He spent time with the people, and he had compassion on those he visited. Matthew 9:36 says, "*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*" As Jesus interacted with those around him, compassion developed for them. The result of Jesus' compassion was that he taught them truth, he healed many who were sick, and he provided food for the hungry. Jesus had compassion on the people, and through that compassion he met their needs. In meeting

their physical needs, he had the perfect opportunity to meet their spiritual needs. Jesus never performed good works without declaring the kingdom of God. His compassion was always kingdom advancing.

The very nature of compassion implies relationship. Just as Jesus interacted with people everywhere he went, you must interact with those in the community you are serving—developing some level of relationship. This will allow you to truly know the people and their needs. Investing in these relationships will require time, but it is a valuable investment. As you develop this relationship, you will also sense compassion building within you. Through this compassion, you will be able to have significant impact for the kingdom of God as you meet physical and spiritual needs.

You will work hard this week. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of safe water, especially once the well pump is complete and water is flowing. Don't let your compassion end with the physical need being met. God has given you a great opportunity. Let your compassion drive you to give this safe water in Jesus' name.

WRITTEN BY: SCOTT ROSS – CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH

WILL YOU DRINK THE CUP?

Can you drink the cup I am
going to drink?

- Matthew 20:22

Jesus asked questions of his disciples that exposed their lack of self-awareness. One of these questions came when the disciples were struggling to embrace their true calling. They believed they were called to follow Jesus so they could embrace a position of power. I may not be as outspoken about it, but I often share their sense of entitlement and ambition.

As Jesus was speaking about the things that were to come, Zebedee's wife, whose sons were among Jesus' disciples, came to Jesus with her sons and knelt down before him to ask a favor.

Jesus: What do you want?

Zebedee's wife: When the kingdom of God is made manifest, I want one of my boys to sit at your right hand, and one to sit at your left hand.

Jesus (to all three): You don't understand what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?

Zebedee brothers: Of course!

Jesus: Yes, you will drink from my cup, but the thrones to my right and my left are not mine to grant. My Father has already given those seats to those for whom they were created (Matthew 20:20-23).

“Are you willing to drink from the cup that I will drink?” I was once asked the same question by a tribal chief in rural Liberia. On the west coast of Africa, this nation has suffered through extreme poverty. I was representing my church on a visit to areas where we would fund new water wells through a movement called Advent Conspiracy. In most of the communities we were well-received. But when we asked one community to see their water source, they seemed particularly angry. They walked us to what you and I would call a swamp, and we asked them about illness and disease. Instead of giving us an answer, the chief of the village turned to me with a blunt command: “Take a drink of this water! Why don’t you take a drink of it? Why don’t you drink?!” He was angry, and I did not know what we had done to offend him. But I could not bear to drink the brown and green water—the only water source this community had.

Soon it became clear that people in this village had been getting very sick from the water. We were there to help, so their anger puzzled me. Why would they be so demonstrably angry to people coming in to help drill new wells? As we departed I asked a woman in the village this question, and she explained how the chief had recently lost his six-year-old son to cholera from the dirty water, just days before our visit. In some ways, when we asked to see his water source, we were asking him to reflect upon the weapon that murdered his child. This woman added that many people, including Christians, had promised year after year to help solve their water problem. Year after year they waited.

When I left the village I was determined our church would help make safe water a reality in their area, and we deployed a team with Living Water International right away. Months later, a photo was sent to my phone of that same chief, standing next to the village’s new water well. He brandished a smile I had never seen before. I long to go back and drink safe water with him.

I don’t know what God has been asking you to do on this journey. Are you being called to a new lifestyle, one marked more by generosity than consumption? I doubt Jesus is calling you to seek power, prestige, and popularity. But when he gives you those things, you have a remarkable chance to change the world by giving them away. Will you drink the cup?

WRITTEN BY: CHRIS SEAY – ECCLESIA CHURCH

TEAMWORK

All of you together are Christ's body,
and each of you is a part of it.

- 1 Corinthians 12:27

Your team consists of people with different personalities—some who are serious and some who have a wild sense of humor, some who are detail-oriented and some who aren't sure what a detail is, some who are driven by tasks, and some who are driven by emotions. This is exactly how God designed your team to be! God desires to use each personality to advance his kingdom.

Unity is a big deal to God. One of the greatest responsibilities we have as Christians is to work in unity with one another. As a matter of fact, unity among believers is something for which Jesus specifically prayed. In John 17:23, Jesus prays to the Father regarding his followers, "I in them and you in me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that you sent me..." Wow! Through the unity of believers, the world will know the Father sent Jesus to bring redemption and restoration! Wouldn't you say that is a big deal?

Paul took Jesus' teaching to heart. In his writings on unity, Paul often refers to the church as the body of Christ. This body has many parts that must work in coordination with each other. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul writes, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether

Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” How do you walk and serve in unity with one another? It is only by the Spirit that you can do so. If you are a true follower of Jesus, then the Spirit dwells within you. Through the Spirit you have all that is needed to walk in unity. The question is, are you living according to the Spirit?

As a team you must walk as one in the Spirit throughout your entire journey. There is no room for dissention, discord, or negative talk. It is interesting how the most minor events can cause trouble on a Living Water Trip team. Things that would not normally bother a person can suddenly feel like a big deal during a project. If the issue is not handled properly, unity can quickly unravel. Once unity is thwarted God’s mission for your team becomes jeopardized.

Throughout your journey this week, set your heart on walking in unity. If you have an issue with something a team member has said or done, approach that person privately and talk it through. If you can’t reach resolution, ask your team leader for help. Make every effort to maintain unity.

Your team will be able to accomplish the greatest good this week by walking in unity with one another. As you live and declare the gospel of Jesus Christ, your unity will serve as a testimony of his grace and power.

WRITTEN BY: SCOTT ROSS – CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH

THIRST

I tell you the truth, when you did this
to the least of these my brothers and
sisters, you were doing it to me!

- Matthew 25:40

Jesus died thirsty.

"I am thirsty," he said from the cross. Those were his penultimate words in John 19. "I am thirsty," then, "it is finished," then he died.

Yes, Jesus the Christ, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Messiah, the Good Shepherd, the way, the truth, the life—Jesus died thirsty.

This is not a metaphor—it's murder. God becoming flesh and blood turned out to be a very nitty-gritty affair. He became one of us, walked with us in our sorrow, and at the end of it all, died shouldering our pain—even our pangs of thirst.

It's the most basic of needs, thirst is. During his life Jesus had said that whoever sees the least of their brothers or sisters thirsty and gives them a drink of water does the same for him. It's strange when you think of it—Jesus doesn't make a distinction between himself and the timid child you're drilling a well for. What you do to one you do for the other.

That sense of oneness with the divine is more than Jesus making a

statement about what's important. It's a glimpse of what this world looks like through God's eyes.

In Matthew 25, Jesus says that whenever you see a stranger, imprisoned, naked, hungry, or thirsty and offer them help through companionship, clothes, food, or drink you're doing the same for him. And he says that's what makes the difference between being invited into the kingdom of God or cast into the harshest curse he ever describes.

And at the end of his life on the cross, Jesus was all of those things: estranged, naked, imprisoned, hungry—and thirsty.

So the question for us is this: if you could somehow go back in time, and somehow walk right past the Roman Centurions at the foot of the cross and offer Jesus Christ a cup of water, a modicum of comfort in his dying hour—would you?

In Jesus' curious way of seeing things you can. When we catch a glimpse of the world through God's eyes, we learn that we don't have to go 2,000 years back in time to give Jesus a drink of water. We can do that right now by offering a cup of water in his name to the least of our brothers and sisters. In fact, with at least 783 million thirsty people on earth, there are more than twice the opportunities to do so now than there were people in the world when Jesus was born!

In today's world we don't even have to move through space to quench Jesus' thirst. We can return home and continue to serve him by serving those in our everyday contexts and by sharing our stories, photos, words, passions, and even by inspiring others to offer a cup of water in his name. Will you?

WRITTEN BY: PAUL DARILEK – LIVING WATER

GENEROSITY

The generous will prosper;
those who refresh others will
themselves be refreshed.

– Proverbs 11:25

The story of Jean Valjean from Victor Hugo's 1862 novel *Les Misérables* is the quintessential bad-boy-turned-hero tale. A man of both physical strength and moral conviction, he steals bread to feed his sister in troubled times, but then is caught and imprisoned. Still committed to providing for his family, he tries to escape, a scheme that instead only adds years to his sentence. Finally released, he is taken in by a compassionate, unsuspecting priest.

Valjean, still desperate to improve his life, steals silver from the rectory and again gets caught. The priest sees the desperation in Valjean's eyes and vouches for him, declaring the silver was a gift. His action covers Valjean in the generosity of grace and sends him off into a new life. Jean Valjean becomes the benefactor of thousands and lives out his tremendous life as an agent of that same generosity.

Why is generosity so transforming? Why do we respond so powerfully when we receive something overwhelming or undeserved?

You are providing generously to the people in the village. This gift of water—and *living water*—is powerful and important. The teams

who funded the well, the people praying for you and supporting you financially, the leaders who are shepherding you and empowering you—all of them are demonstrating generosity of spirit.

But watch how generosity will spread. Watch how the generosity of your team is received and look for the ways generosity grows. People who have almost nothing material to give you will still bless you. Will you treasure their gift? God calls us to live lives of generosity, to be a people who broker generosity.

The well drilled this week will be a refreshment. The water is cool and physically refreshing at the hub of the community. But the greater symbol is that with Jesus at the center of our lives, we play an important role in how generosity grows around us. As we refresh others, so are we refreshed. As we bless others, so are we blessed. As we care for others, so are we cared for. As we forgive others, so are we forgiven. As we meet the needs of others, so are our needs met. May you have a transforming moment around this refreshment. Like Jean Valjean, realize you have been given immeasurably more than you require, and allow your future to be informed by a new generosity.

WRITTEN BY: STEVE PUGH – THE CHAPEL

JOY AND THANKFULNESS

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done.

- Luke 17:15-16

When someone tells you thank you, it is one of the greatest feelings in the world. Perhaps this week you've heard one of the people you served or one of the people you served alongside tell you thank you for something you did. Maybe a loved one, someone at your church, or a colleague from work or school recently went out of their way to tell you how much something you did or said meant to them. There is a sense of joy and value that comes from being told thank you. Those two simple words can brighten a day, quicken a step, or alter the course of a relationship. Telling someone thank you or being told thanks can be a powerful moment. Saying thank you to God is powerful in an even greater way.

Throughout Scripture, God's graciousness, kindness, and mercy to all people is a continual theme. God's mercy is new every morning (Lamentations 3:23). The Lord is gracious and compassionate and rich in love (Psalms 145:8). God pours out his kindness on both the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45).

In Luke 17:11-19, as Jesus approaches a small village, ten men with leprosy call out, "Jesus, Master, show us mercy" (v. 12). Reflecting the nature of God, Jesus graciously shows them kindness, and as they

walked away, they were all healed. Out of his pure kindness, Jesus restored them to life.

As nine of the recipients of Jesus' act of kindness began planning their re-entry into their lives, one of the men who had been healed returned to Jesus. He praised God, worshipped at Jesus' feet, and thanked Jesus for his kindness and work in his life (vv. 15-16). As Jesus looked at the man kneeling before him, he gives us a glimpse of what happens when we recognize the mercy and kindness of God in our lives. All ten of the men were made better because of Jesus' action, but the one who returned with gratitude found something more. His faith—his confidence and assurance of Jesus' gracious interaction in his life—made him whole. Jesus sends him forth once more, telling him he has been redeemed by his faith. Our lives are changed when we stop and thank God for his work in our midst.

It is easy to feel entitled to the things and experiences in our lives, or it is easy to think that God is absent or uninterested in our day-to-day existence. When we respond to God's kindness with thanksgiving, we are forced to realize just how active and gracious God really is, how everything we have, any situation we're in, is ultimately filled with gracious gifts from God. When we respond to God's kindness with thanksgiving, we see how there is nothing we walk through where he is not at work. No matter the circumstance God always desires for us to know him more fully. Ultimately, just like the leper who worshipped at Jesus' feet, as we respond with thanks to the kindness of God in our lives, our trust and faith in him will make us whole.

WRITTEN BY: NOLAN DONALD – WORDSERVE CHURCH



REST AND REFLECTION

*Be still and know that I am God; I will
be exalted among the nations, I will
be exalted in the earth.*

- Psalm 46:10

In the beginning, when God hovered over the surface of the deep, all water did was reflect God.

Resting water reflects God best. When it's agitated, water gets rippled. It starts to reflect itself, and things get distorted. And here's the thing—you, like the water that makes up most of your earthly being, exist to reflect a God who is love.

After the next six days full of creation—light, sky, then land, stars, birds and fish, then animals and us—“God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested...” (Genesis 2:2). All God had to do to make the day holy was rest.

How hard do we work to make things holy? Maybe God is right, and everything he made is already holy.

You've had an amazing week. If you don't think you have, maybe you just haven't rested enough to reflect on what God has been up to. But likely you've made new friends, deepened relationships, loved your neighbor and gotten involved in the redeeming work God has always been doing,

slowly bringing all of creation back to himself. You've joined in his work. Now is the time to rest and reflect on his holiness.

Rest brings restoration—God's ultimate redemptive and holy purpose for all the life he created, including yours. At Living Water we pray all the time that this trip will have a part in bringing you closer to God's redemptive purposes.

So rest now. Remember the people you met and the lives you touched. Reflect on what it means when Jesus says that through him we are one body. Reflect on what you will do to personify that reality.

Reflect because a true heart change always results in a change in how we live our lives. Rest, reflect, and let God—whose ways are higher—conform your patterns, your routine, to those he intended from the beginning.

"Be still and know that I am God," God told the people through a warrior poet king he loved named David. Rest and reflect on those words.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Then, from that empowered place of rest, reflection, and God-centeredness, it will become second nature to act on the second half of our verse in Psalms—exalt him through what you do!

WRITTEN BY: PAUL DARILEK – LIVING WATER

LIVING A LIFE OF MISSION AT HOME

*But seek the welfare of the
city where I have sent you...*

- Jeremiah 29:7

Most Christians see mission as something with a beginning and end. It begins when we exit our homes—our country—to join Jesus in the work he is doing in the world abroad, and it ends when we return. But shouldn't the mission of God encompass more of our existence? Isn't it interesting that we might only consider the Great Commission—the mission of God: to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:19-20)—as a single, isolated act that only takes place while we are away from home? What about each day at home?

In Acts 17, Paul says God “[has] determined allotted periods and the boundaries of [our] dwelling place.” In other words, you live where you live because God has determined it. So what would it look like to consider your next-door neighbors as part of the mission of God? What about baristas at local coffee shops you frequently visit, your coworkers, your immediate family members, or people you run into every day during your regular rhythms of life?

What if you understood yourself to be a missionary in the context of your own city? What if wherever you went, you saw yourself as a missionary

called by Jesus? Would that change how you live daily? God's mission is not another thing you do during the week, but rather a life-defining identity. The mission field is anywhere you are, at home or abroad.

For many of us, international missionary life sounds exciting—engaging the world with the truth of Jesus—while seeing our own neighborhood as the mission field may seem ordinary and boring. But what if both could be reached simultaneously? Your trip's story of new life and redemption could inspire life-change in the hearts of your own neighbors, coworkers, and family members.

Consider this as you pray, meditate, and journal over the next page's scriptures: If you were a missionary abroad, you would familiarize yourself with local customs, learn the language, pinpoint areas of need, meet people, meet needs, and reveal the gospel as the answer to every longing. Why not do the same things in your own city?

WRITTEN BY: DODS PENGRA – SOJOURN CHURCH

THINK ABOUT IT

- 1. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What would it look like to seek the welfare of your city? Do you know the needs of your neighbors? The needs of the city/town? How does the gospel address these needs?

- 2. Read Acts 2:42-47. What is attractive about this picture of the early church? In light of this, would you say we are called to be on mission together? Is the gospel displayed best amidst a body of believers? Why or why not?

- 3. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What is God's mission? In what ways can we join him in the work he is doing in our own neighborhood? What normal daily activities are you already doing that you could invite others into?

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LIFE FEELS SO DIFFERENT HERE

Put on your new nature, created to be
like God—truly righteous and holy.

— Ephesians 4:24

In *The Magician's Nephew*, C.S. Lewis writes, "What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are." The chances are high that as you return to your regular life, the things you see and hear may seem different than they were before you left. You may recognize that people place value and importance on all kinds of pointless things. You may see people you never previously noticed. You may find that you struggle with the pace and shallowness of your circumstances. You might just catch yourself longing to return to the community where you served last week.

Throughout the New Testament, the Apostle Paul continually had to remind the first followers of Jesus that their lives should be different than the world around them. The people of the world base their lives on "pointless thinking," have "closed hearts," and have "turned themselves over to doing whatever feels good" (Ephesians 4:17-19). Their lives aren't defined by Christ, and the ways of Christ are at odds with the ways of the world (1 John 2:15). Paul challenged those who embraced Christ to be different, to live into the new identity that Christ gives, and to clothe

themselves with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24). He recognized the tension that should exist between following Jesus and being in the world.

For the last week, you have had the first-hand opportunity to get an up close, personal taste of real life in Christ to the fullest! With the distractions of the world pushed aside, you were able to focus on God. You shared in real relationships, met incredible people, prayed, and read the Bible, and through it all, you drew nearer to God who desires you to be close. Over the last week, you've also been able to do the things that God calls all of us to do. You accepted opportunities to serve, to give, to listen, to encourage, and to surrender yourself to the calling God gives to all believers.

As you reenter your normal life, the recognition of the discrepancy between a life devoted to Christ and the brokenness of the world around you might be clearer than you have ever noticed. It might feel uncomfortable, but it is a good thing. That feeling is what Paul told the early followers of Jesus to expect.

Commit now to keep the ways of the world from extinguishing that fullness of life. Find a partner from your trip to talk through what embracing the ways of Christ should look like in your culture. Press into God and the things he calls us to in the world around you. As C.S. Lewis suggests, you may be standing in a new place. You are seeing and hearing things differently. But by the grace of God, you are also a new person, and that changes everything. Embrace the difference!

WRITTEN BY: NOLAN DONALD – WORDSERVE CHURCH





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Empower our sisters and brothers around the world with safe water, improved health, and the hope of the gospel. Start changing lives today!

LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL

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Don't forget to tag us!



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THE COMMON WELL

The Common Well is a community of women dedicated to empowering the women of the water crisis by supporting Living Water International.



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IT STARTS WITH YOU.



TEAM LIVING WATER

Team Living Water participates in endurance events to benefit those who endure life without access to clean water.

We endure so they won't have to.

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tlw@water.cc



WATER WORKS

Every Millennial wants to make a difference. Water Works connects young professionals to the global water crisis. By raising funds and awareness for thirsty communities, we're impacting our world together!



[@waterworksyp](https://www.instagram.com/waterworksyp)

water.cc/waterworks
yp@water.cc



H2OIL

We all want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. H2Oil helps oil and gas professionals become advocates for thirsty communities affected by the global water crisis. By educating and empowering our networks, together, we can drill for a higher purpose!

water.cc/h2oil
h2oil@water.cc





MY TEAM

Name

Email address

Phone #

Name

Email address

Phone #